

PROVINCETOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of February 24, 2004 Meeting held in Veterans Memorial Elementary School

PUBLIC FORUM TO DISCUSS SELECTMEN'S MOTTA FIELD PROPOSAL

Members present: Terese Nelson (Chair), Peter Grosso (Vice-Chair), Frank Wills
(Secretary), Debra Trovato, Molly Perdue

Others present: Dr. Colette Trailer (Superintendent), Edward Boxer (PHS Principal),
Anthony Teso (VMES Principal), several citizens as noted below.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Steve Roderick presented information from a meeting yesterday with revised plan involving using the Motta Field softball field in the Manor project. It would take 0.89 acres for a three story building for outpatient and inpatient services. The present Manor building would be torn down and replaced with an assisted living facility. Peter Grosso was opposed to the initial proposal but is comfortable with the new proposal. The town will take the softball field; the tennis court area will become the softball field; the tennis courts will be moved to the parking lot area near the rear exit. Marty Menangas has been told that a recreation facility architect will be consulted and that the area may include a refreshment stand. Pauline Richmond asked where the money for this plan is coming from and stated that taking away from a memorial is wrong. Liz Freeman, Provincetown High School junior, spoke against the plan. She is not convinced that this is the only available space. She feels that kids may feel left out or pushed out. She fears the impact on the school. Barbara Rushmore spoke in favor, urging Route 6 space. She recognized the gift of the parking lot space to the town. Betty White, School District Business Manager, expressed concern over a private organization taking over the Manor and what it might be able to do. For kids^ with this plan we must be able to end up with something better than what we have now. Candy Silva asked about the "small third field". Will it remain intact? Mary-Ellen Spingler asked for more detail about the plan. Dennis Anderson, Manor Director, reported that the plan had been changed to reduce the size of the "footprint". Custodio Silva said that the private organization which will redo the Manor should pay for all changes of field as well as the Manor proper. Alex Brown has a daughter in Provincetown High School. He does not feel town projects are done well.

Keith Roderick asked why we can't make the Race Road location work. Susan Avellar liked the relocation of the tennis courts but, otherwise, thinks other possibilities should be considered.

Deidre Tasha asked if property can be taken by eminent domain or some such process. Keith Bergman responded that such action is highly unlikely.

Rick Murray stressed the importance of having details worked out every step of the way and urged the School Committee to take a cautious approach. Vaughn Cabral also urged caution. E, L Martinez said that the land suggested seems about the same size as the Grace Gouveia building and asked about possible alternatives.

Betty White asked if it would cost less to fill in the Race Road area than to move all the fields. Frank Wills thanked all who participated. Peter Grosso said the School Committee is setting up a task force to pursue this proposal as it goes on and asked for participants to volunteer.

The public forum was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

School Committee regular session was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

EDUCATIONAL UPDATE: LETTER OF RETIRMENT

Frank Wills moved, Peter Grosso seconded, to give money to a retiring long-term part-time teacher. Following discussion, Debra Trovato moved, Peter Grosso seconded, to table the motion. Motion to table passed 4-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Budgetary issues

Upcoming meeting with Finance Committee discussed. Why was health insurance for school employees highlighted in town documents? **School Calendar** Summer School is scheduled from Monday, July 5 through Thursday, August 12, 2004. Debra

Trovato moved, Peter Grosso seconded, to accept this schedule. Debra Trovato moved, Peter Grosso seconded, to accept the 2004-2005 School Calendar as

presented. Motion passed unanimously. **School Building Project** Debra Trovato moved, Peter Grosso seconded, to table accepting completion of the project until

Burt Wolfinan, Chair of the Building Committee, is available. Passed 4-0-0. **Use of Motta Field** Frank Wills moved, Debra Trovato seconded, that the Provincetown School Committee endorses

the formation of a community based Task Force to explore plan received from the Town Manager regarding the Cape Cod Manor and Motta Field. Passed unanimously. **Annex Lease Proposal** The Committee agreed to ask Ed Lennox, School Committee attorney to send a letter to the Selectmen urging action on the lease proposal.

CLOSING STATEMENTS:

Vaughn Cabral said he does not think the Manor proposal is fair to us and reminded us that our only job is re the schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Frank S. G. Wills, M.D.