

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2001

Meeting Held in the School Annex Building, Room #3

Members Present: Frank Wills (Vice-Chair), Terese Nelson (Secretary), William Rogers, Debra Trovato

Members Absent: Dana Berry (excused per prior notification), Representative from the PHS Student Advisory Council

Others Present: Dr. Fleming (Superintendent), Mr. Rokicki (VMES Principal), Mr. Marino (PHS Principal), Katie Slivka (Director of Student Services), Lois Borgesi (previous Chair of the School Committee), Rachel Crosby (Recording Secretary)

Call to Order: Vice-Chair Frank Wills called the Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

WORK SESSION

Dr. Fleming presented an Update on District Goals and discussed same with the School Committee. Also discussed was the procedure for completing and submitting the Superintendent's Evaluation forms.

REGULAR SESSION

Vice-Chair Frank Wills called the Regular Session to order at 7:20 P.M

VISITORS' STATEMENTS

- Lois Borgesi thanked the School Committee for allowing her to attend the Work Session on District Goals and submitted her evaluation of Superintendent Fleming for consideration by the School Committee.

By consensus, the School Committee agreed to discuss the New Business agenda item "Superintendent's Evaluation" next.

NEW BUSINESS –

- 1. Superintendent's Evaluation** – by consensus, the School Committee agreed to accept Lois Borgesi's evaluation of Superintendent Fleming.

MINUTES

January 9, 2001, Regular Session - postponed

February 27, 2001, Regular Session – Terese Nelson moved to approve with minor corrections, Debra Trovato seconded and it was so voted, 4-0 .

May 13, 2000, Joint Meeting with Truro School Committee – postponed until the next joint meeting of the School Committees.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Enhanced School Health Services Grant

- Appointment of Interim School Nurse Leader – Susan Baker has begun serving in this position.
- Long Term Substitute: School Nurse – position has been offered to someone who is currently working as a temporary substitute Nurse.

2. Town Manager Memorandum re: Group Health Insurance Increase – Dr. Fleming reported that extra

revenue from various sources will cover the anticipated increase.

3. **VMES Newsletter**

4. **PAE Meetings with School Committee** – The School Committee discussed options for arranging these meetings. Dr. Fleming has been meeting with the Union on a regular basis and the School Committee could make her their designee. William Rogers said he would like to see the relationship with the Union become more positive. Debra Trovato and William Rogers agreed to meet with the PAE as the School Committee’s representatives.

EDUCATIONAL UPDATE

1. **Crisis Protocol Update/ Feedback from School Committee** – Dr. Fleming explained how the Phone Tree would work. Further discussion on the Protocol was postponed until Dana Berry could be present.
2. **Food Service Director Coverage** – Dr. Fleming met with the other cafeteria staff, who have assumed various responsibilities previously completed by the Director. This arrangement is expected to continue until the end of the school year. The School Committee and Dr. Fleming discussed how the nutritional planning aspect of the Director’s duties would be achieved. Terese Nelson suggested having an advisor come in to support/comment on the work of the cafeteria staff.
3. **Building Project** – the Building Committee will be screening applications for the position of Project Manager. The general contractors’ bid opening has been postponed until late March. Dr. Fleming reported that five companies were expected to submit bids.
4. **PHS Partnership with Provincetown Police: Drug Prevention** – Mr. Marino discussed the reason’s why a partnership was being considered, reporting that he had become aware that drug use among the high school students was on the increase. The School Committee discussed a town ordinance in Orleans that fined under-age children caught smoking tobacco in public. Also mentioned was the possibility that the State Police, after making a presentation to students, might be allowed to bring drug-sniffing dogs into the High School. Dr. Fleming reviewed previous experiences with drug-sniffing dogs and Mr. Marino reviewed the procedures followed if drugs were found. Dr. Fleming and Mr. Marino also discussed the kind and degree of substance abuse health education that High School students currently receive. Mr. Marino has written a letter to the Police Chief requesting a meeting. Mr. Marino explained how he would notify parents and students about the intention to bring in drug-sniffing dogs.

Frank Wills said he would advocate creating a committee of concerned adults, including members of the clergy and parents, to work with the schools on this problem. Dr. Fleming and Mr. Marino discussed the parental reaction to the recent article in the Banner about alcohol use at the High School. The School Committee discussed drug and alcohol abuse problems occurring elsewhere on the Cape and across the nation. William Rogers discussed his experiences and frustrations in attempting to help young people who were using drugs and alcohol. Dr. Fleming reported that students suspended for drug possession had expressed a strong desire to stay in school.

Terese Nelson asked if a particular student substance abuse problems that occurred in another town had been reported to the school, and Mr. Marino said that he had been informed and there was an investigation pending by the Honor Society. The School Committee also discussed situations where adults allowed under-age children to drink at their houses, as well as the recently enacted Social Host Law. Mr. Rokicki reported that the D.A.R.E. program is actively promoted in the Elementary School.

Debra Trovato moved to back Mr. Marino’s request to bring the State Police and drug-sniffing dogs into the High School, William Rogers seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0.

Debra Trovato moved to continue the discussion on this topic at a future meeting, William Rogers seconded and it was so voted, 4-0.

The School Committee discussed community members who might be invited to participate in future discussions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Parent Public Forum on MCAS** – postponed.
2. **PHS Boiler** – Dr. Fleming reported that negotiations were still ongoing with the insurance company, but that she may need to bring the boiler’s replacement to the School Committee for authorization as an emergency expenditure. Replacement will cost approximately \$50,000+.
3. **Other**
 - Dr. Fleming reported that she was going to inform staff that only emergency purchase orders will be honored after April 10, 2001.

