

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2000

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.

Meeting Held in the High School Annex

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), Kathleen Slivka (Director of Student Services), Rachel Crosby (Recording Secretary), parents, students and staff.

Call to Order: Chair Lois Borgesi called the Meeting to order at 7:15 P.M.

REGULAR SESSION

VISITORS' STATEMENTS

- Emily Anderson read a prepared statement concerning compliance with State statutes and requested documentation of a related investigation.
- Ms Paris spoke on behalf of parents who would like to keep their children in a complete second grade class as opposed to a multi-grade class.
- Custodio Silva thanked Dana Berry for his concern about his sister, Brenda Silva. Mr. Silva also spoke about the employment Ms Silva had been offered by the District and about the process by which her change in employment had taken place.
- Ms Spingler spoke about combining the 2nd and 3rd grade classes.
- Ms Luster requested that the agenda item on combining the 2nd and 3rd grades be taken sooner in the meeting. Ms Luster then spoke in favor keeping combined classes.
- An Lisa Enos spoke in favor keeping combined classes and asked if the teachers had offered their input.
- Ms Kiefer spoke in favor of having a separate 2nd Grade Class.
- Ms Nichols spoke in favor of having a separate 2nd Grade Class or having a choice of combined class or a separate class.
- Ms Luster spoke further about the issue of combined classes, stating that there needs to some common, agreed-upon educational concepts.
- Mr. Silva questioned why elected officials (the School Committee) do not respond to Visitors' Statements.

Frank Wills moved to consider agenda item 6.1, "VMES Programmatic Review for 2nd and 3rd Grade: Multi-grade or single grade", next, William Rogers seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. VMES Programmatic Review for 2nd and 3rd Grade: Multi-grade or single grade – Dr. Fleming referred to a memo from Mr. Rokicki and discussed related issues. Dr. Fleming explained why the administrators had previously chosen to recommend a multi-grade class. Mr. Rokicki commented further on the multi-grade class and then referred to his memo and clarified why he was now recommending separate 2nd and 3rd grade classes, while still utilizing the team teaching model. The Committee members agreed that the timing of the consideration of this issue was not optimum and acknowledged that there was no way to please everyone. Mr.

Rokicki confirmed that the VMES School Council had not met to discuss the issue. William Rogers questioned why Mr. Rokicki appeared to have changed his educational philosophy in the past year and Mr. Rokicki explained his position further. Dr. Fleming said that it appeared that the question was being brought up for discussion at too late a date and she felt that the issue had been previously thoroughly discussed. Lois Borgesi explained why she felt it was too late to make a change in class configuration for the 2000-2001 school year. By consensus, the School Committee agreed to leave the multi-grade configuration in place.

MINUTES

June 13, 2000, Regular Session – *Dana Berry moved to approve with minor corrections, Frank Wills seconded.* Dana Berry and William Rogers temporarily left the meeting. *The motion was passed, 3-0, 2 absent (William Rogers, Dana Berry).*

May 13, 2000, Joint Meeting with Truro School Committee – *postponed until corrections can be made.*

Dana Berry returned to the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- City & Town Newsletter
- Building Project Update – Dr. Fleming distributed copies of letters from the Department of Education recommending the project to the Massachusetts Board of Education. Dr. Fleming reported that an architectural consultant had been hired to go over the plans. Dr. Fleming expressed concerns about meeting the approved budget, but said that changes had been made to improve the plans and reduce costs.

William Rogers returned to the meeting.

- Felco, Inc. Letter of Notice concerning intent to request a septic variance for 7 Holway Avenue.
- Monthly Financial Statement, dated June 30, 2000
- Two Licensing Board hearing notices for hearings scheduled for July 11, 2000.

EDUCATIONAL UPDATE:

- ◆ **Report on the Academy of Arts, Science & Technology** – Nancy Flasher appeared to make a presentation and distributed various materials on the Academy.
- ◆ **Update on Summer Institute** – Rick Leighton, National Faculty Site Coordinator, appeared to make a presentation and distributed copies of his report.
- ◆ **Report on Certification Regulations** – Dr. Fleming commented on her response to a letter from Dana Berry which posed several questions on teacher certification and school accreditation. Dr. Fleming distributed a list of current professional teaching staff and their certifications. Dr. Fleming clarified the differences between the responsibilities of certified teachers and teacher assistants. She also explained the certification waiver process, confirming that virtually every teacher seeking certification had to first have earned a four year degree. Dr. Fleming said that any instances where the District was not in compliance in terms of teacher certification would be resolved shortly.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. VMES Programmatic Review for 2nd and 3rd Grade: Multi-grade or single grade – discussed earlier in the meeting.
2. VMES and PHS Programmatic Review: Instrumental Music – Dr. Fleming clarified that she had, in an April 2000 memo, informed the School Committee of the intent to hire a certified instrumental music teacher. Dr. Fleming explained that both the certified music teacher and any teacher aides needed to be physically in the same location to meet compliance requirements. Dr. Fleming said she did not feel that she could get a waiver for the current music teacher's aide because she did not have a four-year degree. The Administrators have proposed a compromise solution which would allow the current music teacher's aide to teach in After-School Programs, where certification would not be an issue. Dr. Fleming distributed a proposed line item transfer which would fund the programmatic change to a certified instrumental music teacher.

Frank Wills moved to approve a FY 2001 line item transfer of \$20,045.67 from Teacher Salary Non Professional (various line items) to Teacher Salary Professional for the purpose of hiring a 60% certified music teacher for instrumental/band instruction, Dana Berry seconded Lois Borgesi asked that, if the motion

passed, the teachers' union be notified of the District's intention to hire another professional teacher. In response to a question from Terese Nelson, Dr. Fleming explained what the price tags were for the position(s) offered to the current music teacher's aide and said the total compensation was equivalent to the salary she had been earning as a teacher's aide. Terese Nelson proposed an alternative configuration for the current music teacher's aide as well as a different funding mechanism. The School Committee discussed various options. Lois Borgesi suggested modifying the motion to be a simple commitment to hire a professional, certified instrumental teacher so as to allow advertising and interviewing to begin for the position, with the funding mechanism to be decided later. ***The motion was passed 3-2, (William Rogers, Terese Nelson).***

Terese Nelson moved to continue the meeting past 10:00 PM, Frank Wills seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.

3. VMES Staffing Update for FY 2001: To be determined: 60% Spanish – Dr. Fleming distributed a handout showing the staffing configuration for FY 2001 and clarified several details. The Committee, Mr. Rokicki and Ms Slivka discussed the staffing needs in 2nd/3rd grade combined class at VMES. ***Frank Wills moved to staff the 2nd/3rd multi-grade classrooms with two professional teachers per grade per classroom and with the additional support of the outside Special Needs staff, William Rogers seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.***

4. PHS Staffing Update for FY 2001 – discussed as part of 3., above.

- PHS: 9th and 10th Grade Science: John Hanlon hired
- PHS Staffing to be determined:
 - Athletic Director 40%: to be advertised
 - PHS Administrative Program: Behavioral Support – interviews have begun.
 - Special Needs Support

5. FY 2001 Budget Review- Dr. Fleming distributed a proposed line item transfer and explained same. ***Frank Wills moved to approve the FY 2001 line item transfer of \$35,000 from SPED Programs with Non-Public Schools and Teacher Salary Professional Contracted Services to Payment to Collaborative for the purpose of paying for an increase in Occupational Therapy in grades Pre-K to 3 created by a decrease in residential placements, William Rogers seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.***

6. Approval of School Choice Budget for FY 2001 – Dr. Fleming distributed a spreadsheet and discussed same. ***Dana Berry moved to approve the FY 2001 School Choice Budget as presented by Dr. Fleming, William Rogers seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.***

7. FY 2000 Budget Update - Dr. Fleming reported that the District would be able to pay for all sick leave buybacks and retirement incentives without carrying debt into FY 2001, while still returning a small amount to the Town.

8. Other

- Dr. Fleming distributed a draft of Guidelines for Questions for the Superintendent which had been prepared by Dana Berry. Tabled for later discussion.
- Lois Borgesi distributed a draft rewording, prepared by Frank Wills, of the Item #6 of the School Committee Rules of Procedure. Tabled for later discussion.
- William Rogers reminded the School Committee of the need to continue the discussion, begun in Executive Session, on the District's Sports Program.

NEW BUSINESS – Most items postponed until the next School Committee meeting.

1. Proposed European Trip in April 2001 –
Advanced placement Classes: History, French III and IV– will be presented at the next School Committee meeting.
2. PHS School Improvement Plan – will be presented at the next School Committee meeting.
3. VMES School Improvement Plan – will be presented at the next School Committee meeting.
4. PHS Student Handbook: Draft – will be presented at the next School Committee meeting.
5. Other
 - Dr. Fleming reported that the meeting of the sub-committee on the Tuition Agreement with Truro is scheduled for July 31st.

CLOSING STATEMENTS

- None

ADJOURNMENT

Frank Wills moved to adjourn at 11:04 P.M. and it was so voted unanimously.

.....
These minutes were approved by a vote of the Provincetown School Committee at their meeting on _____, 200__

Respectfully Submitted:

School Committee Signature Title

Rachel T. Crosby, On-call secretary