

PROVINCETOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of March 2, 2004 Meeting held at Annex Building

Present: Terese Nelson (Chair), Peter Grosso (Vice-Chair), Frank Wills (Secretary), Molly Perdue and Debra Trovato.
Others Present: Mary-Jo Avellar, Dr. Cheryl Andrews, Michelle Couture, Richard Olson, Keith Bergman, Dr. Colette Traylor (Superintendent), Edward Boxer (PHS Principal), Anthony Teso (VMES Principal), Sheila Colburn (Recording Secretary).

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM.

JOINT MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Keith Bergman, Town Manager, began the discussion of the **lease of the Annex Building**. Questions as to the length of the lease were raised. He informed the School Committee that the funds from rent would not be available to defer debt service until fiscal 2007. The Board of Selectmen would draw up the lease upon agreement of the School Committee.

Frank Wills asked if the town can vote to put excess monies into the debt service prior to end of the fiscal year but was informed that the town cannot spend monies until it is certified into free cash.

Michelle Couture, selectman, suggested a one year lease.

Dr. Cheryl Andrews, selectman, would like to pursue the sale of the annex.

Terese Nelson stated that the Annex can always be sold and its worth would increase. She felt that if we hold on to the Annex and lease it, we could also improve school offerings.

Molly Perdue stated that the Annex is part of the vision for the schools. The building could house non profit and educational organizations that would benefit both students and adults of the community. Those mentioned were: Marine Scientists and/or commercial artists.

The length needed to secure a tenant was discussed. Those present felt six months was likely.

Ms. Nelson felt that a one year lease was too short; if an organization was coming in they would want a longer commitment. She suggested a minimum of three years.

Richard Olson, Selectman, said that the use and the terms have to be negotiated. He suggested deciding on a period of time with the option to renew for the same period of time.

Richard Olson made the motion for the Board of Selectman to approve the request to lease a portion of the Annex Building for five years with an option for another five years; seconded by Mary-Jo Avellar.

The discussion continued and it was determined that the lawyers would figure the language out and that the lease agreement should have exit holes for both parties.

Ms. Couture felt five years was too long and a compromise of three was more agreeable to her.

Minimum rent was also discussed.

The motion was amended to four years with an option for another four years.

It was so voted 3-1 with Dr. Andrews voting against the motion.

The **Motta Field Proposal** was then discussed by both boards.

Mr. Bergman began the discussion asking the School Committee to cosponsor an article at the April Town Meeting requesting \$20,000 for recreational planning with no sites being named. Zoning was discussed at length.

Ms. Perdue felt all concerns needed to be addressed by having a task force to engage people in dialogue.

There was a lengthy discussion on a model for individual living, assisted living and a nursing home.

The Selectmen voted 3-0 (Dr. Andrews left before discussion) for an article to be placed on the warrant for Recreation Facility Planning in the amount of \$20,000.

Frank Wills made the motion to agree to cosponsor the Recreational Facility Planning article with the Selectmen; Debra Trovato seconded for the purpose of discussion.

The money needed to relocate the tennis courts was discussed. The school has allocated money to refurbish what is already in place but that will not cover the cost to relocate. Town funding would be needed to do this project.

After the discussion the motion was so voted 5-0.

The Selectmen adjourned at 5:45 PM. The next joint meeting will take place on Monday, March 15, 2004 at the Annex to discuss formation of the task force.

REGULAR SESSION

No public statements were heard.

EDUCATIONAL UPDATE:

Dr. Traylor informed the Committee that goose droppings on Motta Field are ruining the field. There was a discussion of hiring a border collie to chase the geese off the field. Frank Wills volunteered to talk to the animal control officer to see what alternatives there were to getting the geese off the field.

The Chair informed the Committee that there is no representative from Provincetown on the Cape Cod Tech Board even though we should have one. Dr. Traylor will talk to the Superintendent at Tech and the town hall to find out how we get someone on the board.

The Chair also asked the Principals of both schools about hanging art at the town hall during Town Meeting in April as has been done in the past. She requested to have volunteers to gather the art work and to hang it at the town hall. Both Principals will talk to their staffs about this and get back to the Chair.

A meeting with the high school students and the VMES 6th graders with the School Committee was discussed. This assembly would be to have dialogue with the students and give information about what is happening with their field and tennis courts. This will be set for Wednesday March 10, 2004, 8:30AM in the PHG gym. Having voting registration forms for eighteen year olds was also mentioned.

Frank Wills brought to the Committee's attention a survey regarding the overall vision for the community that will be sent to all addresses in Provincetown. He suggested that students residing in Provincetown could fill out these surveys. Dr. Traylor informed the Committee that the school would need parental permission as well as student cooperation.

The Chair informed the Committee that the school bus we own has no heat and she has received numerous complaints. Mr. Boxer will speak to Mr. McKay. Ms. Perdue informed the Committee that the heat has not worked properly for a number of years.

The minutes from previous meetings were discussed.

CLOSING STATEMENTS:

The Chair read the following letter dated March 1, 2004:

To Whom It May Concern:

After listening to the response from the public hearing on February 24th especially from student Elizabeth Freeman, I no longer feel there are any workable solutions to Motta Field. I have also spoken with other students and they share the same feelings as Elizabeth Freeman, keep Motta Field the way it is and keep it for the kids.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martin Menangas

This document was notarized.

Peter Grosso spoke of two members of the Lions Club, James Crawley and Ronald Lopes, who passed away recently.

The Committee shared their condolences for these hard working members of the Lions Club. The Chair informed the Committee that a Mass will be said in memory of Mr. Crawley and flowers will be sent to Mr. Lopes' service from the Committee. She will represent the Committee at Mr. Lopes' upcoming service.

Ms. Trovato felt that the Committee should take Mr. Bergman's offer to assist the Committee in getting released from its contract to repair the tennis courts. No action was taken.

The next regular School Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 30, 2004 at 5:00 PM at the Annex.

The Regular Meeting ended at 6:20 PM and will be adjourned out of Executive Session.

These minutes were approved by a vote of the Provincetown School Committee at their meeting on _____, 20_____.

Respectfully Submitted,

School Committee Signature

Title

Sheila M. Colburn, Recording Secretary

