

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of August 29, 2000

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Meeting Held in the High School Annex

Members Present: Frank Wills (Vice-Chair), Terese Nelson (Secretary), Dana Berry

Members Absent: Lois Borgesi (Chair), William Rogers – both excused.

Others Present: Dr. Fleming (Superintendent), Rachel Crosby (Recording Secretary), parents, students and staff.

Call to Order: Acting Chair Frank Wills called the Meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.

REGULAR SESSION

VISITORS' STATEMENTS

- Bill Dougal spoke on behalf of the Finance Committee concerning: 1) the Committee's objection to the current tuition agreement with the Truro School District and, 2) to urge the School Committee to apply for a waiver from the State's minimum spending requirements.
- Emily Anderson read a prepared statement concerning recording in the School Committee minutes whether the representative from the Student Advisory Committee was present or absent.
- Mr. Vetrick expressed concerns about the tuition agreement with the Truro School District.
- Mr. Fox spoke about the recent changes in the School Committee Rules and Procedures, stating that PSC Policy BEDH required a first and second reading for such changes.

MINUTES

August 15, 2000, Regular Session – *Dana Berry moved to approve with minor corrections, Terese Nelson seconded and it was so voted, 3-0, 2 absent (Lois Borgesi, William Rogers).*

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Superintendent's letter to staff concerning the opening of school
- Letter of resignation from Christine Golding
- Board in Brief Newsletter

EDUCATIONAL UPDATE:

- ◆ **Staffing Update, FY 2001**– Dr. Fleming reported that the hiring of new staff is almost complete, with the exception of one position.
- ◆ **Opening of School Agenda** – Starts on September 5
- ◆ **Update on Professional Development with the National Faculty** – Dr. Fleming referred to and discussed a document entitled "The National Faculty Partnership Professional Development Goal for 2000-2001."
- ◆ **Pre-School Enrollment and Staffing and Revenue** – Dr. Fleming explained several details of the current Pre-School and referred to a spreadsheet printout entitled, "Preschool Program Enrollment and Staffing."

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Truro Tuition Agreement – Dr. Fleming reported on the recommendation of the Sub-Committee, referring to a memo from her to the School Committee, dated August 24, 2000 (with attached materials). Dana Berry read a prepared statement entitled "Comments on the Truro Tuition Agreement," which clarified his objections to the

Sub-Committee's recommendation to continue the current tuition agreement (whereby Truro students pay 80% of the per pupil cost for a regular education student). Frank Wills commented that taking into consideration the number of SPED students coming from Truro (for which Truro pays 100%) could change some of Dana Berry's economic impact projections.

Dr. Fleming discussed the possibility that the Truro School District could, if the Regular Education reimbursement percentage were to increase, restrict their negotiated tuition agreements to the Nauset District only. This would mean that Truro students would have to come to Provincetown under School Choice.

Dr. Fleming explained the many and varied reasons why she felt the recommendation to continue the tuition agreement was a reasonable compromise. In response to a question from Dana Berry, Dr. Fleming agreed to provide an estimate of how much Provincetown subsidizes Truro students once the 2000-2001 enrollments are set. Dana Berry suggested getting input from Truro parents, perhaps at a public meeting.

Terese Nelson moved to allow Mr. Vetrick to speak on the Tuition Agreement, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 3-0.

Mr. Vetrick said he felt that voters in Provincetown were very concerned about the Tuition Agreement and that the Agreement did not currently represent a compromise.

Dana Berry suggested that a representative from Truro be given a seat on the Provincetown School Committee in exchange for a more favorable Tuition Agreement and Frank Wills suggested Dana Berry research how that could be accomplished.

Terese Nelson commented on how the negotiations with Truro had proceeded, stating that the Provincetown Sub-Committee members had not ignored the possibility of negotiating a greater percentage in reimbursement.

Dana Berry moved to postpone the vote on the Tuition Agreement until at least next week, Terese Nelson seconded, and it was so voted, 3-0.

Dr. Fleming clarified that, under School Choice, the Provincetown District would only receive \$5,000 per student from Truro.

2. Selected PSC Policies Brochure for Parents – discussion postponed.
3. FY 2001 VMES Budget Line Item Transfer – in the amount of \$10,000 from Teacher Supp. Cur. Enrichment to Professional Electives for instruction in Spanish, K-6. ***Terese Nelson moved to approve the line item transfer for the stated purpose in the amount of \$10,000, Dana Berry seconded and it so voted, 3-0.***
4. Other
 - None.

NEW BUSINESS –

1. Net School Funding Requirement – Dr. Fleming referred and discussed memos received from Mr. Bergman, Town Manager, and Robert Hatch, Department of Education School Finance Administrator, concerning applying for waivers from the State minimum education spending requirement. Apparently the Selectmen would have to apply for the waiver and the Department of Education would consider granting it. Dr. Fleming said she had learned that no waivers had yet been granted under the new legislation and also that it was not clear whether the waiver would be permanent or time-limited. Dr. Fleming discussed how a waiver might impact or be impacted by the Building Project. Dr. Fleming said the Selectmen would be discussing the possibility of a waiver at their September 11 meeting and urged the School Committee members to attend.
2. School Committee Policy AA, School District Legal Status – ***Dana Berry moved to accept Policy AA, School District Legal Status, for the first reading, Terese Nelson seconded and it was so voted, 3-0, 2 absent (Lois Borgesi, William Rogers).***
3. Other
 - Dana Berry presented the School Committee with copies of the entire School Committee Policy Manual in the form of one 50-page document and suggested that the Committee make copies available for distribution to parents and other interested parties. Dana Berry said that the Policy Manual was also now consolidated into one large MS Word computer file and could be distributed on disk.
 - Dr. Fleming reported that the Building Committee was seeking approval of three building code Compliance Alternatives from the Building Commissioner and distributed copies of the Alternatives. The Committee discussed the difficulty in obtaining building contractors during the current economic boom.

CLOSING STATEMENTS

- None

ADJOURNMENT

