

Town of Provincetown  
School Committee  
Veterans Memorial Elementary  
Library/Media Center Room #73  
2 Mayflower Lane  
Minutes of December 9, 2008

Members Present: Terese Nelson, Chairperson, Peter Grosso, Vice Chairperson, Debra Trovato, Kerry Adams Secretary, and Shannon Patrick (arrived at 4:30 p.m.)

Others Present: Jessica Waugh, Superintendent of Schools, Donald Murphy, Michael Manley, Don Cote, Sage Duda, Karen Silva, Margaret Phillips, Nancy Flasher, Gail Browne, Elaine Anderson, Jared King, Pru Sowers, Amy Germain, Betty White, Marcin Sapinski, Nellie Lukac, Valerie Valdez, Marcia Rose-Packet, Barbara Losordo, Helena Ferreira, Valerie Golden, Genevieve Martin, Elizabeth Francis, Maryanne Campagna Michael Ragowski, Sandy Bostwick, Margaret-Millette-Loomis, Mary-Jo Avellar, Alexandria Heilala, Michele Couture, Sharon Lynn, Candy Silva, Paul R. Silva, Thomas F. Coen, Carrie Notaro, Jim Cox and Others.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

Public Comments:

None

Minutes:

Peter Grosso made a motion to approve the November 5, 2008 Minutes. Seconded by Kerry Adams So voted 4-0 (Shannon Patrick Absent)

Peter Grosso made a Motion to table Agenda Items #6 and #7 until another school committee meeting. Seconded by Kerry Adams. So voted 4-0 (Shannon Patrick Absent)

**Strategic Planning Committee Report:**

Donald Murphy, Strategic Planning Committee Chairman, made a comprehensive presentation of the committee's findings and recommendations. The report consisted of a power point presentation, as well as a hard copy, and CD. Mr. Murphy clearly stated the district needs to be reorganized immediately. He reported the results of a demographic study done which shows a declining population and enrollment trends in this area. Mr. Murphy said based on the results of the survey of local residents and the demographic study, there were four resulting recommendations from the committee. The recommendations are as follows:

1. Contact Mass. Dept. of Education to partner in deciding the future of this district.
2. Create a new school district, for example one with Truro and Wellfleet.
3. Participate in a study of how to possibly expand the Nauset Regional School District to include this district.
4. To construct a budget for FY-2010 which supports these recommendations.

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Mr. Murphy said there is a 5<sup>th</sup> "informal" recommendation. Informal due to the fact the committee could not reach a unanimous decision on its content/implications. The committee only wanted to make formal recommendations on which the committee has *unanimously* agreed. The "informal" recommendation is to transfer grade 9-12 students to Nauset Regional High School thereby closing PHS.

Once again, Mr. Murphy emphatically stated this process requires immediate action on the part of the school committee. Inclosing, he stated copies of the report and how to get the information to the public will be forthcoming from school administration.

Statements from audience: Michael Ragowski wanted to ask a question of the Strategic Planning representative. Chairperson Nelson did not allow.

Pru Sowers of the Provincetown Banner asked for a copy of the report. Chairperson Nelson indicated the report will not be given-out at this time.

The school committee accepted the Strategic Planning Committee's presentation with deep appreciation and agreed to closely review its' recommendations.

The process of getting the report to the public began with Superintendent Waugh stating the following:

- On Monday she will present the information to the Provincetown High School staff; on Wednesday she will present the information to the elementary school staff. Both groups having a question/answer opportunity.
- At 2:00 on Wednesday 12/10/08 she will meet with students Grades 7-12 to review with them the recommendations of the study committee.
- Supt. Waugh is sending out a letter (after the Christmas recess) to have a parent/student meeting in order to present the recommendations of the Strategic Planning Report.
- Supt. Waugh stated the report will be posted on the school website by the evening of Thursday, 12/11/2008.
- On Thursday, 12/11/08 hard copy will be delivered to the local press, Chairperson of the Board of Selectmen, Michelle Couture, Town Manger, Sharon Lynn, Provincetown Library, Debbie DeJonker-Berry, and the chairman of each school site council, (The Chairman of The Finance Committee, Tom Coen, already has a copy as he served on the strategic planning committee).
- A hard copy will also be available in the Superintendent of Schools Office.

The committee announced there will be a Round Table Discussion for the press and others on Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m., in the VMES Library for purpose of discussion of these recommendations made by the Strategic Planning committee.

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On a roll call unanimous vote Chair Nelson indicated the meeting was entering executive session for the purpose of discussion with respect to Collective Bargaining and Discussion non-union contracts; and would not be returning to open session for the purpose of adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

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These Minutes were approved at a meeting held on: March 24, 2009