

**Provincetown School Committee Meeting
Veterans Memorial Elementary School
Library Media Center – Room #73
2 Mayflower Lane
Provincetown, MA 02657**

**Tuesday
September 22, 2009
4:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Kerry Adams, Vice Chair; Peter Grosso, Chair,
Carrie Notaro, Shannon Patrick; and Debra Trovato.

Members Absent: none

Staff: Dr. Beth Singer, Superintendent
Kim Pike, District Principal

Others: Maryann Campagna, Amy Germain,
David McGlothlin, Kristen Shantz, Pru Sowers,
Lorie Welch, and others

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

AGENDA

Public Comments

There were none.

Minutes: September 8, 2009

Motion: Move to approve the minutes as amended.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Debra Trovato Vote: 5-0-0.

Superintendent's Update:

5.1 Introduction New Personnel:

School Nurse: Kristen Shantz

Kristen Shantz is a new hire at .6 F.T.E – 3 days per week who comes from the community and has a large network from which we can reap benefits. We consider ourselves lucky to have Kristen on board. We've started talking about flu-mist (which has been delayed) and we're hoping for Oct. 6th as the target date to begin. Beth said that she is ready to inform parents about all of this.

Peter Grosso wondered if the permission slips and history of the child has to be received prior to the

event. Answer: Definitely since the child's medical history has to be perused to ensure that the flu-mist can be safely administered.

Kerry Adams said that in the first discussion on the flu mist, it had been stated that no teen age girls would receive it since it was live bacteria and would injure a fetus if they happened to be pregnant. Beth S. said that each girl will be questioned privately and individually and asked if they have had unprotected sex. These girls may or may not be eligible.

Kristen S. said that since there is a delay in the delivery – additional information will be sent out.

Carrie N. had a question about any child who has not received flu vaccine before now – they need 2 shots – one now and one later? The state won't provide the 2nd one but for many reasons the 2nd flu shot may be available. Beth S. said that we're meeting one more time before the clinic and many additional questions will be satisfied at that time.

Motion: Move to discuss 5.3 MCAS before 5.2

Motion was made, seconded, and approved by all. 5-0-0.

5.3 MCAS

The district made AYP in all grade spans in ELA. The district made AYP in math in all grades but grades 3-5 span. The district is identified as “no status” which means that we are “on target” in ELA/Math. If we continue along this path we are on track to drop off of “Improvement” designation next year (2 consecutive years of improvement gains).

Concerns Include:

Grade 8 and 10 Science and Technology: We have plans to improve curriculum and instruction as well as increasing learning time.

Grade 3-5 Math (math in general): We have purchased a new math curriculum for grades K-6. Staff has worked with online tutorials and had an overview of curriculum in the spring. Staff will receive Professional Development in Envisions in October. In addition, Amy Germain will be our math coach providing support to staff as well as students using assessments including EXAM view and STAR math.

In Grade 10: All students passed with the exception of 1 math retake and 2 students who will be on an EPP working towards Competency Determination. With an EPP, students, parents and staff will work to form a plan which includes continuing in the area of weakness.

Beth S. added that they had created a math lab. We are beginning to have a conversation about altering the time for science instruction including time for labs. The goal is to devote more time to the teaching of science.

Math Teacher: Lorie Welch

The administration re-welcomed Lorie Welsh who came back to PHS after she had left for a year. She will also be teaching the 5/6 team and her position is a .8 F.T.E. She's very excited about math and it is thought that she will really motivate some of the students.

5.2 Attendance Officer, Civil Rights Officer, Title II and Title IX - Maryann Campagna

After a brief introduction of Maryann Campagna, she was asked to describe her duties to the School Committee. She said that we've been working on our corrective action campaign regarding civil

rights, etc. Beth said that she would like these efforts continued and has named Maryann as the Title II and Title IX Coordinator.

Maryann, in addressing the School Committee, said that you probably know about the program called **The Chins (Children in Need of Services) Road Show**, as a new approach of tracking the attendance. The court says that when you get to 20 absences, you have a referral for a CHINS. The road show means they would come to the school and investigate the issues. . If it continues then there will be a formal hearing. Maryann said she also wants to ask the School Committee to formally name her the Attendance officer.

Motion: Move to name Maryann Campagna the Attendance Officer for the Provincetown School System.

Motion: Carrie Notaro Seconded: Shannon Patrick Vote: 5-0-0.

Peter Grosso wanted to know if there would be a distinction between excused absences and non excused absences. He also wondered about the procedure if a student is ill – does the parent call the school? Beth answered yes for everything.

Announcement: VMES/PHS Open Houses

The high school will have an open house next Tuesday, September 29th at 6:00 p.m. All interested parties are invited to attend.

On the following night, Wednesday, September 30th there will be a VMES open house commencing at 5:00 p.m. featuring pizza and sundaes. It is hoped that parents will join in the festivities.

Next week will be Spirit Week – as in pep rally with a bonfire on Friday night, October 2nd. The following morning, Saturday, October 3rd there will be a flipper breakfast followed by a car rally and then the boys' soccer game.

Shannon P asked if the Fire Dept. has been contacted. Answer: Yes.

Unfinished Business:

Memorandum of Agreement (MOU)

Provincetown School Dept. and Provincetown Police Dept.

Motion: Move to accept the above mentioned MOU as written.

Motion: Debra Trovato Seconded: Kerry Adams Vote: 5-0-0.

New Business:

7.1 Job Descriptions:

- School Social Worker/School Adjustment Counselor**
- Guidance Counselor**

Carrie Notaro made a correction to a minor typo.

Debra Trovato suggested adding to the job description how many times the guidance counselor will meet with students. Beth said that they expect that students will meet with more frequency and it

varies with each grade level and individual - Beth shies away from numbers that mandate specifics.

Carrie asked about meeting with the parents and Beth said that we try to put the onus on students to make them more independent so it's a negotiated balance.

Peter Grosso felt that there should be some kind of communication between the guidance counselor and the parent. Beth said that she anticipates that we'll sit with the parents when they need help. Peter further feels that it's important for parents to know that there are also scholarships that many colleges provide.

Beth said that usually guidance offices have research libraries for students and parents engaging student and parents in that process. It's important to know the parents angle on this, i.e., there's an SAT prep class going on and a lot of the work happens there. That's a great vehicle.

David McGlothlin said that it begins happening in the 11th grade and all the issues you've mentioned we talk about during the students' last two years of high school. He's incorporated the College Board website and that's part of the curriculum; walking them through the process.

Peter said that some colleges stress the SAT results and he wonders about the brilliant student who panics and can't test well.

It was explained that the SAT class is not a catch up for the last 4 years and it's certainly not a panacea. We review the types of questions and look at techniques on how to attack the test. Many times the students have not dealt with a test like that and the anxiety level is tremendous so we try to simulate pieces of the test and questions, etc. so that when they walk in to actually take the test they're not totally shocked by the format.

David M. said that he takes his students on a website for college boards and he walks them through the whole thing so that by next spring they're ready to roll.

David further said that he would encourage 10th graders to take the PSAT test and if they score high enough, then they may qualify for other things. The results allow them to rethink their high school schedules.

Beth said that all our students are more attuned to test taking than previous generations due to MCAS.

There was no vote taken on the 1st readings of the two submitted job descriptions. They will be voted on at the next meeting. Carrie Notaro would like similar items identified as 1st reading or 2nd reading; this will happen in the future.

Beth said that we will develop a packet for post high school students with all the deadlines listed. Many of these are important dates to bear in mind.

The main meeting of the School Committee adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

8. Executive Session:

Discussion with respect to Collective Bargaining

Respectfully submitted,

E. Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on October 6, 2009

Peter Grosso, Chairperson