

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

**Wednesday  
December 16, 2009  
5:00 p.m.**

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

**Members Absent:** none

**Staff:** Dr. Beth Singer, Superintendent  
Kim Pike, District Principal (excused absence)

**AGENDA**

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

**Public Comments:**

There were none.

**PSC Student Rep Comments**

There were no students in attendance.

**Minutes of the December 8, 2009 meeting:**

**Motion: Move to table the minutes until the next meeting.**

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

## **Superintendent's Update:**

### **• Basketball Update**

Two players were deemed ineligible to play by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Commission on Athletics (MICA). Dr. Singer spoke to an attorney but he couldn't commit to taking the case until just this morning. Thus, the MICA hearing was postponed until somewhere in the middle of January. It is necessary to move it up since the middle of January is too late. We have an attorney who is doing the work pro bono. We currently have a basketball team of 6 and the officials will not allow the two ineligible boys to play. More details will soon follow.

### **• Recreation Commission meeting outcome**

Beth said that the newspaper misreported the outcome. The Recreation (Rec) Department decided to explore their possible options. A task force will be convened and will be made up from members of the Provincetown School Committee (PSC), the Rec committee and interested parties. Sharon Lynn will probably put together a group; as yet there are no official members nor a schedule of meetings.

## **Federal Grant**

Just recently the state has put out an opportunity for a response to a federal grant. It is for 4.3 billion dollars nationwide – with a possible \$250M for the MA Department of Education (DOE). If the PSC is interested – we must complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as part of the application to the Federal government. Then the Federal government will decide if Massachusetts will be one of the recipients. If MA is selected then the goal would be to improve schools, improve achievement and relate it to evaluation of personnel. It would support many programs and it's controversial in that evaluation is based on student achievement. They are targeting under achieving schools. Peter said, "So these evaluations are based on paper work?" The answer was yes – and because of the controversial nature of these evaluations, we'll be meeting with the union on January 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss the MOU.

Kerry asked, "If we are a recipient – is there a cap on what we can do with the money?" Beth said that it would be expended mostly for professional development. The grant is very controversial among superintendents since - although it says that it would take care of collective bargaining - it would put job security more in line with performance.

Peter questioning "professional development" asked, "Does this mean we'd have to have someone come in to do training?" Beth answered, "Maybe?" The opportunity for the grant came out December 11<sup>th</sup> and the deadline is January 13<sup>th</sup> for the submission of the MOU signed by all three parties.

## **Annual Town Report**

Beth said that the PSC's annual report is due on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Beth has one piece and the PSC has the 2<sup>nd</sup> part to do.

## **Unfinished Business:**

### **PSC Policy:**

#### **IGA Curriculum Development/Curriculum Excellence – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Peter said that this is a synopsis of what we want to have. Kerry asked if there were a policy for a minimum grade because if a student gets 40 the 1<sup>st</sup> term it's a terrible hole that the student wouldn't be able to climb out of. Beth said typically – if you have a zero – you can't recover, however she

admitted that she didn't know if we have a minimum grade in place.

**Motion: Move to accept the Curriculum Development/Curriculum Excellence policy as written.**

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

### **Future Planning**

Beth has been gathering information and had a 9-page hand-out for the PSC which encompassed facts, figures, and projections on the Provincetown School System. A whole lot of comprehensive information was contained in the hand-out and was going to be studied by the PSC. She was thanked profusely for her efforts and the PSC felt that it gave them a total picture on where the school system stands.

Much of the figure comparisons referred to "what-ifs" as they related to regionalization. Kerry worried that if someone were dial surfing on their TV and happened to tune in on only a part of this meeting they would feel that the R word was a *fait accompli*!

One interesting announcement from Beth was that the state was taking the pressure off and was only forcing regionalization school districts in crisis. This gives everyone a breather and removes what had been felt to be an imminent threat.

The future planning packet raised a lot of questions and food for thought. It will probably be discussed in detail in the future, i.e., Nauset regional district is for grades 6 through 12 and Provincetown would probably be interested in grades 9 through 12. This might be a problem but may not be insurmountable – merely an issue to be negotiated.

Peter said that if we closed the high school – the \$3.6M loan that we took for renovations would have to be paid immediately. The original loan was for \$7.2 but it's been reduced over the years.

Once, again, the PSC thanked Dr. Singer for the tremendous amount of work that she did on the Future Planning Information Collection. It gave them a clearer picture of all possible scenarios and what each would entail. Beth further said that none of the projected numbers should be looked at as absolute - but only in relation to one another.

Adjournment happened at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on February 16, 2010

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Peter Grosso, Chairperson