

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Minutes

October 12, 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.

Members Present: Lois Borgesi (Chair), Frank Wills (Vice-Chair), Adrienne Duncan (Secretary), Dana Berry, William Rogers

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Susan Fleming (Superintendent), Mr. Rokicki (VMES Principal), Mr. Marino (PHS Principal), Justin Smith (Student Representative from the Principal's Advisory Council), Rachel Crosby (Recording Secretary), parents, students and staff.

Call to Order: Chair Lois Borgesi called the Meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

Dana Berry made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:36 P.M. to comply with the provisions of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirement, William Rogers seconded and it was so voted unanimously by a roll call vote of those members present.

REGULAR SESSION

Chair Lois Borgesi reconvened the Regular Session at 7:17 P.M.

Lois Borgesi introduced Justin Smith, the Student Representative from the Principal's Advisory Council and had him seated at the School Committee table.

VISITORS STATEMENTS

- < Emily Anderson spoke concerning a requested recount of the September 14, 1999 election of the Student Representative from the Principal's Advisory Council.
- < Ms Nelson spoke as a member of the VMES School Council and as a parent concerning problems in the lower grades at VMES and perceived philosophical differences between the School Council and the School Committee. Ms Nelson requested that Agenda Item 9.1, VMES Staffing Review, be moved up. Ms Nelson asked questions about the new SPED Director and staffing at the Kindergarten level.
- < Mr. Fox spoke about the cancellation of the last School Committee meeting and the fact that a cancellation notice was not posted. Mr. Fox also spoke about the participation of students in school activities and distributed a document to the School Committee members.
- < Mr. Ferrick spoke about the problems at VMES and referred to a petition submitted to the School Committee.

MINUTES

September 14, 1999, Regular Session – Adrienne Duncan moved to approve with minor corrections and changes, Dana Berry seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 abstain (William Rogers).

PROCEDURAL ITEM

Adrienne Duncan moved to take Agenda Item 9.1, VMES Staffing Review next, Dana Berry seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

VMES Staffing Review - Dr. Fleming introduced Kathleen Slivka, the new SPED Director. Dr. Fleming discussed a staffing change proposal for VMES and distributed a clarifying memo to the School Committee members. Dr. Fleming explained the proposed staffing changes for the Pre-School, Kindergarten and 2-3 classes. Dr. Fleming referred to School Choice enrollments as of October 1999.

At William Rogers' request, Ms Francis, the Kindergarten teacher, spoke concerning the staffing proposal. The School Committee and Dr. Fleming discussed the issue of how the Kindergarten would be staffed in the future.

Frank Wills moved to approve the VMES staffing proposal to hire a full-time professional special education specialist for the Kindergarten class for the remainder of the 1999-2000 school year to be funded out of School Choice monies, William Rogers seconded. Adrienne Duncan offered a friendly amendment to have Ms Francis included in the hiring committee for the special education professional, but the amendment was not included in the motion. *The School Committee voted to approve the original motion, 5-0.*

Ms Trovato asked what was being done to handle the VMES situation at the present time. Dr. Fleming responded that the position had already been advertised and that additional staff have already been assigned to the Kindergarten class. Ms Trovato asked what would happen if the staffing change did not solve the problem and Lois Borgesi responded that that decision would be referred to Administrative staff.

Ms Nelson stated she felt that the VMES staffing proposal change was a mistake.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Provincetown Professional Development – Dr. Fleming announced a Math and Science course for teachers being offered at Fitchburg College. The course will be overseen by Dr. Fleming.
2. VMES Newsletter distributed to School Committee members.
3. City and Town Report distributed to School Committee members.
4. Critical Incident Protocol – Dr. Fleming referred to a document distributed to the School Committee concerning the protocol to be followed for an intruder on school premises with a weapon and with intent to do harm.
5. An announcement of a MASC/MASS reception on November 4, 1999 in Hyannis.

Lois Borgesi presented the following:

- A memo from Mr. Marino concerning the results of the 1999-2000 Student Advisory Council election.

Frank Wills presented the following:

- A brochure on the Cape Cod Collaborative. Frank Wills also discussed a tour he had taken of the various Collaborative programs in the Cape's schools. Frank Wills referred to an article in the Boston Globe concerning the teacher shortage.

EDUCATIONAL UPDATE

Introduction of Kathleen Slivka, Director of Student Services – Dr. Fleming distributed materials submitted by Ms Slivka as part of her job application.

Enrollment Update – Dr. Fleming distributed tables and graphs showing the current and historical enrollments and discussed the same.

Review of Pre-School Budget - Dr. Fleming distributed copies of a table showing Pre-School Salaries and the Funding Sources and explained the dollar distributions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Membership District Improvement Panel – Dr. Fleming distributed a list of people currently in the Provincetown Site Councils who would hopefully participate in two upcoming working sessions, to be facilitated by Jay Tribbey of the National Faculty. The School Committee discussed other possible participants. By consensus, the School Committee decided to ask the Finance Committee to send a representative to the working sessions.

Other –

- William Rogers asked about the status of the report on the Grace Hall parking lot and Dr. Fleming said she would continue to research the issue.
- William Rogers asked how the negotiations with the teachers' union was progressing and Lois Borgesi said there was a meeting scheduled with the union on November 17, 1999.
- Dr. Fleming distributed a packet of materials concerning the bids received for architectural design work and recommended that all four bidders be interviewed. By consensus, the School Committee agreed to interview

the bidders on October 18th.

NEW BUSINESS

VMES Staffing Review - discussed earlier.

Staff Member Family Sick Day Request – Dr. Fleming explained her reading of the teachers’ contract and recommended that the teacher’s request to use sick leave be approved. *Adrienne Duncan moved to approve the request, William Rogers seconded and it was so voted, 4-1 (Dana Berry).*

Article for Town Meeting: MGL 71.71F – Dr. Fleming explained how the State provided funding for State Ward students under this statute. Dr. Fleming explained that, by establishing a revolving fund, these monies would go to fund school needs as opposed to going into the Town’s General Fund. Dr. Fleming and the School Committee discussed two proposed articles for the next Town Meeting.

Performance Appraisal System for Employees – Dr. Fleming presented a rewritten Performance Appraisal instrument which she proposed for use with employees with whom the District does not yet have a formal agreement.

PSC Policies: First Reading

IIAC Library Resources –

IIAE Reconsideration of Inst. Resources –

IJ Instructional Materials –

IJK Supplementary Materials Selection and Adoption –

IJL Library Materials Selection and Adoption –

IJL-R Library Materials Selection and Adoption –

IJM Special Interest Materials Selection and Adoption –

IJOA Field Trips –

IJOA-1 Field Trips –

IJOB Community Resource Persons/Speakers –

IJOC School Volunteers –

IK Academic Achievement –

IKAB Student Progress Reports to Parents –

IKE Promotion and Retention of Students -

IL Evaluation of Instructional Goals –

IMA Teaching Activities/Presentations –

IMB Teaching About Controversial Issues/Controversial Speakers –

IMD School Ceremonies and Observations -

Dana Berry moved to accept the eighteen policies listed on the agenda as a block, Adrienne Duncan seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.

OTHER –

- Dana Berry asked about progress on the Homework Policy and Dr. Fleming explained that a recommendation for a generic policy would be brought forward at the next School Committee meeting, as well as specific recommendations from each school building.
- Dr. Fleming asked for a VMES line-item transfer to fund medical supplies for bee stings. *Adrienne Duncan moved to approve the transfer of \$200.00 in the VMES budget from maintenance to medical supplies, Frank Wills seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.*
- Dr. Fleming referred to a memo she had sent to the School Committee concerning a proposal to fund an assessment of student services. Dr. Fleming agreed to provide the School Committee members with a copy of the survey prior to its being sent out.
- Adrienne Duncan distributed a copy of a letter from a Kindergarten parent to Mr. Rokicki.
- Lois Borgesi directed the School Committee’s attention to an announcement for the Seventh Annual PHS Achievement Awards Program on October 19th at the Provincetown Inn.
- William Rogers asked about the rumored potential for the Department of Education to label certain schools in southeastern Massachusetts as under-performing and asked Dr. Fleming to investigate.

CLOSING STATEMENTS

- William Rogers voiced his opposition to having the Finance Comm attend the working sessions with Jay Tribbey.
- Frank Wills referred to an article commending schools, including Provincetown, on their performance on the IOWA Reading Tests.

- Mr. Fox referred to a School Committee procedure printed on the back of the School Committee agenda allowing the public to comment on agenda items and asked for clarification. Lois Borgesi stated that it was a School Committee procedure, not a policy, and that public participation was at the chair's discretion.
- Dana Berry said that he would agree with William Rogers' comments on the Finance Committee if the representative "misbehaves" at the working sessions.

ADJOURNMENT

Adrienne Duncan made a motion to adjourn at 9:18 P.M. and it was so voted unanimously.

.....
 These minutes were approved by a vote of the Provincetown School Committee present at their meeting on _____, 199__

Respectfully Submitted:

_____ Title

School Committee Signature

 Rachel T. Crosby, On-call secretary