

# TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes of September 12, 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:** Representative from the PHS Student Advisory Council

**Others Present:** Dr. Fleming (Superintendent), Mr. Rokicki (VMES Principal), Michael Marino (PHS Principal), Ms 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 7:05 P.M.

### REGULAR SESSION

#### VISITORS' STATEMENTS

- Emily Anderson read a prepared statement concerning the requirement to record in the School Committee minutes whether the representative from the Student Advisory Committee was present or absent.
- Ms Waugh spoke as a member of the Executive Board of the Provincetown Association of Educators, thanking the School Committee for providing graduate level professional development courses. Ms Waugh also distributed a packet of information concerning teacher certification and curriculum frameworks.

#### MINUTES

**August 29, 2000, Regular Session** – *Frank Wills moved to approve as written, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 3-0, 2 abstain (Lois Borgesi, William Rogers).*

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

#### COMMUNICATIONS:

- Letter from Finance Committee: Town of West Boylston
- Letter giving national acclaim to Mimosa math course materials. Mr. Rokicki commented favorably on the Mimosa program.
- Monthly Financial Statement, dated September 11, 2000.

#### EDUCATIONAL UPDATE:

- ◆ **Staffing Update, FY 2001**– Dr. Fleming reported that the staffing is in place for all positions except one at VMES.
- ◆ **District Professional Development and District Initiatives to Address Curriculum Goals** – Dr. Fleming referred to a handout on the District Professional Development Plan, Initiatives and Goals for 2000-2001 and discussed same. Lois Borgesi pointed out a needed correction in the amount set aside for graduate courses.
- ◆ Dr. Fleming also distributed a packet of mission statements, core values and academic goals.
- ◆ **Opening of School Report: VMES and PHS** – Mr. Marino spoke favorably about the opening at PHS. Mr. Rokicki also commented positively on the opening at VMES. Dr. Fleming reported that District enrollment appeared to be up slightly from the previous year. The Committee and the Principals discussed the positive

impact the change in dismissal time at VMES has had.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Truro Tuition Agreement – Dr. Fleming reported that the Sub-Committee had met again to consider recent input from the Finance Committee. The Truro School Committee has voted to accept the Agreement for a two-year minimum. Dr. Fleming explained the Sub-Committee's process and rationales in negotiating the new Agreement. Frank Wills commented on recent Finance Committee discussions and confirmed that Truro could choose to not have an Agreement with Provincetown and instead have Truro students come to Provincetown under School Choice (at considerably less than is paid under the Tuition Agreement). Dana Berry read from a prepared statement entitled "Further Comments on the Truro Negotiation Agreement, September 12, 2000." Terese Nelson spoke critically about Dana Berry's statement and comments and recommended supporting the negotiated Agreement.

*Terese Nelson moved to approve the Tuition Agreement with Truro at 80% for Regular Education students and 100% for SPED students (continuing the current agreement) for the current and next academic years, Frank Wills seconded.* William Rogers stated that he was not interested at this time in trying to negotiate more than 80%. *The motion passed by a vote of 3-1 (Dana Berry), 1 abstain (Lois Borgesi).* Frank Wills reported that the Sub-Committee plans to continue to have discussions with the Truro Sub-Committee on the Tuition Agreement.

2. Net School Funding Waiver Information – Dr. Fleming distributed a memo from her, dated September 12, 2000, with the subject "Long Term Financial and Educational Planning" and discussed same, saying that Town Manager, Mr. Bergman, was in basic agreement with its contents. Dr. Fleming reviewed the financial parameters the School Committee had set to guide its financial decisions for the next ten to twelve years. Dr. Fleming emphasized that the 2.5% annual increase limit actually amounts to level-funding or even a decrease in the School Budget, primarily due to contractual and other pre-set obligations. Dr. Fleming also reviewed the agreement made with the Town concerning financing the Building Project. Dr. Fleming said that the various financial agreements and commitments needed to be reaffirmed by the School Committee. The Committee members offered various comments on Dr. Fleming's memo.

Dana Berry asked if the School Committee had a response to the action taken by the Selectmen at their meeting on September 11, 2000, when the Selectmen directed Mr. Bergman to contact the Massachusetts Legislature to see if the Town could pursue a Net School Funding Waiver. Dr. Fleming commented that she felt it was moot point, as the Legislature was currently defining how waivers would be granted and that the funding formula would be changed within a year to allow for changes in enrollment. Dr. Fleming said that she understood that Mr. Bergman was only seeking a waiver to allow for the implementation of the funding agreement for the Building Project. Dr. Fleming said there was no way to get a long term waiver, and that a one year waiver was not practical at this time for the current school year.

In response to a question from William Rogers, Dr. Fleming explained the environment in which the Waiver issue was being discussed and the implications of a Waiver being granted. Dr. Fleming said she felt that the School Committee would be able to meet all of its commitments without requesting a Waiver.

3. PSC Policy AA, School District Legal Status: 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – *Frank Wills moved to approve PSC Policy AA, School District Legal Status, for the second reading, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.*

4. Other

- Frank Wills reported that comments made in Public Statements at the last meeting to the effect that changes in School Committee Rules and Procedures were in conflict with PSC Policy BEDH were accurate regarding the new Rules and Procedures items 5 and 6. *Frank Wills moved change the time limits on visitor comments in the PSC Rules and Procedures back to 3 minutes to conform with PSC Policy BEDH, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.*

Lois Borgesi reported that the wording of Rules and Procedures item 5 as changed was not correct according to her notes. Lois Borgesi suggested that the School Committee revisit the changes to the Rules and Procedures at a future meeting.

- Policy Manual – Dr. Fleming said she was unsure whether parents would need or want the entire Manual as prepared in condensed form by Dana Berry. The Committee discussed the potential demand for the entire Manual. *Terese Nelson moved to allow Ms Waugh to speak, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 4-1 (William Rogers).* Ms Waugh said she felt there were definitely persons and places where the condensed Manual was needed. Ms Waugh said she could ask the PAE to fund the copying cost. Dr. Fleming recommended that the copying be done by Cape Tech and the School Committee agreed by consensus.

## NEW BUSINESS –

1. School Committee Policy CBE & EEAA: First Reading –
  - PSC Policy CBE, Superintendent’s Contract – ***Frank Wills moved to approve Policy CBE, Superintendent’s Contract, for a first reading, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.***
  - PSC Policy EEAA, Walkers and Riders - ***Frank Wills moved to approve Policy EEAA, Walkers and Riders, for a first reading, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.***
2. VMES Staffing Proposal – Dr. Fleming referred to a memo from Mr. Rokicki to Dr. Fleming, dated September, 2000, with the subject, “VMES Personnel Recommendation,” and discussed same. Mr. Rokicki explained his recommendation in response to comments and questions from the School Committee.  
***Terese Nelson moved to allow Mrs. Trovato to speak, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.*** Mrs. Trovato requested clarification on the proposed teaching staff in the fourth grade (per item #1 in the memo) and Mr. Rokicki explained the proposed arrangement, including the need for one of the educators to get additional certification. Ms Slivka commented favorably on the recommendation.  
Dr. Fleming and Mr. Rokicki clarified item #2 in Mr. Rokicki’s memo, which would create a 70% position for an early childhood special educator in the preschool.  
Dr. Fleming and Mr. Rokicki explained item #3 in the memo, which would add a 0.4 Content Area Specialist to assist efforts in Math, Science and Social Studies.  
Dr. Fleming assured the Committee that funding for the recommended changes would come from existing salary items and would not require additional funding.  
***Frank Wills moved to convert one of the regular education teachers in the Grade 4 to a special educator, Dana Berry seconded.*** The School Committee discussed whether a line item transfer was required and whether the teachers’ union needed to be notified. ***The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.***  
***Frank Wills moved to place a part-time (5 hours per day) early childhood special educator in the preschool, Dana Berry seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.***  
***Frank Wills moved to add a 0.4 Content Area Specialist to assist efforts in Math, Science and Social Studies at VMES, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.***
3. VMES After-School Coordinator: Job Description – Dr. Fleming referred to a job description that Mr. Rokicki had prepared and clarified that it created a new position. Mr. Rokicki explained the need for the new position and also referred to an attached document entitled, “VMES After School Program: Specifications.” ***Terese Nelson moved to approve the VMES After-School Coordinator Job Description as presented, Frank Wills seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.***
4. Substitute Rate: Cafeteria Workers, Clerical Substitutes, Paraprofessionals – The School Committee discussed a spreadsheet printout entitled “Substitute Pay Comparison,” showing the various pay rates for substitutes at various schools on Cape Cod and the Islands. ***Terese Nelson moved to increase the pay for Para-Professional substitutes to \$8.50 per hour or \$55 per day and the pay for Clerical substitutes to \$8.50 per hour, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted.*** William Rogers said he felt that substitutes should be paid more. ***The motion passed by a vote of 4-0, 1 abstain (William Rogers).***  
***Frank Wills moved to raise the pay for substitute Cafeteria Workers to \$8.50 per hour, Dana Berry seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.***
5. VMES Line Item Transfer – from Teacher Supp. Curriculum Enrichment to Teacher Contracted Services in the amount of \$400. ***Frank Wills moved to approve the VMES FY 2001 line item transfer from Teacher Supp. Curriculum Enrichment to Teacher Contracted Services in the amount of \$400, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.***
6. Other
  - Dr. Fleming announced that the Building Committee would be meeting the next day (September 13) to discuss the new cost estimates.
  - Dr. Fleming mentioned the dates for the VMES and PHS Open Houses.

## **CLOSING STATEMENTS**

- None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

***William Rogers moved to adjourn at 9:35 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

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Respectfully Submitted:

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School Committee Signature

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Title

*Rachel T. Crosby*, On-call secretary