



## School Committee

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

**Tuesday  
November 10, 2009  
5:00 p.m.**

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

**Members Absent: none**

**Staff: Dr. Beth Singer, Superintendent  
Kim Pike, District Principal**

### **AGENDA**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. (on the dot!)

#### **Public Comments**

There were none.

**Minutes: October 27, 2009**

**Motion: Move to accept the minutes of the October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting as amended.**

**Motion: Deb Trovato    Seconded: Shannon Patrick    Vote: 3-0-0.**

**Motion: Move to add Student's Comments after Minutes.**

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

**Student's Comments:**

Nataya Bostwick, the student, updated the School Committee on recent happenings. On November 9<sup>th</sup> the VMES hosted the annual Veterans Day assembly for both schools and the community. It was organized by the Student Council under the direction of Carol D'Amico and Jill Macara. There were guest speakers, i.e., Corporal Joseph Massi who is the Marine Recruiting Officer for the Cape, Sergeant Jason Mangus and Staff Sergeant Mathew Viera from the U.S. Army, Selectman Austin Knight, and Dylan DeSilva from Cape Cod Cares for The Troops. Also the group had the honor of having the Ladies' Auxiliary and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post #3152. The students from PHS and VMES presented poems and essays in honor of our veterans.

On Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, the academy and yearbook communications class will be attending the 13<sup>th</sup> annual "Do It Your Dam Self" (DIYDS) National Youth Video and Film festival. DIYDS was created in 1996 by four teens from Cambridge who were misrepresented in the media and wanted to do something about it. The mission of DIYDS is to give youth producers a place to be heard.

On October 29<sup>th</sup> grades K, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> went to Plymouth Plantation where they learned what it was like for the Pilgrims when they first landed in America and what it was like and still is like for the Mashpee Wampanoag. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade participated in having a hands-on real life example that ties into the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade social studies curriculum which has to do with the state of Massachusetts.

Nataya also said that this will be her third year attending the Film Festival and she finds it very inspiring.

**Superintendent's Update:****School Choice Budget FY-10**

Dr. Singer began by saying that her update contained "good news and bad news" for the School Committee.

First – the good news – there had been a \$40K shortfall in funding – but she has found a cushion in that account so we're O.K. Kerry Adams asked – "How is it that we have this money?" Beth said that the answer is not that precise and the cushion only covers the shortfall and is a one-time cushion.

The bad news came next when Beth said that she had just received a letter from the chair of the State Senate Ways and Means Committee in which he cautioned that

since becoming chair, \$2.8b was cut from the education budget and everyone has to begin to think differently on financial issues. The real issue is that all of us in education have to begin to deal with cuts. The chair also said that the state will not put in any new taxes which only leaves cuts. Recently the state issued 9C cuts including transportation reimbursements to regional districts and the ESEH Grants. And, relating directly to Provincetown, the school nurse leader grant was cut by 50%. We have received the first and only half payment.

### **The Website**

Beau Jackett, along with an assistant, will be working diligently on the school's website. To have this done in-house will be more economical but also a bit slower. Everyone agreed the cost would be worth the wait. There will be one website for the entire school district, a master calendar, a personnel list, etc. Some of the students will be asked to aid in this endeavor and also any parents with expertise in the MIS systems would be welcomed.

### **MCAS**

Amy Rockicki, the assessment coordinator, has been working on a presentation slated for November 24<sup>th</sup> and dealing with the way MCAS is interpreted. The state has come up with a new way of looking at it. They are now looking at the progress of the individual students; we'll be able to track the student's individual growth. Eventually we'll be able to take a 10<sup>th</sup> grader and track him all the way back to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. As well as looking at the school's progress toward AYP (Annual Yearly Progress).

### **Enrichment Programs**

Shannon gave many accolades to Kim Pike, the District Principal, for putting together this extensive program with a variety of choices, and for doing it so quickly. There was a lot of follow-thru in putting all of this together.

Deb wanted to know more about these and was told that the courses encompassed the gamut of making healthy snacks, zoom lens, white line drawing, optics class w/kaleidoscopes, baseball collections, etc. and it is accomplished with teachers and volunteers. Carrie had a suggestion for the price schedule – that it be included in the brochure announcing the offerings. She was advised that 6 weeks is the rule for the duration of the program and the cost stated is for that length of time.

### **Community Learning Project**

Beth said that the after school program is growing by leaps and bounds. The Recreation Department is overseeing some of it and soon we will begin the

community learning project in partnership with the public library. We are not calling it adult education because there may be high school students who would like to participate. It will start in January and will offer, i.e., computer classes, flower arranging, etc. Currently a brochure is being developed with the help of the library personnel; we have the space and they have the expertise and then we will watch the program grow.

Beth continued by saying that if you take all the programs that are happening – it becomes a bigger job. We may also need help on how we interact with other departments.

Everyone who has been asked has been enthused but Kim said that parameters have to be put in place; she will be working on that aspect.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Job Descriptions:

Library Media Specialist: 3<sup>RD</sup> Reading

**Motion: Move to approve the job description for the Library Media Specialist.**

**Motion: Deb Trovato                      Seconded: Shannon Patrick      Vote: 5-0-0.**

### **School Lunch Charging**

This situation was to be monitored by Beth and Kim for the months of September and October with a report to be presented to the School Committee at the first meeting in November (as in now). Neither administrator saw a problem and rather than submit a monthly report, Peter Grosso felt that as long as the situation is being monitored, a report will only be necessary if there is a problem. Everyone agreed.

### **New Business:**

#### **Provincetown School Department –Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

Paul Silva, basketball coach for PHS, filed a disclosure form regarding a conflict of interest. He has taken all the appropriate steps, dotting i's and crossing t's, getting appropriate signatures, etc. with the following outcome.

**Motion: Move to exempt coaches for Provincetown students from conflict of interest.**

**Motion: Peter Grosso      Seconded: Kerry Adams Vote: 4-0-1 Abstention**

**D. Trovato**

### **Syllabus – Discussion - Model**

Kim Pike passed out a form she had devised for future syllabi. When filled out by the teachers it will contain what is to be covered in the school year and the weight of each segment of the course – such as percentages earned for class participation,

homework, tests, etc. Deb wished to have these different syllabi standardized but Kim explained that they really have to be course specific because the requirements for each course differ.

**John Anderson Francis Family Scholarship  
Committee Designee - Reappointment**

Lee Ciliberto sent in her application for reappointment to the JAFFS along with her qualifications.

**Motion: Move to accept Ms. Ciliberto's application for reappointment to the JAFFS Committee.**

**Motion: Kerry Adams                      Seconded: Deb Trovato    Vote: 5-0-0.**

**School Calendar**

Beth pointed out several problems with the current school calendar and ways that they could be corrected. She had also been asked by representatives of the senior class to move back the high school graduation date. As a result of the discussion, the following motion was made:

**Motion: Move to make the high school graduation date June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Also change the date from May 24<sup>th</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup> for Memorial Day.**

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

(Kerry also noted that perhaps the entire school calendar should be reworked. Beth agreed)

**PSC Comments**

Carrie Notaro held a long discourse on cafeteria offerings with many suggestions for improvements.

Shannon Patrick had a question about the school bells and their lack of resonance.

Deb Trovato wanted a report from the Site Council and also said that if we get a handbook she'd like to have time to go through it before it's sent out. An update on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> basketball was also requested by Deb.

Adjournment happened at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on December 8, 2009

---

Peter Grosso, Chairperson