

# TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

February 22, 2000

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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), Rachel Crosby (Recording Secretary)

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

### PUBLIC HEARING on 2000-2001 SCHOOL BUDGET

Chair Lois Borgesi explained the public hearing procedures to those assembled. Dr. Fleming gave a brief review of the 2000-2001 School Budget.

Lois Borgesi opened the hearing to public comment at 7:08 P.M..

- Mary Ellen Spingler questioned the 100% status of the Superintendent's contract and suggested finding funds to extend the school day.
- Emily Anderson questioned how the expenses of Student Representatives were reimbursed. Dr. Fleming replied that each school has a Student Activities Account that is used for reimbursement. Ms Anderson asked how she could obtain information concerning the budgeting and audit of this account and Dr. Fleming advised her to put her request in writing.
- Mr. Lauritsen asked about Special Education expenses and presented the School Committee with a written list of questions to which he wanted answers by or before Town Meeting. Frank Wills responded that several of the listed questions were not answerable due to confidentiality regulations protecting individual students. Dr. Fleming explained the Freedom of Information procedures. Mr. Lauritsen also asked why the Foghorn School Newspaper was no longer being published. Dr. Fleming explained that the newspaper adviser left and that there was currently insufficient interest among the students. Dr. Fleming explained that there was District-level publication called "The Net."
- Ms Trovato spoke concerning her perception that the proposed school budget increase was inadequate and asked about the budget freeze and the funding of a teacher's aide. Dr. Fleming explained the funding of the aide and said the freeze would be discussed later in the meeting.
- Mr. Fox asked questions concerning the posting of the public notice for this meeting. Lois Borgesi listed the publications to which the notice was sent. Mr. Fox asked if there was proof that the notice had been published. Mr. Fox stated that the meeting notice should have been read at the start of the meeting. Mr. Fox also asked about the funding of the Professional Development Plan and whether money for training the Student Representatives had been included. Mr. Fox also asked about a High School budget item for salaries for Professional Advisors and stated that he had been told that there were no job descriptions or qualifications for these positions. Dr. Fleming explained her understanding of the efforts to provide training for Student Representatives and said she would discuss the issue with the Principals. Dr. Fleming explained that the Advisor positions were funded as contracted stipends and were primarily filled by professional teaching staff. Lois Borgesi clarified that the stipend amounts were determined in contract negotiations. In response to a question from Mr. Fox, Lois Borgesi clarified why some of the Advisor funds had been transferred to other budget items in the last fiscal year. Dr. Fleming clarified that the newspaper advisor was not paid via a stipend, but rather as part of the regular teaching assignment. The Committee continued to discuss advisor qualifications and job descriptions, as well as the issue of whether School Policy requires job descriptions/qualifications. The School Committee agreed to check the Policy Manual for wording on this issue.
- Mr. Lauritsen asked about efforts to reduce the budget in light of declining enrollment and Lois Borgesi

explained that the last fiscal year's budget had been level funded and clarified that the proposed budget increase was justified.

- Ms Trovato spoke in defense of the proposed School Budget.
- Ms Spingler also spoke in defense of the proposed School Budget.

Lois Borgesi closed the public comment portion of the hearing at 7:51 P.M.

Lois Borgesi suggested that the Committee postpone taking a vote on the Budget until later in the meeting.

Lois Borgesi closed the public hearing at 7:52 P.M.

## REGULAR SESSION

### VISITORS' STATEMENTS

- Emily Anderson spoke concerning verification of the results of the election of the 1999-2000 PHS Principal's Student Advisory Council. She also spoke concerning an official request for information on this election.
- Ms Trovato asked for the opportunity to participate in the Committee's discussion on the Extended-Day agenda item. She also commented that there was no provision in the Building Project for storage at VMES and also questioned the location of bathrooms at VMES. She asked questions about the proposed Applied Technology/Arts area at the High School.
- Mr. Fox asked about the Extended-Day agenda item and Dr. Fleming replied that the discussion was intended to focus on extending the school day for this school year. Mr. Fox then spoke about his perception of a difference between School Policy and School Calendar.

### MINUTES

**February 8, 2000, Regular Session – Frank Wills moved to approve as written, Dana Berry seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).**

### COMMUNICATIONS

1. VMES Parent Newsletter, February 10, 2000
2. Adrienne Duncan Letter – Lois Borgesi explained that she was postponing discussion on this letter.
3. Department of Education USDA Food Recall Memorandum
4. Letter to the Editor Concerning Donation to Culinary Arts Class
5. Letter to the Editor Concerning Accreditation Teams
6. Town Manager Memorandum: Selectmen FY 2001-FY2010 Fiscal Policy Plan
7. Town Manager Memorandum: FY 2001 Budget Amendments (with attachment)
8. Letter of Acknowledgement from Nancy Flasher to Mr. Merrill, re: Donation to PHS Academy
9. Letter from Commissioner of Education stating that Provincetown is in compliance with Spending Requirements, FY98, FY99 and FY00
10. Memo from Town Manager Keith Bergman regarding the Town Meeting warrant deadline
11. Memo from Mr. Marino regarding alleged harassment of PHS students by Orleans Police at a recent hockey game.
12. Monthly Financial Statement, dated February 22, 2000.
13. Meeting Notice: Finance Committee Meeting on February 25, 2000 on FY2001 School Operating Budget Request
14. Letter from Mr. Brizzi, asking for donations to the Music Fund.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

FY 2001 School Budget – Dr. Fleming explained the options for budgeting for the anticipated water expense.

***Frank Wills made a motion to add separate FY 2001 Utilities-Water budget line-items for each school in the amounts of \$1,300 for VMES and \$4,000 for PHS (Total \$5,300), Dana Berry seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).***

***Frank Wills made a motion to approve the total FY2001 School Budget in the amount of \$3,942,633.73, Dana Berry seconded.*** In response to a question from William Rogers, Dr. Fleming clarified how an increase or decrease in the budgeted FY 2001 salary increase percentage would be handled. A decrease in the

percentage will result in a decrease in the overall budget and an increase will be dealt with by finding the additional amount within the proposed budget. After discussion, ***the motion passed by a vote of 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).***

Building Project Update – Dr. Fleming discussed meetings with the Selectmen and Town Manager and drafts of articles for Town Meeting, referring to her memos dated February 11, 2000. Frank Wills thanked the PTA for organizing the Public Forum. The School Committee agreed to hold an additional meeting on February 28, 2000.

Capital Improvement Articles, FY 2001 – Dr. Fleming explained that these articles would be submitted if the Building Project articles were not passed at the Special Town Meeting. The School Committee discussed the dollar amounts in the articles and the wording of the articles.

VMES: Extended Day/After School Programs – Dr. Fleming discussed her memo to the PAE Executive Committee, dated February 8, 2000, and summarized her discussion with that Committee. Dr. Fleming said she planned to recommend a 20 minute-per-day increase. Dr. Fleming confirmed that such an extension did not affect the teachers' contract. In response to a question from William Rogers, Dr. Fleming confirmed that the Administration would be addressing the issue of tardiness at VMES.

Other –

- In response to a question from Dana Berry, Dr. Fleming said she had not responded in writing to a letter from the PTA concerning the Extended-Day, but that she had researched the issue and discussed the issue with members of the PTA.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Budget/Transfer Requests:

1. FY 2000: VMES Teacher Substitutes – For \$3,000: from Teacher Salary Non-Professional Home/Hospital to Teacher Salary Professional Substitutes - to avoid line-item overrun. ***Dana Berry moved to transfer \$3,000, Frank Wills seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).***
2. School Choice Requests: Dr. Fleming explained potential budget overruns as detailed in her memo of February 14, 2000 and explained why these overruns necessitated a budget restraint policy. She recommended transferring funds from the School Choice Revolving Account for the following purposes:
  - Transportation – Increase to \$26,000 from \$16,000 via a transfer from School Choice Revolving Account. ***Frank Wills moved to increase the Transportation line-item to \$26,000 using \$10,000 of School Choice funds, Dana Berry seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).***
  - National Faculty – Transfer \$17,000 from School Choice to cover the current contract with the National Faculty. Dr. Fleming distributed copies of the Professional Agreement contract with the National Faculty. ***Dana Berry moved to approve the National Faculty contract and to transfer \$17,000 from School Choice Accounts to help fund that contract, Frank Wills seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).***

Other –

- Dr. Fleming mentioned that she would be reviewing the SPED program with Director of Student Services, Katherine Slivka, as part of Ms Slivka's evaluation.

## **CLOSING STATEMENTS**

Lois Borgesi said that she had investigated Ms Anderson's comments concerning the Student Representative elections and referred to a letter from Mr. Marino to Ms Anderson dated October 12, 1999. Lois Borgesi discussed her investigative findings and confirmed that she felt the election process had been fair and did not involve any breach in integrity. She said that next year's election would follow more closely the statutory requirements.

***Dana Berry moved at 9:05 P.M. to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing non-Union contracts and to hold a discussion relative to Collective Bargaining, William Rogers seconded, and it was so voted in a unanimous roll call vote of those School Committee members present.***

Chair Lois Borgesi reconvened the Regular Session at 9:59 P.M.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

***Frank Wills moved to adjourn at 9:59 P.M. and it was so voted unanimously.***

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These minutes were approved by a vote of the Provincetown School Committee at their meeting on \_\_\_\_\_, 200\_\_

Respectfully Submitted:

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Committee Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

**Rachel Crosby**

Rachel T. Crosby, On-call secretary