

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2000

Meeting Held in the High School Media Center

The following minutes are available on-line as a service and are not the official record due to changes in formatting for the Internet. The minutes may have attachments that are not included here in this format. The official, complete paper copy can be viewed during regular office hours, Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Office of the Town Clerk, 260 Commercial St. Provincetown, MA 02657.

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

Members Absent: Adrienne Duncan (Secretary)

Others Present: Mr. Marino (PHS Principal), Ms Katherine Slivka (Director of Student Services), Nathaniel Mayo (Student Representative), Rachel Crosby (Recording Secretary), parents, students and staff.

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

REGULAR SESSION

VISITORS' STATEMENTS

- Emily Anderson spoke about her perception that the School Committee was in non-compliance with a Massachusetts statute and asked to be provided with access to records of a related investigation.
- Ms Spingler spoke about recent actions of School Committee member Dana Berry and urged the School Committee to issue a written sanction to Mr. Berry.
- Ms Anderson spoke about the minimal guidelines governing the activities of the Principal's Student Advisory Council and concerning the related actions of the School Committee and the School Administrators.
- Mr. Cabral spoke in support of Principal Michael Marino.
- Mr. Lauritsen spoke about his research on education in Provincetown and on the principles of freedom of expression and information.

MINUTES

March 14, 2000, Regular Session – Frank Wills moved to approve with minor corrections, William Rogers seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Responses to Request for Documentation or Information – Dr. Fleming referred to a letter from Chair of the Selectmen concerning the format of meeting minutes and missing minutes (not files w/ Town Clerk).
- Open Houses: Building Project:
 1. PHS Tuesday 6:00 to 7:00 P.M.
 2. VMES Wednesday 6:00 to 7:15 P.M.
- Laidlaw Bus Company – Bus rate Increase FY 2001 – daily rate will increase to \$14 per day per student.
- Letter from the Department of Education confirming that Provincetown has received a Full-Day Kindergarten grant for school year 1999-2000 in the amount of \$9,523.
- Memo from Town Manager Keith Bergman concerning funding sources for Town Meeting articles.
- Copy of "The Net" newsletter.
- Copy of the March 23, 2000 VMES Newsletter.
- Lois Borgesi reported that she had learned, at a Division Seven School Committees conference, that the current level of SBA funding for building projects will probably continue and that the funding formula will probably remain the same. More monies may be provided for transportation and SPED.
- Lois Borgesi reported that she had attended a Daughters of the American Revolution awards meeting and that Jennifer Borgesi had received one of the awards.

- Schools' Monthly Financial Statement, dated March 28, 2000.
- Memo from Don Richards, Parking Administrator, concerning the opening of the Grace Hall Parking Lot.

EDUCATIONAL UPDATE:

- Preparation for MCAS – Dr. Fleming reported on curriculum alignment, with the exception of Social Studies/History, which is still being finalized by Department of Education. Other local emphasis has been on training for the open-ended questions.
- Efforts in Writing: Schoolwide Efforts – Mr. Marino reported on a dramatic increase in writing skills among High School students. Mr. Marino shared examples of several students' compositions.
- 21st Century Learning Center Grant – Dr. Fleming reviewed the recently submitted grant application.
- Harwich School District has confirmed that they want to continue to share the funding and operation of the joint hockey teams.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **School Renovation Project Update –**
 - ◆ *Funding Cycle Recommendation: 10 years* – Dr. Fleming confirmed that the Finance Committee has conditioned their approval of the Building Project on the 10 year funding cycle. ***Frank Wills moved that the School Committee recommend that the Building Project be funded over a ten year cycle, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).***
 - ◆ *Net School Spending Requirements* - Dr. Fleming referred to and discussed a document entitled “Net School Spending Compliance,” stating that the State’s spending requirements were based upon the Town’s tax base. Dr. Fleming clarified that the Department of Education did not take into account declining enrollment. The only possibility for a reduction in the spending requirements would come via a Home Rule petition to the State Legislature. William Rogers said he felt that the School Committee has made big efforts to improve the schools and he was committed to continuing to act in the best interests of the children. Dana Berry said that he felt that the adoption of the 10 year funding cycle answered many community concerns and offered to support of the funding proposal at Town Meeting.
- **Veterans of World War II: High School Diploma** – Earl Chaddock, head of the Department of Veterans’ Services, appeared to explain the Operation Recognition initiative, which is designed to recognize veterans by giving them a High School diploma. The diplomas are awarded at a special assembly, with costs to be borne by local veterans’ organizations. Mr. Chaddock said he estimated there were 40 to 50 eligible veterans in town, but that it was up to the veterans to come forward. Dana Berry mentioned that it might also be possible to get citations from the State Legislature. ***Dana Berry moved to support the Operation Recognition initiative for World War II veterans, William Rogers seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).***
- **Other –**
 - None

NEW BUSINESS

- Other –
 1. Dr. Fleming referred to a request from Mr. Rokicki to take the 2nd and 3rd Grades on a trip to Plimoth Plantation. ***Frank Wills moved to approve the trip request, William Rogers seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).***
 2. **High School Budget Line Item Transfer Request:** \$6,000 from Maintenance Building/Repair and Maintenance Building/Contracted Services to Maintenance Grounds/Contracted Services - for emergency repairs to the tennis courts. Dr. Fleming reported that the tennis coaches have stated that the courts have deteriorated to the point they are unusable for tennis matches. ***Frank Wills moved to approve the line item transfer as described in the amount of \$6,000, William Rogers seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).***
 3. In regard to the memo from Mr. Richards, Parking Administrator, concerning the opening of the Grace Hall Parking Lot, William Rogers asked if a request had been made to have spaces reserved for students. Nathaniel Mayo reported that Mr. Richards’ response to the students’ request had not been positive. Mr. Mayo suggested that a more definitive proposal based upon actual needs might be more acceptable to Mr. Richards. The Committee supported the concept of such a proposal, confirming that the authority for such a decision rested with the Selectmen. Dana Berry suggested bringing the issue up at a regular Selectmen’s meeting. The Committee will discuss this issue at a future meeting.

