



School Committee

**Provincetown School Committee Meeting
Veterans Memorial Elementary School
Library Media Center – Room #73
2 Mayflower Lane
Provincetown, MA 02657**

**Monday
July 12, 2010
4:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Peter Grosso, Shannon Patrick, and Lory Stewart.

Members Absent: Kerry Adams and Carrie Notaro

Staff: Dr. Beth Singer, Superintendent
Kim Pike, District Principal

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

AGENDA

Public Comments

There were none.

Minutes:

May 27, 2010, June 8, 2010

Motion: Move to approve the minutes of the May 27th meeting as amended.

Motion: Shannon Patrick **Seconded:** Lory Stewart **Vote:** 3-0-0.

Motion: Move to approve the minutes of the June 8th meeting as amended.

Motion: Lory Stewart **Seconded:** Shannon Patrick **Vote:** 3-0-0.

Unfinished Business:

Review Condom Policy

In an effort to prevent confusion and misunderstanding, Dr. Singer has drafted options to the condom availability policy for you to consider. B., C., and E. of the policy were the most misunderstood sections.

Under section B which originally read - (*Condoms will be available, upon request, to Provincetown students.*) – it was changed to read (Condoms will be available to students, upon request, on an individual basis. Responses will be based on age appropriateness and specific circumstances.)

Motion: Move to accept section B option 3 which is stated above.

Motion: Shannon Patrick Seconded: Lory Stewart Vote: 3-0-0.

Under section C which originally read – (*Appropriate counseling will be provided by trained faculty to each student seeking condoms.*) – it was changed to read (Age appropriate counseling and information will be given by trained faculty to each student seeking condoms.)

Motion: Move to accept section C option 2 (as amended) which is stated above.

Motion: Shannon Patrick Seconded: Lory Stewart Vote: 3-0-0.

Under section E which originally read (*The District will not honor requests from parents that students not be allowed to receive condoms.*), it was decided to leave it in its original form.

Motion: Move to leave section E as written.

Motion: Lory Stewart Seconded: Shannon Patrick Vote: 3-0-0.

On the section going into the handbook – it was agreed to amend to read as follows: *Condoms are available to students from the school nurses and other designated trained resource people. Students receiving condoms receive abstinence information and other appropriate information and counseling. The interaction is strictly confidential and no records are kept in accordance with School Committee policy.*

Motion: Move to have the original handbook policy on condoms remain.

Motion: Lory Stewart Seconded: Shannon Patrick Vote: 3-0-0.

Student Handbook Updates:

The request from the PSC was to get the handbook in sections. But this is the handbook for all students and parents. Some sections are designated for the High School or Veterans Memorial Elementary School specifically. There are substantive changes in the areas on the agenda.

A bit more fine tuning is needed before it's sent to the printer, i.e., pagination, a table of contents, and an updated faculty list, etc.

- **Bullying Policy**

Kim Pike said that since the last meeting when this was handed out, some of us have received training. One of the pages defines bullying and states the authority of the school administration. Also how we need to let people know what to do if they are bullied. There is a mechanism in place to deal with this and a committee is now in the throes of being formed; this will make sure that people will be well trained.

Peter Grosso wants the cyber bullying explained. Kim said that they did have a speaker come in who talked to students a whole lot about cyber bullying and we've been lucky to have Marty on site, too.

- **Discipline**

The Site Council went over this section and we wanted to make sure that some of the issues that came up this year were addressed. We specifically went over this section – when we got to the point of creating a grid – it gave us a lot of leeway. The council agreed that this was a good way to handle discipline in the schools.

Beth to Kim – Is there anything in the discipline section that says “parents will be notified”? She suggests it be generic for all discipline. Kim acknowledged that it is the practice to call parents and at times follow-up with a letter, but language will be added to the handbook so parents know what to expect.

- **Civil Rights**

Changes pertain to harassment and discrimination.

We're trying to get the handbook on the website in an effort to go green. We may be one year away from doing that.

Motion: Move that the work on the handbook – so far - is approved.

Motion: Shannon Patrick Seconded: Lory Stewart Vote: 3-0-0.

New Business:

Line Item Transfers – FY-10

The budget has a remainder of \$13,845.18 and it must be returned to Provincetown. Lory was not in favor of returning any monies to the town and said that it should be earmarked for a rainy day account, i.e., an emergency and deficiency fund. Beth said that any unspent money has been returned. Lory is against this.

Motion: Move to NOT return the money to the Town.

Lory withdrew the motion to allow Beth time to look into the matter.

Line Item Transfers – FY-11

The tuition agreement is not in our budget so Beth needs to create a line item for Nauset and she's proposing that we take it out of the salary lines. We can cover it that way for the cost of tuition plus enough for one additional 9th grader.

Motion: Move to accept the line item transfer for the FY-11 budget.

Motion: Lory Stewart Seconded: Shannon Patrick Vote: 3-0-0

PSC Comments

Shannon Patrick wanted to know how many positions that we advertised have been filled. Beth said that they are currently trying to fill one remaining position for a person to teach a French class and we have posted a position for a technology person.

Lory Stewart wanted to know what technical services we receive from the Town for the \$80K that we pay.

Beth said that she doesn't have a good answer; we give the town \$80K for MIS services and we can receive services from Monday through Thursday. They do all of our tech purchasing, maintenance, training, downloading software, training staff and they are working on our website. We have the services of one full time MIS person and others are needed.

Lory, based on her previous experience, said that we could get reimbursements on some of these expenditures. She said that every school and/or library could benefit from these reimbursements and Provincetown would probably qualify for a 40% return. The intention for the reimbursement is that schools could put money back into the system.

Shannon showed the PSC a negative letter that she had received. Beth said that the condom issue was a wonderful learning experience. She has spoken to several parents and 4 of them had questions based on what they heard in the media. Parents were concerned about the damage that was done to Provincetown. She also said that she has had a great deal of positive feedback. Thousands of people have sent letters commending Provincetown for their courage, etc. so it hasn't been all negative. Initially it was almost all negative but now it's turning around.

Adjournment happened at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on August 3, 2010

Peter Grosso, Chairperson