



School Committee

Provincetown School Committee Meeting

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

**Tuesday`
March 29, 2011
5:00 p.m.**

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

Members Absent: Shannon Patrick (excused)

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

AGENDA

Public Comments

There were none.

Minutes: March 1, 2011

Motion: Move to accept the March 1st minutes as written.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Lory Stewart Vote: 3-0-1 (Cass Benson abstained)

Presentation

Lorie Welch led the discussion which began by introducing everyone to Diagnostic Assessments which are given – in some instances – weekly. To track the students’

progress in Math and/or Reading. Most notably math and reading test updates are held so that teachers may adjust the curriculum accordingly. Also the teacher is able to assess a student's particular weakness and perhaps correct the problem before it becomes a major issue. When asked if these results would be shared with parents the short answer was – no, thus it's a tool to guide the instruction of the pupils and not to be shared at this point in time.

Each test is specific to the student taking it takes about 20 minutes. The questions are, if appropriate, timed but the timing can be removed.

John Vosburgh presenting with Lorie said that this diagnostic report gives him a trend line and he can determine from the report whether a particular child is going upward or not.

The last page of the report is most helpful in seeing the whole class group and lets you know how the curriculum is working. The majority of the groups are performing well but there are a few who need extra help.

Peter Grosso wanted to know if the Diagnostic Report was just for math? Answer: No, it measures reading, too.

Kim Pike said that we only had math tests last year, this year we added Reading and this is giving us talking points and then we can do interventions. It's been a nice tool for our use.

Kerry Adams asked if the tests were required. Answer: Yes. Question: Who does it benefit – you or the student? John said that it's really a diagnostic tool and it's meant for use by the teacher since there's too much room for misinterpretation. Kerry said - so this helps you more than the students. Kim said that we may need it more for preparation of lessons.

IB Program Presentation

There was a very enthusiastic talk given by three teachers – some of whom were fortunate to go to Princeton last summer. There was a great deal of professional dialogue which made it well worth the ticket. It gave them a feeling for the philosophy of the IB programs. We do a lot of what IB schools do anyway. The IB schools at primary levels have a dedicated, controlled way of encouraging curiosity – and giving students all kinds of starting points to take off on their own explorations. For example, they just finished habitats and they came to know all about their habitats – the similarities and differences. The teacher said that she has

an obligation to teach a certain number of skills, etc. and if they want to take something and go further with it – that’s IB! The presenter said that it’s been a terrific experience for herself. “It’s a lot of work and very satisfying.” She also named all the countries that she’s connected with and reiterated how satisfying this experience has been.

The same presenter said that there is a new unit inquiry around global cultures and based on five large interdisciplinary themes. The IB pedagogy is that you involve art, music, and other subjects in the work that comes under the heading of a social science project. When planning units of inquiry, bubble planners help teachers to plan based on what we want students to know at the end of the unit.

Peter asked how the 3Rs tie into this? Answer: The teacher is looking into what they should know when they come into those content areas. Not all lessons are inquiry units. We still teach and learn in more traditional ways.

Peter also wondered aloud – if you’re speaking to people all over the world – how do you communicate? Ans: Always in English.

Then followed many more examples of how the children learn through the IB program, etc.

Kim Pike has put the application forms in the packet regarding IB Primary Years Program and the IB Middle Years Program. Peter was asked to come in to school and click on the electronic version. It will be sent in tomorrow.

Superintendent’s Update:

Moving update

There is a shredding truck that the school has engaged to shred students’ and personnel records that no longer need to be retained. It will arrive on May 12th and is a commercial sized shredding machine.

After thanking Lory Stewart for her suggestion, Beth announced that she has scheduled CRT to collect computers and electronic and electric items. They’re coming on April 19th and people will also be able to drop off their out of use computers and printers. The Provincetown dump charges \$10 per item and we will be charging residents \$8 – this is also the week that the Sheriff’s Dept. is coming to help with the move. Too, on that week we have a tentative commitment to rebuild the wall that will separate the pre-school from the rest of the building. We’re also

looking at re-pointing the front steps of Provincetown High School to prevent further water damage and to make them less slippery in wet weather. We're in the process of emptying this building. Teachers are marking all of their belongings and we're getting organized. We're going to use the VMES gym for furniture and the class room next to the Learning Center for surplus equipment and the VMES Library for books.

Student events

Beth said that we have a lot on the horizon and next week we're having the musical, "Fiddler on the Roof" – also in April the academy exhibition will be on April 16th April 8, 9, & 10 also have happenings.

April 7th is the date for the Senior Fish Fry at the Lobster Pot. Kerry offered to do the raffle.

April 13th and 14th are the dates for the elementary school conferences. A new annual event will take place in Wellfleet on April 22nd and it's a walk to raise money for Alzheimer's.

May 14th is the date for the Junior Prom.

Softball season has begun and the New York trip has been scheduled.

There has been no update from Nauset and also no information from Truro regarding the amount of tuition.

A Request for Quotation (RFQ) has been sent out for phones; what we have are quite antiquated; there is a response deadline for this coming Thursday. We're looking at a 5 year lease and at end of lease we will own the equipment. It will not include clocks – but it will include bells.

Beth said that we're also moving toward a new system of locks because we have significant security problems. We would like to change the system to have computer card swipes. The cost will depend on how many doors we include – just some outside doors will be keyed this way.

Unfinished Business:

School Calendar 2011-12

The graduation has been set for June 8, 2012.

Also January 13th, 2012 has been designated as a professional day. This allows This allows the staff to have a really long weekend taking advantage of Martin Luther King's Day.

Motion: Move to accept the School Year Calendar 2011-2012.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Lory Stewart Vote: 4-0-0.

PSC Policy Field Trips – 2nd Reading

This policy goes along with the procedures that we put in place. Kerry had a few “what if” dilemmas to ask about and all his questions were satisfied by Beth.

Motion: Move to approve the Field Trip policy for the Provincetown Public Schools.

Motion: Lory Stewart Seconded: Kerry Adams Vote: 4-0-0.

Kim said that there is a proposed overnight field trip to a Coast Guard station. The children going on the trip are very excited about it. After a few details were discussed the following motion was made:

Motion: Move to accept the overnight Coast Guard trip for the 4th and 5th graders.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Lory Stewart Vote: 4-0-0.

One of the members asked why we haven't done the whale watch cruises any more. Beth said that the only time it's available to us is either the 1st or 2nd week in September and that's the worst time for us when every one is just settling into the school year. It's very expensive and the last trip cost about \$5,000. Nancy Flasher is looking into it for possibilities next year.

Lory said that she realizes that it's early in the year when they are in the town but she sees it as a team building experience and she would be willing to work on funding for it. She further said that she feels the school doesn't do enough to get the children involved in the maritime experience. Maybe she could get the kids up to Gloucester and have them ride down on the schooners in the fall.

Kim said that the team building aspect of it would be great and she would like it to happen every other year.

Beth said that there is no money in the budget for this.

Lory said that you would be surprised at the support that you will get from folks in town.

New Business:

PSC Policy IMG Animals in School - 1st Reading

Beth said that all schools are required to have the above policy. Service animals have to be house trained and she has never seen a house-broken horse!

There are service monkeys – trained in Mendon but they are not included in the law. The horse mentioned is only viable as a means of having a kid more mobile, i.e., pulling a cart.

Inventories-Surpluses

Beth announced that this is not a completed project – but we need a process by which you surplus things so that we can prepare them for sale or whatever. She then asked - how do you want to do this?

For example: We have 6400 library books that we'll not be using but the public might want them – maybe 10 cents a book? We haven't done text books yet and there are used text books and dealers who might want to buy these.

We also have furniture – can't tell you the amount yet – computers, monitors, printers, A/V equipment – amplifiers.....etc.

Peter said - rather than wading through line by line – let's have a sub committee and let them make decisions.

Also, Beth continued, we have athletic uniforms and equipment and there's still the kitchen inventory. Kerry would like the kitchen equipment to go to the COA. Peter said that the COA is going to use the kitchen.

The beat went on with Beth saying that we have two upright pianos in this building as well as a small kiln – the money you could raise with a sale of surplus items would help with money costs. Beth again asked – so how do you want to organize this? Kerry doesn't want to go through item by item and Peter said the PSC should give blanket approval to the Superintendent for pricing and/or disposal of the surplus.

Beth said that she will keep the best of what we have. We have a lot of desks with chairs attached.

Motion: Move to give a blanket approval to the Superintendent to compile the list of surplus and perhaps to place values on the items.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Lory Stewart Vote: 4-0-0.

There remained a question about what to do about the request received regarding purchasing the surplus work-out equipment. It was decided that both the Recreation Dept. and the COA are going to have some kind of work-out space and it would be most appropriate to see if these town departments would like to have the equipment. Especially as Lory stated – the tax payer money bought these items so it's more than fitting that town departments should inherit them. The same would be true for the kitchen equipment – give the COA first dibs on kitchen supplies/equipment.

Next the air conditioners that have been installed in the VMES were discussed. This had been brought up at another meeting with no real conclusions. It was decided that Beth will attempt bartering with the incoming tenants, i.e., you want to buy the already installed A/C(s) from us and install others where we need them or – we can remove them and reinstall them to fit our needs and then you can purchase others.

Policy Manual Plan

It had been discussed at a previous meeting that all school policies need to be updated and/or rewritten. Lory volunteered to be on a subcommittee and Beth promised to work on this but cautioned the PSC not to expect anything concrete until the move has been finished.

PSC Comments

Cass Benson is concerned about kids walking through the Grace Hall parking lot on their way to school. She also feels that Winslow Street is not a safe sidewalk to walk upon.

Beth said that in good weather parents can drive in to the front and then take kids to the entry door.....OR.....drive to VMES and use the stairs. We can also think about ways to direct the traffic.

Lory Stewart said

1. You keep talking about front steps – she would like to know what it would cost and we never got an estimate on rehabbing the track.
2. Last June we talked about goal setting and we haven't done that. Even the goal to redo the policy manual is a goal.
3. She also beat the drum for adult education for the fall. A lot of people are interested in that and she'd like that and with Recreation moving into VMES it is a perfect way for us to coordinate. The library was our partner last year but has had a change in leadership

which took much time. Thus, we were unable to partner with them this past winter.

4. Alma is retiring and she's wondering if the fact that there will be only one school – couldn't Betty wrap this job into hers? Beth replied that one job relates to human resources and the other to finances. . Beth has given this a lot of thought and it's a position that has to be filled. Beth continued by saying that Alma's job is personnel and salaries. Our human resource department is much more complicated than the town's.

Kerry, one more time, championed adult education. In his travels so many people have asked him about that. Also, Kerry is thrilled about the IB program.

NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 26TH
5:00 P.M.

Cass said that unfortunately she'll be unable to attend the April 26th meeting.

Adjournment of the PSC happened at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Session:
Discussion with respect to Collective Bargaining

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on April 26, 2011

Peter Grosso, Chairperson