



School Committee

Provincetown School Committee Meeting

**PROVINCETOWN HIGH SCHOOL
ELMER I. SILVA LEARNING CENTER
12 Winslow Street
PROVINCETOWN, MA 02657**

**Tuesday`
February 1, 2011
5:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Kerry Adams, Cass Benson, Peter Grosso,
Shannon Patrick, and Lory Stewart.

Members Absent: none

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

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

AGENDA

Public Comments

Kevin Littlefield, one of the custodians who is slated to be cut, addressed the group. He wanted to project what would happen when two of the custodians lose their jobs. Once that happens, he continued, you will have 2 custodians and one supervisor who will be moving furniture from one building to another. It already isn't working and subs are being called in. You have Motta Field to be taken care of and with everything that needs to be done – given the people you'll have after June 30th – it's just not going to work!

Minutes: January 18, 2011, January 20, 2011

Motion: Move to approve the minutes of the January 18th meeting as amended.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Shannon Patrick Vote: 5-0-0.

Motion: Move to approve the minutes of the January 20th meeting as written.
Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Lory Stewart Vote: 5-0-0.

Superintendent's Update:

▪ **FinCom/BOS Budget support**

Dr. Singer said that last Monday the BoS and the FinCom met with PSC and unanimously voted to support the budget. It was a very pleasant meeting.

▪ **Moving plans**

Beth said that currently they're putting together a team that will be involved in planning the move into the High School. They have contracted with the Sheriff's Community Group for additional help. They'll be coming during the spring vacation and then, again, after the school is out to help move the furniture, books, etc. Shannon was worried about their exposure to the children. No problem – school will not be in session when the Sheriff's helpers are in attendance. Beth continued by saying that everyone is invited to add to the list of needs for the transition.

Some of the things she has thought about:

1. If we use the front doors of the high school, we will need banisters.
2. We'll probably need some signage.
3. The offices across from the library will need air conditioning.
4. At VMES we will need to move air conditioners into the Wee Care.
5. We need to build a wall to separate the Wee Care from the rest of the building. (Beth thinks the Sheriff's crew could help with the wall.)
6. We need locks to separate the gym from Wee Care. The gym will have to have an electronic lock.

The members of the PSC had quite a few questions on the divisions which probably cannot be addressed or finalized until the actual occupancy of the Recreation Department, the Council on Aging, and the Department of Public Works. It was thought that the DPW occupancy will be temporary until their garage facility can be made ready to hold their offices.

Beth said that there will be shared spaces and the rest of the building will be divided according to the square footage that each group deems necessary for their usage.

Back to what we need at VMES – we're going to need air conditioning – maybe some will be moved – we also need rubber flooring. We're also going to need to

build changing areas for babies. There are regulations for that we have to adhere to and that's about as far as we have gotten. The high school building will be fully occupied.

Peter Grosso questioned the railings for the front stairs since it would be quite an expensive undertaking. Beth said that it depends on the drop off on each side, do we need center railings or end railings or both. She also said that options are - either not use the front doors or make the access safe.

Shannon likes the front door egress. Peter had a cost saving idea - give the incoming tenants the option of keeping the current air conditioning and buying what Wee Care needs. It may be cheaper to just leave the air conditioning in place.

Motion: Move to hear the plans for the NY trip now to accommodate those gathered to present their plans.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Shannon Patrick Vote: 5-0-0

New Business:

New York City Field Trip

Maryann Campagna presented the trip plans to the PSC but before she could begin Beth interrupted by saying that the Anti-Bullying Plan that Maryann had worked on so diligently was given to the press by the state as a model plan. Accolades to Maryann – the smallest school in the state selected as a model! Quite an accomplishment! Maryann said she was so astounded by the state's e-mail that all she could reply was "fantastic!"

Back to the NY plans..... Ms. Campagna was accompanied by three students who had also worked on the plans. There are 30 definite students and 4 definite chaperones all of whom will be going on the trip. After looking at different options for travel they contacted Garber Travel – a company which specializes in students' trips – and the price was pared down to \$450/person. The children have to come up with \$75 upfront and then have to raise \$150 creatively or add the \$150 out of pocket. Fund raising events are being planned to help provide the extras needed. It is estimated that each student should have an additional \$50 cash in spending money.

The group will plan to leave Provincetown at 6:00 a.m. in order to arrive in New York by 11:00 a.m. They will be staying at the Holiday Inn in Hasbrook Hgts., New Jersey. Part of the itinerary will include the Bronx Zoo, Statue of Liberty, a Broadway Show (tba), visit to Harlem, and exciting different places to dine.

The exact timing of the trip is still indefinite. The Memorial Day week-end was the first choice but other dates are being looked at. The week-end before would clash with MCAS testing and the week-end after will be just before graduation. The dates are still being considered but Maryann didn't want to go any further with the planning until the group received the O.K. from the PSC. Not all the kids are going on the trip. Two didn't want to go and three are still question marks.

After the presentation the following motion was made:

Motion: Move to accept the trip plans with the blessings of the PSC.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Shannon Patrick Vote: 5-0-0

▪ **Advertisement: Superintendent's position**

To assuage everyone's concern - the ad for the Superintendent's position is mandated so it has to be advertised. Not to worry, Beth said, she'll be the first one to apply! She said that it's all over town that her job has been advertised. We just have to post the position.

▪ **Negotiation schedule**

There are three meetings scheduled for negotiations. February 2nd will consider office staff, then on Feb 3rd the paraprofessionals will be discussed, and then on the 7th at 3:15 we'll take up wherever we left off on the 3rd. Teachers will not be discussed before the 7th.

▪ **Update/information on heating systems**

Beth thought she would have more information about the heating systems of both schools. The projections will eventually encompass hot water systems for both schools replacing the steam systems which are highly inefficient. Tom Scarlata who is doing a study of all Town's buildings felt that it would cost about \$75K for VMES. The high school building – according to Peter Grosso – would be far more expensive and a nightmare to install given the fact that it would have to be installed throughout a basement and three floors.

Lory Stewart asked if this capital improvement will be on the warrant and Kerry Adams worried that it would trigger an over-ride. It was decided that this would be the Town's problem.

Beth thinks that the town will bring the issue to town meeting under choices in the long range plan. Mr. Scarlata said that boilers in both school buildings are well maintained but inefficient and difficult to repair. Right now the BOS still has not

heard a plan about the Police Department and the DPW garage. So there's more work to be done on planning and prioritizing.

Shannon said we'll probably have a better chance of getting an ice skating rink before a new heating system.

Bottom Line: We're wasting a lot of money on fuel.

Peter said that the replacement should be done sooner rather than later. The question was raised what will happen to the Town's empty buildings. Peter said he talked to Tom Coen and the town is reluctant to declare the empty building - surplus.

Unfinished Business:

VMES Building use plan

This was – more or less – covered in the preceding paragraphs on moving plans.

Drafts Job Descriptions

These descriptions compared the Head Teacher position to the Assistant to Principal. There were both draft positions in the packets handed out to the PSC. It seems as though 3½ years ago there was a position created – Assistant to the Principal - which was based on co-teaching. In June the MOU on that position runs out as well as the fact that co-teaching is no longer possible.

The Head Teacher position encompasses from Wee Care to grade 12 – again this position would have to be negotiated and have to be approved by the PSC. Since this is the first reading it will again be presented at the next meeting on March 1st. The ultimate decision of who to hire belongs to the District Principal with approval from the Superintendent. The duration of most of these job descriptions is usually three years.

Kerry wondered if a teacher who was cut could apply. Answer: Yes.

Lory wanted to be assured that this could be counted toward retirement credits.

Answer: Yes.

The job will be negotiated and the description probably rewritten.

Field Trip Forms

▪ General Field Trip

Beth suggested that the PSC may want to consider a new policy as well as a new form. There was a vote taken after a comment from Lory. She said that she had

gone over all the policies of the PSC and she felt they were seriously out of date and all should be gone over and eventually rewritten.

Motion: Move to rewrite a new General Field Trip policy as well as eventually updating all the policies and forms.

Motion: Lory Stewart Seconded: Shannon Patrick Vote: 5-0-0

▪ **Overnight Field Trip Form**

Please see above recommendation.

Nauset Agreement FY-12

Peter and Beth met with the Superintendent of Nauset and school committee chairman, Dr. Jones, to further discuss the next tuition agreement. The tuition amount had been set at \$13,583 and now a capital improvement surcharge of \$159 per student is being discussed. Beth declined to accept the capital improvement surcharge. Nauset also has an agreement with Truro without the capital improvement surcharge. The next agreement will not be annual but for a multi year period. Peter said that the capital improvement charge looked like an operating expense. Beth said that for us the \$159 per student would amount to a \$3K surcharge.

Lory Stewart said that it seems as though Dr. Hoffman is just looking for more revenue. Peter said that one thing he did point out was that they want to buy \$50K worth of new computers and he pointed out that this is not a capital improvement. Lory said that a few years ago Nauset put in for a \$100K override for technology and it's sacred money and has never been touched.

PSC Comments

Shannon wanted to know how many snow days we have had so far. We have had 2 and most of the state has had around 5 so we're in good shape. Any school start delays do not have to be made up.

Lory said that she was happy to see the policy issues brought up. She has gone through the policy book and finds that it's dreadful; she suggested perhaps establishing a subcommittee to work on revising policies. Beth said that often school committees take it on - one area at a time. She agrees with Lory that it really needs to be done.

Kerry has been beating the drum for adult education for years and there's none planned in the budget. There is money in the revolving account and he would love

to see the beautiful, large school building lit up and used by the citizens instead of lying empty every evening and week-end.

Kerry said that he tries to leave his parent hat at the door but there should be a policy on informing parents about subjects that children are asked to write about that will be published in the Foghorn. He said that his daughter was asked to write an article for the newspaper (Foghorn) and her article was on condom distribution. He doesn't consider himself a prude but his family is active in the church and the priest took exception to her article and spoke to her about it. He feels that if something controversial like that is to be assigned to a person, the parents should be able to weigh in on the subject.

Kerry revisited adult education – many people are interested and the Rec Dept is also enthused to be involved in it. Beth said there is interest out there – it might be easier to make it happen when the moves happen. Our relationship with the public library has been put on hold since they weren't able to partner with the schools while they were searching for the new director.

Kerry further would love to see local chefs come in - maybe a marine course. Lory said we have the Coast Guard here and they could be asked to host a course.

Peter said - speaking of the library – are we working on the surplus list? Beth said it will be an extensive list and maybe we could have a yard sale.

Adjournment happened at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on March 1, 2011

Peter Grosso, Chairperson