

# TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes of May 23, 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), Terese Nelson (Secretary), Dana Berry, William Rogers

**Members Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** Dr. Fleming (Superintendent), Mr. Marino (PHS Principal), Mr. Rokicki (VMES Principal), Rachel Crosby (Recording Secretary), parents, students and staff.

**Call to Order:** Dr. Fleming called the Meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

### REGULAR SESSION

#### VISITORS' STATEMENTS

- Custodio Silva spoke about the future of the Music Department and the termination of the contract of his sister, music teacher Brenda Caton.
- Emily Anderson read a prepared statement concerning compliance with State statutes.
- John Thomas spoke about the future of the Music Department and the termination of the contract of music teacher Brenda Caton.
- Char Priolo spoke about the future of the Music Department and the termination of the contract of music teacher Brenda Caton.
- Mr. Lauritsen asked for a copy of a letter sent out by Mr. Rokicki regarding Music Courses. Mr. Lauritsen also spoke about teacher certification, declining enrollment and curriculum issues.
- Mr. Phillip Fox spoke about the future of the Music Department and the termination of the contract of music teacher Brenda Caton.

*Dana Berry moved to allow William Rogers to respond to Visitors' Statements without any further response from the visitors, Terese Nelson seconded and it was so voted, 3-2 (Frank Wills, Lois Borgesi).*

William Rogers asked if the School Committee had been informed of the termination of Ms Caton's contract and Lois Borgesi said the School Committee does not normally get involved in the hiring and firing of teaching staff. William Rogers said he felt it was important for the School Committee to be kept informed of such transactions.

#### MINUTES

**May 3, 2000, Regular Session – Frank Wills moved to approve as written, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.**

#### COMMUNICATIONS:

- Letter to students and parents concerning MCAS tests
- Student Parking: Letter to Selectmen
- Mrs. Powers' request to give Russian Dictionaries to Truro Schools (see New Business)
- VMES Newsletter
- Notices (2) of Licensing Board Public Hearing
- PHS Summer Reading List (see Educational Updates)
- Superintendent's Information Sessions for School Committee – Dr. Fleming will meet with any two School Committee members at a time to discuss various budget and policy issues.

- Letter of Retirement – VMES Cafeteria Cook Patricia Reid
- Monthly Financial Statement, dated May 23, 2000.
- MASC Recognition Awards Nomination Notice
- Letter concerning the Share Your Success Conference
- Dana Berry reported that student Nate Mayo was named a Cape Cod Times Rising Star.

Frank Wills commented that it may be an requirement that there be an formal orientation for new members of School Committees in Massachusetts. Dr. Fleming commented that the MASC is willing to come to the District to conduct a training session for new School Committee members. Dr. Fleming will contact the MASC to see if there is a new member packet available.

#### **EDUCATIONAL UPDATE:**

- ◆ **Proposal: Summer School 2000** – Dr. Fleming reported on the plans for Summer School, referring to several documents distributed to School Committee members. Mr. Marino reported on the 1999 Summer School at PHS. Mr. Rokicki similarly reported on the VMES 1999 Summer School.
- ◆ **Summer Reading List: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Dr. Fleming referred to a list of books in a memo from Mr. Marino to Dr. Fleming, dated May 16, 2000. Mr. Marino asked for clarification of the School Policy concerning summer reading lists. The School Committee discussed the process for changing the wording of a School Committee policy. The School Committee also discussed the difference in the meaning of the words “encouraged” versus “required” in terms of summer reading. By consensus, the School Committee agreed to leave the policy wording as is, with the understanding that teachers could cover the books on the list in the first term.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. FY 2001 Budget – Dr. Fleming reported that by June 12 the Administration hoped to have 80% of all vacant positions filled. Dr. Fleming said that at the moment, the budget is approximately \$17,000 over in salaries. The Occupational Therapy budget may also be over because of the need to again contract out these services. On the positive side, there is only a one-half Outside Placement anticipated, which means a budget reduction.  
Dr. Fleming spoke about the change in the music department staffing, saying that she thought the matter of the contract termination had been discussed with the School Committee. Mr. Marino commented that the new position is for 21 hours for a certified musical instructor. Dr. Fleming said that there had been no possibility of obtaining a waiver of certification requirements for the current music instrument teacher. Terese Nelson said that the music teacher termination situation was a good example of the problems with the public relations/communication in the schools. Lois Borgesi confirmed that the School Committee had hiring/firing authority over very few positions. Dr. Fleming stated that the termination reflected a programmatic change.
2. 2000-2001 Proposed School Calendar – Dr. Fleming discussed the calendar. ***Terese Nelson moved to approve the 2000-2001 School Calendar as proposed, William Rogers seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.***
3. FY 2000 Budget Update – Dr. Fleming referred to several documents concerning sick leave buybacks and retirement incentives. Some of the sick leave buybacks may have to be moved to FY 2001 to avoid running a deficit in FY 2000. Similarly, retirement incentives can be bumped into FY 2001 and FY 2002. Dr. Fleming said the FY 2000 budget has also been overspent in several items, including legal services, heating oil costs, custodial sick leave, maternal leave, etc.
4. Other
  - Dr. Fleming recommended that Mr. Preston Lightsey be appointed to the School Building Committee to replace Mr. Weiss. ***Terese Nelson moved to appoint Preston Lightsey to the School Building Committee as a replacement for Mr. Ken Weiss, William Rogers seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.***
  - William Rogers asked again that the students’ pictures be put in the local newspaper. Dr. Fleming said that the pictures were scheduled for publication on June 1.
  - William Rogers asked about the Superintendent’s Evaluation and Dr. Fleming confirmed that the evaluation was, in fact, overdue. The School Committee discussed which evaluation instrument to use and when to discuss the evaluation.
  - William Rogers asked about the additional school-day time at VMES. The School Committee

discussed the details of this issue, especially in light of wording in the teachers' contracts. Terese Nelson confirmed that the new hours were working well at VMES. This issue will be on a future School Committee agenda.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. School Choice Vote – Dr. Fleming explained the options of taking versus not taking a vote on this issue. William Rogers asked how many of the School Choice students were SPED students. ***Frank Wills moved to keep Provincetown an open, K through 12, no-limit, School Choice District, Terese Nelson seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 abstain (Dana Berry).***
2. School Choice Budget FY 2001 – Dr. Fleming referred to and discussed her memo, dated May 19, 2000, with the subject “School Choice Budget” as well as the attached spreadsheet.
3. Line Item Transfer Request: Special Needs – From Teacher Salary Non-Professional Home/Hospital to Psychological Contracted Services Evaluations in the amount of \$2,800. William Rogers asked who contracted for the services without having the money to pay for them and Dr. Fleming said she would research the issue. ***Frank Wills moved to transfer the amount of \$2,800 as described, William Rogers seconded.*** William Rogers said that, to the best of his knowledge, the psychological services had been contracted for by an unauthorized person. Dr. Fleming said the Director of Student Services now knew of and had approved the expenditure. After discussion, ***the motion passed 4-1 (William Rogers).*** ***Dana Berry moved that the Super report at the next School Committee meeting on the circumstances under which the services were contracted, William Rogers seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.***
4. Simmons College Survey on Student Services – Dr. Fleming discussed a survey to be distributed to Grade 7 through 12 students. ***Dana Berry moved to authorize the School to distribute the Survey to Provincetown students, William Rogers seconded.*** The School Committee discussed various items on the survey and the survey rationale. After discussion, ***the motion passed, 5-0.***
5. Review of PSC Rules of Procedure – to be discussed at the next School Committee meeting,
6. Summer PSC Meeting Schedule – the School Committee agreed to definitely meet on June 13<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup>, August 15<sup>th</sup>, and August 29<sup>th</sup>. The School Committee will possibly meet on June 27<sup>th</sup>.
7. Other
  - Gift of Russian Dictionaries to Truro Schools - Dana Berry referred to School Policy DN, “School Properties Disposal Procedure.” ***Terese Nelson moved to donate the Russian dictionaries to the Truro Schools, Frank Wills seconded.*** Dana Berry said that the Superintendent had the authority in Policy DN to dispose of the dictionaries and Dr. Fleming said she preferred to not follow policy exactly in this matter, but would rather donate the books without further ado. After discussion, ***the motion passed 3-0, 2 abstain (Dana Berry, Lois Borgesi).***
  - Terese Nelson and Frank Wills volunteered to serve on the Truro Tuition Sub-Committee.
  - William Rogers expressed deep concerns about the coaching of the girls' softball team. William Rogers disclosed that his daughter plays on the team and that he had previously coached the team. By consensus, the School Committee decided to discuss this issue in Executive Session. Dr. Fleming offered to prepare a report for a future Executive Session. William Rogers said he had a report that he wanted to give. William Rogers agreed to have an Executive Session with the personnel involved present.

## **CLOSING STATEMENTS**

- Dr. Fleming discussed a student survey that she will be bringing to the School Committee for approval at their next meeting.

***Frank Wills moved to go into Executive Session at 9:30 P.M. for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining: Union and Non-Union Personnel as well as Pending Litigation, William Rogers 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 10:39 P.M.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Other – Transportation Expenses – Dr. Fleming referred to and discussed her memo, dated May 16, 2000. ***Dana Berry moved to lease two busses from the Cape Cod Collaborative in FY 2001, using \$30,000 in School Choice monies to cover the projected cost increase, William Rogers seconded, and it was so voted,***

