

# TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

November 23, 1999

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

**Members Absent:** Adrienne Duncan (Secretary) (excused)

**Others Present:** Dr. Susan Fleming (Superintendent), Mr. Rokicki (VMES Principal), Mr. Marino (PHS Principal), Justin Smith (Student Representative from the Principal's Advisory Council), Rachel Crosby (Recording Secretary), parents, students and staff.

**Call to Order:** Chair Lois Borgesi called the Meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

### REGULAR SESSION

#### VISITORS' STATEMENTS

- Emily Anderson spoke concerning the recent election of the Principal's Advisory Council. Ms Anderson also asked whether public comment would be allowed during the discussion of the proposed Homework Policy.

Lois Borgesi polled the School Committee and, by consensus, the Committee decided that they would prefer to have public comments on the Homework Policy made during Visitors' Statements.

- Emily Anderson spoke concerning student input on the proposed Homework Policy and presented a petition signed by 15 students. She asked that the Agenda Item 5.1, Homework Policy, IKB: 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, be taken up earlier in the meeting.
- Mr. Fox spoke concerning the Homework Policy and concerning the perceived lack of opportunity for public input.

#### MINUTES

**November 9, 1999, Regular Session – Dana Berry moved to approve with minor corrections and changes, Frank Wills seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).**

**Frank Wills moved that the School Committee take up Agenda Item 5.1, Homework Policy, IKB: 1<sup>st</sup> Reading next, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).**

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Homework Policy IKB: 1<sup>st</sup> Reading** – Lois Borgesi reviewed the history of the development of the proposed policy. Frank Wills and Dr. Fleming also offered their historical perspectives on the policy's development, commenting that they did not want the School Committee to micro-manage this issue. Dana Berry commented that he had felt that should be definitive policies in place at the school level for students and parents to review. Justin Smith suggested that there be more student input on the policy and questioned the meaning of "consistent" assignments. **Frank Wills moved to accept Homework Policy, IKB, for a first reading, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).**

#### COMMUNICATIONS

1. Diplomas for veterans - Dr. Fleming reported on her research on this issue. PHS staff is currently investigating whether there are any eligible individuals in the area. Diplomas will be awarded at graduation.
2. Share the Success/Letters of Acknowledgement – Dr. Fleming reported on letters of acknowledgement sent to the exhibit organizers and on a letter of appreciation received from MASS/MASC.

3. Wastewater Update – Dr. Fleming distributed a report produced by the Board of Selectmen.
4. Collective Bargaining – Dr. Fleming distributed pamphlets on a collective bargaining workshop.
5. Frank Wills reported on a private, locally-organized after-school program.

### EDUCATIONAL UPDATE

Curriculum Update – Dr. Fleming distributed a packet of materials entitled “Curriculum, Superintendent’s Update, November 1999.” Dr. Fleming reviewed the materials and discussed same with the School Committee members. Dr. Fleming also distributed two completed course outlines and reviewed them.

Accreditation Update - Mr. Marino reported on the progress toward this goal, stating that the High School will be accredited in the autumn of 2001.

State MCAS Results - Dr. Fleming referred to a Report of 1999 State Results distributed to School Committee members. The District results will be received on November 30, 1999, but cannot be made public until December 6, 1999. Dr. Fleming said that she expected the District results to show progress. Dr. Fleming said she and the Principals would be making a presentation on the District results at the School Committee meeting of December 14, 1999.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Report from Budget 2001 Sub-Committee – Dr. Fleming referred to a memo on budget guidelines distributed to School Committee members, which included a recommendation for a 1.5% increase in the overall budget. Dr. Fleming reported that many other Cape school districts were anticipating budget increases for 2001, even where there were declining enrollments. Frank Wills commented that Provincetown’s minimal increases over the past several years have been, in reality, decreases due to inflation and contractually mandated salary increases. Dr. Fleming also distributed a handout on Capital Improvements Program Requests and discussed the various projects listed. Dr. Fleming suggested that the School Committee decide which capital projects should be written as Town Meeting articles, with the caveat that the needs may change when the Building Project Report is completed. In response to a question from Frank Wills, Dr. Fleming clarified that several projects could be grouped into one article.

Superintendent Job Description – Dana Berry referred to a draft job description he had prepared and distributed to School Committee members. Dr. Fleming said that she appreciated the degree of specificity in the job description. ***Frank Wills moved to approve the job description.*** William Rogers commented that he would prefer to wait until the entire School Committee was present. ***The motion did not receive a second and Frank Wills withdrew his motion.*** The School Committee also reviewed a proposed Superintendent Performance Appraisal Evaluation Form that Dana Berry had prepared.

Other –

- Dr. Fleming distributed a letter from the Maguire Group detailing a draft fee proposal for Master Planning Services. The School Committee will discuss the fee proposal with representatives from the Maguire Group on November 30.

### NEW BUSINESS

OTHER –