

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

June 22, 1999

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Members Present: Lois Borgesi (Chair), Frank Wills (Vice-Chair), William Rogers, Dana Berry

Members Absent: Adrienne Duncan (Secretary)

Others Present: Dr. Susan Fleming (Superintendent), Mr. Rokicki (VMES Principal), Mr. Morrison of the Maguire Group, parents and staff.

Call to Order: Chair Lois Borgesi called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

WORKING SESSION WITH MAGUIRE GROUP

The School Committee discussed the Facility/Building Needs Project with Mr. Morrison of the Maguire Group.

REGULAR SESSION

Chair Lois Borgesi called the Regular Session to order at 7:07 P.M.

VISITORS STATEMENTS

Dr. Vetrick of the Finance Committee read a statement concerning the proposed motion by Dana Berry to undertake a survey.

Ms Nelson of the VMES School Council read a prepared statement concerning the splitting of the VMES Principal/SPED Director position.

Mr. Trainor spoke concerning the splitting of the VMES Principal/SPED Director position.

Mrs Trovato spoke concerning the splitting of the VMES Principal/SPED Director position. She also asked how the school contracts could be changed so as to not run until the end of June.

Ms Brown spoke concerning the splitting of the VMES Principal/SPED Director position.

MINUTES

June 8, 1999 -Dana Berry moved to approve, William Rogers seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Fleming presented the following:

<Letter of acknowledgment from Raymond Johnson to Jim Brizzi;

<Dr. Fleming's letter to PAE concerning the Director of Athletics/Transportation request to be part-time and the response from the PAE requesting that the change be bargained. School Counsel has advised it is necessary to bargain with the PAE. William Rogers spoke with concerns about a part-time position. Dr. Fleming recommended the issue be postponed until the School Committee meeting of July 13th. She will also postpone advertising for the position;

<Letter of resignation from Jim Morrison. Position has been advertised;

<Ms O'Malley's letter of resignation;

<Share Your Success - Dr. Fleming acknowledged Mr. Rokicki's work in putting together the Share Your Success application to MASC;

<Letter to Ms. Jane Rowe concerning her vacation plans during the week of February 14, 2000;

<Letter from the PAE concerning bargaining for the psychologist position;

<Minutes from VMES School Council meeting, including partial discussion of goals;

<Provincetown HS School Improvement Plan - Memo from Mr. Marino to Dr. Fleming and Lois Borgesi.

Frank Wills praised the VMES Council for their minutes and their work.

<Dr. Fleming requested that agendas and minutes be received from the School Councils and said that the School Committee will reciprocate;

<Provincetown Public Schools Monthly Financial Statement, dated June 25, 1999.

Lois Borgesi reported that:

<She had received a letter from a parent concerning the splitting of the Principal/SPED position. At the parent's

request, Lois Borgesi said she would read the letter during the discussion on this issue later in the meeting..

EDUCATIONAL UPDATE

<Homework Policy/Practice - Dr. Fleming said that this issue is covered in one of the School Committee policies to be reviewed soon by the Policy Sub-Committee. Dr. Fleming referred to her memo and a handout of various policies produced by VMES, PHS, Belchertown, Nauset, and Barnstable School Districts. Dana Berry suggested taking the numeric grade level and multiplying it by 15 minutes to get a rough idea of what is appropriate for the average student's homework time. Lois Borgesi suggested that the students' relative ability needed to be taken into account. Dr. Fleming said that the course outlines will include some indication of what type and amount of homework is expected.

<3rd Grade IOWA Test Scores - Dr. Fleming distributed a handout on the 3rd Grade IOWA test results for 1997 to 1999. Dr. Fleming acknowledged the early childhood literacy efforts at VMES. Frank Wills recommended sending a letter of acknowledgment to the students' parents.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

By consensus, the School Committee agreed to take item 8.2, Student Services, next.

Student Services: Lois Borgesi explained the history of the issue of splitting the Principal/SPED Director position. At the March 10, 1998 School Committee meeting, Lois Borgesi had made a motion to separate the position and the vote was 3 in favor, 1 opposed. The position was advertised, but the school budget was cut by Town Meeting. The School Committee then decided they did not have the funds to effect the split and postponed the issue until a later date. On September 1, 1998, the issue was again postponed, but with the provision to again revisit the issue. In the meanwhile, the School Committee put into effect an alternative plan: Mr. Rokicki's position was made 80% Principal and 20% SPED Director. The School Committee has now realized that a 20% SPED Director is not enough, especially as SPED enrollment is now 25%. The School Committee has asked Dr. Fleming to advertise for the position. William Rogers's motion was to find the funds within the current budget only if the funds could be found within the current budget.

<Director of Student Services Advertisement/Timeline - Dr. Fleming spoke about the difficulty of completing two jobs and acknowledged Mr. Rokicki's efforts to save money. Dr. Fleming distributed and reviewed a memo she had sent to the School Committee on this issue. Dr. Fleming and Mr. Rokicki will bring forward a funding proposal and the response to the advertisement at the July 13th meeting.

<School Psychologist Contracted Services/Post the Position - Dr. Fleming referred to her memo and budget account handout. The psychologist responsibilities have been filled for the past two years by Contracted Services.

William Rogers apologized if his motion to split the Principal/SPED Director position had offended anyone, explaining he felt the issue had been before the School Committee for so long that everyone was already aware of it. Frank Wills also expressed regret about the fact that the School Council was not aware of the issue. The School Committee discussed the pros and cons of splitting the position.

Lois Borgesi then opened the discussion to the public.

Ms Spingler spoke, saying that the position split should have been prepared for in the School Budget.

Mr. Ferrick spoke with concerns about the availability of the School Committee agendas and the length of Mr. Rokicki's contract. He suggested waiting until the end of Mr. Rokicki's contract and the possibility of sharing a position with Truro.

Mr Trainor asked questions about the history of the SPED Director position and Lois Borgesi answered. Mr Trainor commented on the percentage of SPED students versus the decline in total enrollment.

Lois Borgesi read a letter from Ms Costa expressing approval for splitting the Principal/SPED position. The School Committee discussed a reference in Ms Costa's letter concerning a proposed change in Massachusetts law on SPED standards.

Ms Spingler asked if the School Committee had considered how to fund the position and Lois Borgesi confirmed that the School Committee is not yet sure whether the position can be funded. Ms Spingler asked if the funding will come from student services and Lois Borgesi said they would receive a recommendation from Dr. Fleming and the Principals on July 13th.

Dr. Fleming and Lois Borgesi repeated that they had hoped that the arrangement with Mr. Rokicki would work, especially with the addition of a full-time High School position, but it was now clear that the arrangement was not sufficient.

Ms Trovato asked what evidence there was that the arrangement was not working and Lois Borgesi gave several examples and reasons, confirming that she has asked for regular reports on the SPED program status.

Mr Ferrick asked questions about Mr. Rokicki's contract and salary and Dr. Fleming responded. Mr Trainor

asked what kind of candidate would apply for a position that was not yet funded.

Lois Borgesi closed public discussion on this item.

Second Reading PSC Policies: Section I Continuation -

Policy IHA, Basic Instructional Program - ***Frank Wills moved to approve for a second reading, William Rogers seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).***

Policy IHAE, Physical Education - ***Frank Wills moved to approve for a second reading, William Rogers seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).***

Policy IHAI, Occupational Education - ***Frank Wills moved to approve for a second reading, William Rogers seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).***

Policy IHAM, Health Education - ***Frank Wills moved to approve for a second reading, William Rogers seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).***

Policy IHAM-R, Health Education (Exemption Procedure) - ***Frank Wills moved to approve for a second reading, William Rogers seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).***

Policy IHAM-1, Parental Notification Relative to Sex Education (also JLE)- Lois Borgesi explained that policy JLE had already been approved, that it was being repeated in the Policy Manual as a cross-reference and does not need approval.

Policy IHAMA, Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco - ***Frank Wills moved to approve for a second reading, William Rogers seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).***

Building Project Checklist - Dr. Fleming handed out copies of the Facility/Building Needs Project checklist. The School Committee reviewed the earlier discussion with Mr. Morrison of the Maguire Group.

The Committee felt that the Maguire Group should not help design the RFP for an Architectural/Engineering Study because that would preclude them from bidding on the project. ***William Rogers moved that the School Committee direct the Superintendent to draft an RFP for the School Renovation Project Phase II with the assistance of legal counsel and William Rogers and submit same to the School Committee for approval, Frank Wills seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).***

PHS Restrooms as Comfort Station Agreement - The School Committee discussed the proposed agreement, which is not the same as last year. William Rogers volunteered to inspect the septic system and warned that septic failure could be a large expense to the School. The School Committee added a condition to the Agreement that the septic system must pass an inspection by a professional before it is used as a public comfort station. ***Frank Wills moved to approve the Agreement as amended, Dana Berry seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent.***

Other -

<![endif]>William Rogers reminded the School Committee that they were supposed to hold a work session on goals, evaluations and job descriptions. The School Committee will hold a work session on July 13th, with the evaluations being covered first. Dr. Fleming said she would commit to the Administrators submitting their goals to the School Committee in August.

<![endif]>Dr. Fleming discussed the District Improvement Grant and said she is developing an Action Plan, which she will bring to the July 13th meeting. Dr. Fleming said that the Grant also requires a district -wide Educational Improvement Panel. ***Frank Wills moved to establish a district-wide Educational Improvement and Advisory Panel, William Rogers seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).***

NEW BUSINESS

Bid Award: Oil, Bread, Milk, Ice Cream, PHS Roof Bid - ***Dana Berry moved to approve the bids for the Oil, Bread, Milk and Ice Cream, William Rogers seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).***

1. Dr. Fleming explained the Administration's recommendation to accept the Davis Sheet Metal bid for the PHS roof work. ***Dana Berry moved to accept the bid from Davis Sheet Metal for the PHS roof work, William Rogers seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent.***

Student/Parent/Community Survey - ***Dana Berry moved that the School Committee shall undertake a professional survey of those persons who are:***

1. Provincetown residents or property owners;
2. The parents of all students currently attending Provincetown Schools;
3. The parents of all children residing in Truro who are currently between the ages of five (5) and eighteen (18) years of age;

The survey shall have three primary purposes:

1. To determine public opinion concerning the effectiveness and cost/benefit of the following:
 - <The current educational programs offered by the Provincetown Schools;
 - <The current level of financial expenditure of the Provincetown Schools.
2. To determine public opinion concerning the future direction(s) the Provincetown Schools should take concerning the following:
 - <The facilities to be owned and maintained by the Provincetown Schools in providing the programs and services;
 - <The desired level of financial expenditure for the Provincetown Schools.

3. To determine if major renovations in the High School are prohibitive in light of declining enrollment..

In designing specific survey questions, the consultants may use the data and projections in the Capernaros Report or other credible data and projections, including comparative academic data and financial projections.

Lacking a second for the motion, Dana Berry asked if the issue could be tabled until the next meeting and requested that Committee members contact him meanwhile with their comments and suggestions. Frank Wills and William Rogers said they preferred to discuss the motion in an open meeting. By consensus, the survey was placed on the agenda for July 13th.

Frank Wills moved to continue the meeting past 10:00 P.M., William Rogers seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).

Math Textbooks Recommendation - Dr. Fleming explained the Administration's recommendation and referred to a handout. William Rogers said he would like to hear from the teachers and Dr. Fleming and Mr. Rokicki explained that the recommended textbooks met with the teachers' general agreement. ***Frank Wills moved to accept the Administration's recommendation for Math Textbooks, William Rogers seconded. Dana Berry moved to amend the motion by substituting the following: the School Committee shall approve the recommended textbooks for grades k-8 and will reserve approval for the textbooks for grades 9-12, Frank Wills seconded. The School Committee did not approve the amendment by a tie vote, 2-2 (William Rogers, Dana Berry), 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan). The School Committee voted to deny the original motion 1-3, (William Rogers, Lois Borgesi, Dana Berry), 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).***

After further discussion, ***William Rogers moved to approve the recommended math textbooks.*** No one seconded. Dana Berry read from the MGL statutes concerning the School Committee's responsibilities in approving textbooks and concerning prior notification.

Other-

<Dana Berry spoke about the other motions he had proposed at the last meeting. Dr. Fleming explained how a School Committee member can attend classes in the High School. Dr. Fleming said she is working on the material Dana Berry had requested concerning the Superintendent's duties.

CLOSING STATEMENTS

William Rogers said he was having difficulty listening to continued references to declining enrollment.

ADJOURNMENT

Frank Wills made a motion to adjourn at 10:40 P.M. and it was so voted unanimously.

These minutes were approved by a vote of the Provincetown School Committee present at their meeting on _____, 199__

Respectfully Submitted:

School Committee Signature Title

Rachel T. Crosby, On-call secretary