

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of August 15, 2000

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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), Jay Tribby (National Faculty Representative), Rick Leighton (National Faculty Site Coordinator), Rachel Crosby (Recording Secretary), parents, students and staff.

Call to Order: Chair Lois Borgesi called the Meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Terese Nelson moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of having a discussion under the Special Law Regarding Student Confidentiality, to discuss Collective Bargaining, and to discuss Non-Union Personnel, Frank Wills seconded and it was so unanimously voted in a roll call vote of the School Committee members present.

REGULAR SESSION

Chair Lois Borgesi called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:20 P.M.

VISITORS' STATEMENTS

- Emily Anderson read a prepared statement concerning compliance with State statutes and criticizing material provided by the School Committee concerning student elections.

Terese Nelson moved to allow Dr. Fleming to respond to the comments made by Ms Anderson, William Rogers seconded and it was so voted, 3-2 (Dana Berry, Frank Wills).

Dr. Fleming voiced objections to the nature and tone of Ms Anderson's comments. Mr. Marino also commented on plans to hold the election of student representatives to the Regional Student Councils.

MINUTES

July 11, 2000, Work Session – *Dana Berry moved to approve, Frank Wills seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.*

July 11, 2000, Regular Session – *Frank Wills moved to approve with minor corrections, Terese Nelson seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.*

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

- MASC letter announcing the appointment of a new Executive Director
- Mr. Marino's memo concerning the Athletic Study Committee
- American Red Cross Agreement – the Committee discussed renewing the agreement to continue to allow the Red Cross to use VMES as the official Town Emergency Shelter. After discussion, the School Committee directed Dr. Fleming to write the Red Cross telling them that the building may not be available once the Building Project construction begins,
- Department of Education Memorandum: FY 2000 Reimbursement for State Ward Tuition – Dr. Fleming and the School Committee again discussed establishing a separate revolving fund for these monies. This led to a

discussion of various aspects of School financing, including the possibility of the Town's obtaining a waiver of the minimum funding requirement from the Department of Education.

- Superintendent's Letter to the Faculty concerning the Curriculum
- Truro/Provincetown Tuition Discussion scheduled for 8:00 A.M. on August 17th

EDUCATIONAL UPDATE:

- ◆ **New Staff, FY 2001**– Dr. Fleming reported on several new appointments. Terese Nelson reported that the previous High School Head Cook was ill and would probably not be available to train her replacement.
- ◆ **School Building Project Update** – Dr. Fleming referred to and discussed her memo to the Committee.
- ◆ **Proposed Manual of Selected Policies and Procedures** – Dr. Fleming said a draft manual/handbook was being prepared and that she would appreciate the School Committee's review of the policies and procedures included.
- ◆ **National Faculty** – Rick Leighton provided an outline of professional development plans for the next school year, including a graduate-level course he is creating for the Language Arts and Social Studies faculty, and learning-standard-specific course outlines and teaching units. Jay Tribby distributed material concerning the National Faculty website, which featured Provincetown for the month of July 2000. Mr. Tribby also reported on the current workshops being held with staff to establish learning goals. Mr. Leighton distributed and discussed an agenda for the Program of Study Design meetings.
In response to a question from William Rogers, Dr. Fleming stated that she felt the work done by the National Faculty was increasing the students' willingness to commit to achieving higher academic work. Dr. Fleming confirmed that she was very pleased with the National Faculty's results to-date, while acknowledging that there was still a great deal of work to do. Mr. Rokicki concurred with Dr. Fleming's appraisal of the National Faculty's work.
- ◆ **PHS Summer School Program** - Mr. Marino reported on the Program and provided examples of student work. Mr. Marino mentioned that he was considering recommending that Summer School be required for those students who fail a grade. Mr. Marino also commented that he was not impressed with the current level of student academic achievement at PHS, though he recognized that much work had been done.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. VMES Staffing Assignments – Dr. Fleming referred to a 2000-2001 staffing configuration provided by Mr. Rokicki and both administrators commented on same. The Committee and Mr. Rokicki discussed the rationale for ending the combined Grade 4/Grade 5 class. Dana Berry reported on a change in the State's SPED educational standard and said he had written Dr. Fleming to determine whether the change might impact how the District educates SPED students. The School Committee and Mr. Rokicki discussed various aspects of the VMES staffing configuration.
2. PSC Rules and Procedures Item #6 – The School Committee discussed revising and/or eliminating the wording for this item. After discussion, the Committee decided to eliminate Item #6 and to reword several other items. The next School Committee agenda will reflect the changes. ***Frank Wills moved to accept the revised Rules and Procedures, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 4-1 (William Rogers).***
3. Guidelines for Questions for Superintendents – the Committee reviewed the proposed Guidelines prepared by Dana Berry and, by consensus, decided to not pursue this issue.
4. Other
 - Dana Berry referred to and discussed a series of Boston Globe articles on School Building Project assistance from the State.

NEW BUSINESS –

1. Teacher Substitutes: Payment Schedule/Procedures – Dr. Fleming requested an increase from \$55 to \$60 per day for substitute teachers. ***Dana Berry moved to increase the substitute teacher pay from \$55 to \$60 per day for substitute teachers, Frank Wills seconded and it was so voted, 4-1 (Terese Nelson)***
2. PHS School Improvement Plan – ***Dana Berry moved to accept the PHS School Improvement Plan, Frank Wills seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.***
3. PHS Student Handbook – Mr. Marino reported that, aside from the new format, there were no major changes. ***Terese Nelson moved to accept the 2000-2001 PHS Student Handbook, Frank Wills seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.***
4. PHS Program Schedule with Teacher Assignments – Mr. Marino referred to and discussed the 2000-01 PHS

