

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

September 14, 1999

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Members Present: Lois Borgesi (Chair), Frank Wills (Vice-Chair), Adrienne Duncan (Secretary), Dana Berry

Members Absent: William Rogers (excused)

Others Present: Dr. Susan Fleming (Superintendent), Mr. Marino (PHS Principal - left early due to illness), Mr. Rokicki (VMES Principal), Rachel Crosby (Recording Secretary), parents, students and staff.

Call to Order: Chair Lois Borgesi called the Regular Session to order at 7:09 P.M.

REGULAR SESSION

Lois Borgesi said it should be noted that the election for student representatives had been held today and that the School Committee would be asked by a student to seat a student representative.

VISITORS STATEMENTS

- < Emily Anderson, a PHS student, spoke, stating that she had been elected to the Student Advisory Committee to the School Committee and asked that she be seated as the ex-officio member of the School Committee and be given copies of all documents pertinent to this meeting. Lois Borgesi responded that, because the results of the election had not been made official, she was not prepared to seat Ms Anderson.
- < Mr. Fox spoke concerning the election process, delineated under Chapter 71 of MGL, for the Student Advisory Committee ex-officio School Committee member and detailed his understanding of the rights of that ex-officio member under MGL Chapter 71.

MINUTES

April 13, 1999, Executive Session - postponed until the next Executive Session.

June 8, 1999, Executive Session - postponed until the next Executive Session.

August 31, 1999, Regular Session - *Adrienne Duncan moved to approve with minor corrections and changes, Dana Berry seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (William Rogers).*

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Community Forum – Dr. Fleming presented and discussed a group of documents distributed to the School Committee, especially referring to a Community Forum to be held on September 23, 1999.
2. Accountant’s Request for Authorization – Dr. Fleming stated that the School Committee is one of the signatory committees listed by the Accountant in a memo and distributed a signature sheet to the School Committee members.
3. Opening of School Agenda – Dr. Fleming mentioned several teachers who spoke at the opening events.
4. Faculty Handbook – Dr. Fleming referred to and discussed copies of the Handbook distributed to School Committee members. Dr. Fleming praised Mr. Marino and Mr. Rokicki for their work on the Handbook.
5. Use of Revolving Funds – Dr. Fleming said a revolving fund had been set up for utility fees and rentals of school property.
6. Superintendent’s Evaluation 1998-99 - Lois Borgesi presented the summary tally for the Superintendent’s Evaluation and read a letter she had written on the results of the evaluation. Lois Borgesi reminded Dana Berry that the Job Description Sub-Committee should begin work on new Administration job descriptions and evaluation instruments.

Dr. Fleming also presented the following:

- < Dr. Fleming said that the VMES Head Custodian will be out of work for a minimum of three months due to health problems. A substitute custodian position will be advertised. Dr. Fleming praised the work of the custodial staff in getting the buildings ready for the opening of school this year.

EDUCATIONAL UPDATE

Introduction of New Staff – Dr. Fleming introduced several new staff members and referred to a summary sheet distributed to School Committee members.

Report on PHS Opening: Mr. Marino - Mr. Marino had left the meeting due to illness, but Dr. Fleming reported that the PHS opening went well. Lois Borgesi praised the positive changes in the High School.

Report on VMES Opening: Mr. Rokicki – Mr. Rokicki reported on a successful school opening and detailed several upgrades of the physical plant. Mr. Rokicki said that by Friday, September 17th, there would be a total of 146 students in the elementary school.. Mr. Rokicki invited the School Committee to come for a guided tour of the VMES. Mr. Rokicki praised Mark Forde and Nancy Edwards for their work in advancing the technology facilities at the school.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PSC Policies: Second Reading

IHBE-A English as a Second Language – ***Dana Berry moved to approve policy IHBE-A for a second reading, Adrienne Duncan seconded.*** At a request from Lois Borgesi, Dana Berry withdrew his motion to allow input from the public. Mr. Fox referred to a PSC policy allegedly detailing the School Committee’s procedure for adopting policies and asked several questions about the process followed for these specific policies. Lois Borgesi and Dr. Fleming explained how these and other policies were brought forth for a vote by the School Committee. Ms. Trovato asked who decides what is a suitable Second Language instructional program and why foreign exchange or visiting students are not eligible for the program and Dr. Fleming offered an explanation. ***Dana Berry moved to accept for a second reading, Adrienne Duncan seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (William Rogers).***

IHBF Home Schooling – ***Dana Berry moved to accept for a second reading, Adrienne Duncan seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (William Rogers).***

IHBF-E Home Schooling – not voted upon, as it is for informational purposes only and is not a policy or regulation.

IHBH Alternative School Programs – The School Committee discussed the history of the Alternative Program in Provincetown and whether there were other programs active on Cape Cod. ***Dana Berry moved to accept for a second reading, Adrienne Duncan seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (William Rogers).***

IHBH-B Magnet Schools – ***Dana Berry moved to accept for a second reading, Adrienne Duncan seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (William Rogers).***

IHCA Summer Schools – ***Dana Berry moved to accept for a second reading, Adrienne Duncan seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (William Rogers).***

School Construction Master Planning Services - Dr. Fleming referred to a document entitled “Request for Proposals, Master Planning Services,” and briefly discussed the proposed process.

FY-2000 Budget – Dr. Fleming brought forth her recommendation to appoint Ms. Slivka as Director of Student Services and discussed that recommendation. The School Committee discussed the recommendation and Mr. Rokicki added his comments. By consensus, the School Committee specified that the appointment initially be for only one-year and that it return to the School Committee for re-approval. In response to a questions from Dana Berry, Dr. Fleming clarified how the Ms. Slivka’s salary would be negotiated and that the District would not be paying for Ms. Slivka’s certification expenses. ***Adrienne Duncan moved to appoint Ms Slivka as Interim Director of Student Services, pending her receiving a waiver of certification from the Department of Education, at which time her appointment would automatically change to that of Director of Student Services. The appointment will be for a period of one year and will be reviewed by the School Committee. Dana Berry seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (William Rogers).***

OTHER -

- Student Accident Insurance – Lois Borgesi reviewed the options outlined by the District’s insurance agent.

Students have the option of extending the coverage to a 24 hour day.

- Ms Trovato asked about the grant to help fund the education of the Kosovo refugees and Dr. Fleming replied that, because the State has not yet passed its budget, the District has not received official notification. Dr. Fleming said she did not anticipate there would be a problem, however. Ms Trovato also asked about the Spanish instruction program and Dr. Fleming clarified the status of the program. Mr. Rokicki provided information concerning the District’s funding for foreign language programs. Ms Trovato urged the School Committee to pursue increasing the funding of foreign language instruction. Lois Borgesi clarified how unspent School Choice monies were allocated. Ms Trovato asked about the pre-school program and Dr. Fleming clarified how the program was funded.
- Dana Berry asked for an update on the Homework Policy and Lois Borgesi replied that the policy was with the sub-committee for further review and revision. Dr. Fleming added that the sub-committee would be receiving a recommendation from the Administration on this policy.

NEW BUSINESS

Line Item Transfer –

- VMES – Transfer of \$700.00 from Audio Visual Supplies and Repairs to Replacement of Audio Visual Equipment to buy televisions for the Kindergarten and for general use - Dana Berry moved to approve the above line item transfer in the amount of \$700.00, Adrienne Duncan seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (William Rogers).

OTHER –

- Frank Wills reported on an after-school program to be held at the Church of Saint Mary of the Harbor. Mr. Wills has been asked to be an advisor to the program and asked the School Committee if his participation might be perceived as a conflict-of-interest. In response to a question from Adrienne Duncan, Frank Wills said he thought the program was being held at the Church because the grant money was coming from the Diocese. Lois Borgesi suggested that Frank Wills review the conflict-of-interest issue with School Counsel. Dr. Fleming mentioned that there had also been a request from the Church to use school buses to transport students to the Church and reviewed the issues of such bus use.

CLOSING STATEMENTS

- Emily Anderson asked that the following be made part of the official record: *“I would request that the School Committee secretary include in the official record my objection to the committee’s denial of the rights of the student body and this student to official representation as required by law”*.
- Mr. Fox addressed comments made earlier by Lois Borgesi concerning the seating of a Student representative at School Committee meetings and stated his understanding of how and when the student representative could attend School Committee meetings. In response, Lois Borgesi clarified her comments, saying she had not objected to students attending School Committee meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Adrienne Duncan made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 P.M. and it was so voted unanimously.

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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