

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

Tuesday  
December 8, 2009  
5:00 p.m.

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

**Members Absent:** none

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

**AGENDA**

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

**Public Comments**

There were none.

**PSC Student Rep Comments**

The two students who shared in the spotlight were Sara Rivera and Patricia Sendao; they each read a portion from their report which is copied in its entirety.

1. Natalie Silva won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Southeast Regional Lions Club Speech Contest. Natalie is the first PHS student to win this competition; she will compete in the District Championship on January 9<sup>th</sup>.
2. Provincetown students: Luke Hadley, Kaitlin Russell, Stephanie Roderick, and Mary Burns will have their art work on display at Cape Cod Museum of Art through January 17<sup>th</sup> along with other students from all over the Cape.
3. On December 9<sup>th</sup> Grades K-2 will go to see Annie at the Harwich Junior Theater. Grades 4-6 will go to Annie on December 16<sup>th</sup>.
4. On December 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> the Senior class play – *Scrooge has left the building* - will take place at PHS.
5. On December 15<sup>th</sup> the annual (K-12) Holiday Concert will take place at PHS.
6. 5 teachers, Mrs. Flasher, Mrs. Fox, Mr. Bull, Ms. Germain, and Ms. D-Amico received grants from the Cape Cod 5 Foundation totaling nearly \$2,000 to enrich school program this school year.
7. Mrs. Golden has been working with students at the elementary school making holiday cards for our senior citizens and for businesses in Town.
8. Students at VMES have been writing letters to the troops.
9. Winter Sports at PHS have started. Scrimmages have begun and games will start next week.

## **Minutes of November 10, 2009**

**Motion: Move to approve the minutes of the Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> meeting as amended.**

**Motion: Kerry Adams                      Seconded: Deb Trovato                      Vote: 5-0-0.**

### **Superintendent's Update:**

- **ESHE (Enhanced School Health Services)**

As was previously announced at the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, this grant was cut in half. We received \$21,015 and the shortfall is \$140 but we will be able to maintain the school health services that we have now. We currently have 2 people and they each work part time.

The state also cut the reimbursement for regional school transportation from 80% to 29% which has greatly affected regional schools.

- **Next Futures Workshop(s)**

Dr. Singer asked the committee for direction regarding future planning meetings. The committee decided to combine PSC and Future Planning meetings on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Singer will bring the information she has gathered to that meeting.

### **Unfinished Business:**

#### **MCAS Update – Amy Rokicki**

Amy Rokicki gave a very lengthy presentation on MCAS, with much detail. Beth has designated Amy to be the in-house expert on MCAS and Amy is responsible for ordering, scheduling, training, packaging, reporting, and recommending. If anyone has any problems regarding MCAS they will be directed to consult with Amy for ready answers. Amy feels that MCAS will be a useful tool to highlight strengths and/or weaknesses in the students and how best to address them. Also, for whatever reason, Amy said that the females in the district did better than the males in the district.

The state has said that it has new ways of looking at the MCAS scores and hopes to be able to pinpoint areas where improvements are needed. Amy will be following through with areas that may be deficient.

### **FY-10 School Calendar Adjustments:**

#### **Senior Event(s)**

Beth wanted to publicly apologize for changing the graduation date and – as anticipated - this has become problematic for some. June 7<sup>th</sup>– June 11<sup>th</sup> will be Senior Week with their exams occurring from June 1<sup>st</sup> – June 4<sup>th</sup>. Final exams for the rest of PHS will happen on June 18<sup>th</sup>– June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Beth promised –“THIS IS THE FINAL COMPLETED SCHOOL CALENDAR!” It is also promised that Awards Night will no longer take place in October to the relief of all.

### **New Business:**

#### **Proposal: Driving Permission Forms and Recreation Department: School Bus Request Form**

Beth presented a permission form for use of private staff vehicles to transport students to participate in school happenings. Kerry (who is in the insurance business) felt that the usual coverage for \$100K or

\$200K is not adequate protection for the drivers of these vehicles. He felt that \$1M – in today’s society – is more the norm and that amount of coverage could add 5 or 6 hundred dollars to the premium.

Calm was restored when Beth said that we’re not going to change the policy tonight and this is not parents or other kids driving – it’s for staff members only. “Do you want to update the policy?” Shannon asked - so what is the policy? Peter said we had a policy – if students got on the bus – then they left on the bus. Kim said they have to have parents’ approval and also there is a specific drop-off spot. Beth wanted to know about updating the coverage and if it’s not a staff member then a CORI should be in there somewhere. The policy doesn’t only state staff – Peter wants a policy that covers staff and non-staff people. Beth will furnish.

Occasionally, the Recreation Dept. offers a trip out of town for the young people that we share and they need the school bus..... usually we provide the driver and there has been nothing structured in place to deal with these issues. Scheduling, liability, is it a school trip – funding the trip tolls, gas, as well as the requirements for adult supervision. So there are all these issues – are they the school rules or the rec rules?

**Motion: Move to table the subject until Beth has an opportunity to look into it with the school’s legal counsel.**

**Motion: Peter Grosso                      Seconded: Shannon Patrick                      Vote: 5-0-0.**

### **FY-11 Budget Discussion**

Beth asked for guidance from the PSC on how the budgets are usually handled. Peter said that in the past the Superintendent came in and said – here’s the budget and that’s what we propose and then by way of explanation said, “We’ve cut here and added there, etc.” Beth asked, “You don’t go line by line? and when should it happen?” Peter said that we’ve got until the end of January but Carrie feels it should begin in August and it should have been done long before now. Beth said that some school districts have special budget meetings and then some schools divide the budget into parts i.e., special ed, etc.

Peter said we are going to have to schedule a whole day to devote to the budget. Beth said she has started and she’s been collaborating. She said the Board of Selectmen would like a joint meeting to discuss guidelines for budgets. Beth asked if the PSC is interested in such a meeting. After discussion, it was agreed that an agenda was necessary and that it would only be useful if the past was not revisited.

Beth said that she would like to schedule 2 hour meetings for openers and she’d like to give the School Committee a proposed amount and 2009 actual expenditures.

Carrie would like to meet at least once or twice before we meet with others. Beth, trying to understand the PSC’s thinking – said so we would have two meetings to go through the budget and then a public hearing?

The possible dates were discussed and discarded one by one until the final schedule was decided upon.

**Motion: Move to make January 5, 6, and 7 budget meetings happening at 5:00 p.m. The agendas for these three meeting would conclude with an Executive Session.**

**Motion: Kerry Adams                      Seconded: Shannon Patrick                      Vote: 5-0-0.**

Dr. Singer said that she would like to invite members from the FinCom, the BOS and the Town Manager if they'd like to come. She felt it would be valuable for them to hear the budget deliberations and constraints that the school is laboring under.

Carrie said that she wants to make sure these invitees are told that they don't have a gold encrusted invitation! Kerry would like them to talk to Tom Coen, chair of the FinCom, to ask for a couple of members.

### **Proposed PSC Policy: Curriculum Excellence**

Deb asked questions about the PSC policy. It was explained that the course syllabus is a template and for the PSC to look over. The policy on curriculum is what the school committee will vote on next meeting.

### **Discussion: Consolidation of Recreation Department location into Provincetown Schools**

Beth said this consolidation is being talked about and the PSC and the Recreation Commission are the two governing bodies to make the decision. So before we move forward, let's talk about it and decide if you're in agreement. Kerry said – it's difficult sitting here without being able to ask the rec dept. what they think.

This subject unleashed a firestorm of opinions so it will be discussed after the upcoming Rec meeting on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Carrie had the most to say since she is a member of the School Committee, Rec Department, and PTA.

Deb said that she read in the paper that the Police Department is thinking of moving into PHS, and now the Recreation Department is thinking of moving into PHS and she wondered aloud, "What is going to be left for our children???? Two rooms and a broom closet?" She further felt that the Town doesn't care about the children, at all, and is driving out families.

Beth said that the two remaining questions are adult evening courses and summer programs – do we want to do that? Carrie jumped in (wearing her rec hat) and said that we are fighting for the kids and for the adults. There's the gym that's downstairs in the Rec Center and there's ballet, and yoga, also. There has to be a happy medium – find something that's going to work

Beth – still attempting to get a direction said - are we interested in having them come here? Peter said that the town offices wanted to be put in here and we couldn't have that – not with the children. Beth gave an example of a cable company in Northampton and how they paid for the building adjustments. Unfortunately at this time we don't have a facility where we can have adults coming and going during school hours. Her question is - do you want to pursue this?

Peter said that we need to know what the Rec thinks.

Beth suggested proposing a subcommittee from both PSC & Rec to work through this.

Kerry said – we haven't even decided where we're going to be – he's been screaming for adult education for years and he would love to have the Rec Dept programs as part of the schools. He thinks we can handle it and he thinks that adult education can happen here, too.

Peter wants to wait until the Rec department has their meeting.

**Motion: Move to investigate the policy to involve the Recreation Department as part of the school.**

**Motion: Kerry Adams    Seconded: Shannon Patrick**

**Vote: 4-0-1 ab (CN)**

**PSC Comments**

The meeting for December 22<sup>nd</sup> has been cancelled.

Adjournment happened at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on February 2, 2010

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Peter Grosso, Chairperson