

# TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2000

#### Meeting Held in the High School Annex

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), Student Representative Todd Hnis, Rachel Crosby (Recording Secretary), parents, students and staff.

**Call to Order:** Chair Lois Borgesi called the Meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.

### REGULAR SESSION

#### VISITORS' STATEMENTS

- Emily Anderson spoke about her perception that the School Committee was in non-compliance with several Massachusetts statutes and asked to be provided with access to records of a related investigation. Ms Anderson also asked for a response to a request for clarification of related comments made by the School Committee Chair at a recent meeting.
- Mr. Fox presented a request for public records. He also asked why Provincetown School had not had a student representative at the recent Student Government Day. Mr. Fox also spoke about an advisory council for Special Education.
- Ms Colburn spoke about criticism of PHS Principal Mr. Marino by a parent and a student. Ms Colburn also presented the School Committee with several letters from parents and students.
- Mr. Cabral also spoke in support of Mr. Marino.
- Luke Colburn, a High School student, also spoke in support of Mr. Marino.
- Ms Henning (?), a High School student, spoke in support of the High School and Mr. Marino.
- Richard Studley, a High School student, spoke in support of Mr. Marino.
- Lucas Lambrou, a High School student, also spoke in support of Mr. Marino.

#### MINUTES

**March 28, 2000, Regular Session** – *Frank Wills moved to approve with minor corrections, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).*

#### COMMUNICATIONS:

- Letter of Acknowledgement from VMES Staff
- Memo from Town Clerk concerning an Affidavit to Recall School Committee Member
- Memo from Dr. Fleming concerning plans for a Workshop for the District Improvement Panel with a representative from the National Faculty on April 25, 2000, from 4:30 to 9:30 P.M.
- VMES Newsletter
- Notice from the Licensing Board concerning a hearing on an abutting property.
- Lois Borgesi distributed copies of the Legislative Bulletin and discussed its contents.
- William Rogers said he felt that Dana Berry's actions relative to the potential closing of the High School were inappropriate. William Rogers said that he felt that Dana Berry should resign from the School Committee.
- Frank Wills asked about Provincetown's apparent lack of payments to the Collaborative for the bus lease and Dr. Fleming said she would look into it.

## **EDUCATIONAL UPDATE:**

- Report of Special Education – Ms Slivka gave an audio-visual presentation on Special Education in Provincetown Schools as well as in Massachusetts and the rest of the country. Ms Slivka discussed proposed SPED staffing levels and answered questions from the School Committee and the Student Representative. In response to a question from Lois Borgesi, Ms Slivka said that she expected that psychological services would continue to be contracted out. Ms Slivka and the School Committee discussed the issue of timeliness of psychological report filing. Ms Slivka said, in response to the earlier question from Mr. Fox, that she planned to form a Parents’ Advisory Council as soon as possible. Ms Slivka said she felt that the Provincetown Special Education Program was excellent and was considered exemplary by outside experts. In response to a question concerning the potential shift to the Federal standards for SPED services, Ms Slivka said she felt that Massachusetts would probably stay with their existing higher State standards. In response to a question from William Rogers, Ms Slivka said that all the existing SPED staff were appropriately certified and qualified. Ms Slivka explained a handout showing comparative tuition costs at Provincetown and other school districts. Dr. Fleming provided further details on the current and proposed SPED staffing levels.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **School Renovation Project –**
  - ◆ *Architect Recommendation* – Dr. Fleming confirmed that the Maguire Group had been chosen as the architect for the project. Their bid was \$400,000.
  - ◆ *Project Timeline and Financing* - Dr. Fleming reported on the current plans, discussing a handout entitled “Building Project Time Line.” Dr. Fleming discussed the long-term possibility of leasing or selling the Annex and distributed a letter of interest from Peter Borrelli, the Executive Director of the Center of Coastal Studies. The School Committee discussed details of the proposed construction schedule and the amount for which the Annex could possibly be rented. Dr. Fleming stated that they would know in July whether the project would be approved by Department of Education this year. Dr. Fleming agreed to write Mr. Borelli a letter describing the School Committee’s current thinking on the future of the Annex.
  - ◆ *School Building Committee Membership* - Dr. Fleming distributed her memo to the School Committee concerning the School Building Committee Membership. Dr. Fleming recommended that the Building Committee membership be reconstituted by the School Committee as outlined in her memo. Dana Berry pointed out that the Building Committee had not been created in any of the ways described in the Town Charter and suggested that the Building Committee membership instead be put before the Selectmen for appointment. School Counsel Ed Lenox has offered an informal opinion that the April 4, 2000 Town Meeting articles, which referred to the Building Committee as being appointed by the School Committee, made the Building Committee a town board. Dr. Fleming said that the School Policy stated that the Town Manager was the appointing authority for the Building Committee. Dr. Fleming said that the Town Manager had suggested that the School Committee appoint the Building Committee, thereby making the School Committee his designee. Dr. Fleming said that school district employees cannot be members of the Building Committee if it is a town board. Lois Borgesi suggested keeping school employees on the Committee as non-voting members. After reading State statutes provided by Dr. Fleming, Dana Berry said that he did not feel that the statutes overrode the appointing mechanisms specified in the Town Charter. By consensus, the School Committee suggested that Dr. Fleming contact Town Counsel for an opinion on whether the Building Committee is a Town Board. Dr. Fleming will suggest that school personnel currently on the Building Committee abstain from voting until the Committee’s status is resolved by Town Counsel.

***William Rogers moved to direct Dr. Fleming to have pictures taken of all the students and have the pictures published in the local newspapers, thanking the community for its support on the Building Project, Frank Wills seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).***

- **Student/Faculty Parking** – By consensus, the School Committee agreed to invite the Parking Administrator to a future meeting to discuss this issue. Student Representative Todd Hnis will provide Dr. Fleming with some estimates of the number of parking spots required by faculty and students.
- **Other** – Dr. Fleming reported that the School Committee minutes listed as being missing (in the letter recently received from the Selectmen) were for workshops and joint meetings, not regular or executive meetings. Dr. Fleming defined what minutes should be handed in for such semi-formal gatherings of the School Committee members. Rachel Crosby will prepare a form for use in recording such “meetings.”

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **District Improvement Workshop with Panel** – Dr. Fleming reported that the workshop is definitely going to happen and that the School Committee will be receiving a mailing soon.
- **Other**
  1. Dr. Fleming distributed copies of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Provincetown and Truro School Committees with memos to the Truro Superintendent(s) attached. This agreement will be discussed in a joint meeting with the Truro School Committee in May. Dr. Fleming discussed details of the Agreement and the financial calculations. Lois Borgesi reported that the Truro Superintendent of Schools and the Truro School Committee Chair were concerned about comments by Provincetown Finance Committee members as published in the Cape Cod Times. Truro has requested a presentation and discussion of the tuition agreement issues at the joint meeting.

*Frank Wills moved to continue the meeting past 10:00 P.M., Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 3-1 (William Rogers), 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).*

2. Dr. Fleming referred to building use requests she had received for use of the art facilities, in particular the ceramic kiln, and requested the School Committee’s guidance in responding to the requests. The School Committee agreed to table this issue for future discussion
3. The School Committee decided to reschedule its first meeting in May for Wednesday, May 3, 2000.

**CLOSING STATEMENTS**

- Student Representative Todd Hnis spoke with concerns about cuts in the Industrial Arts portion of the School Budget and said he felt the program was important. Lois Borgesi said she thought the budget had been decreased because the enrollment in the IA programs had declined.
- Frank Wills reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule: April 25 (Workshop), May 3 (Regular), May 22 (Joint meeting with Truro School Committee in Truro), and May 23 (Regular).

*Dana Berry moved to go into Executive Session at 10:26 P.M. for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining of Union Contracts, Frank Wills seconded and it was so voted in a roll call vote of those School Committee members present.*

Chair Lois Borgesi reconvened the Regular Meeting at 11:05 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Frank Wills moved to adjourn at 11:05 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:

\_\_\_\_\_ Title

School Committee Signature

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 Rachel T. Crosby, On-call secretary