



Provincetown School Committee Meeting

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

**Tuesday
August 9, 2011
5:00 p.m.**

**Members Present: Kerry Adams, Cass Benson, Jamie Kryszkiewicz,
Shannon Patrick, and Lory Stewart.**

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:09 p.m.

AGENDA

Public Comments

Todd Wagar – wearing his hat as a fund raiser for drag kickball – came to the School Committee meeting with two requests. The fellows preparing the grounds of Motta Field for the drag kickball game are not quite there. (1) He requested support to cut the infield again as it isn't cut quite low enough. Also, the school is charging \$500 for the space. Because he is a non-profit, renting from a non-profit, etc., - (2) Todd wondered if there were wiggle room to reduce the cost?

Todd knew that Public Comments were never answered during the meeting but Dr. Singer said that he was welcome to stay during the Superintendent's update which might help clarify the situation.

Minutes: July 12, 2011

Motion: Move to accept the minutes of the July 12th meeting as amended.

Motion: Shannon Patrick Seconded: Cass Benson Vote: 5-0-0

Superintendent's Update:

Dr. Singer detailed the problems they had encountered during Family Week. The School Department has 3 full time custodians but we had only 2 full time custodians because one was out for a full week. It was an extremely time consuming week at a very difficult time. We are in the middle of all the renovations, Beth continued, so it's been a very challenging time.

In retrospect we should have said no to Family Week for this year because of the move. We didn't charge them for custodians – so it's a challenge. The Family Week happening left the school with considerable vandalism damage. There is a single bathroom that cannot be used until it's repaired and now we have to spend time and money fixing all the problems. We have collected a security deposit from this group and most of it will be used to repair the damage done.

Family Week left Friday and in came Pan-Mass. We mowed Motta Field for them. We arranged for Motta Field to be mowed again today but we have not been able to keep up the diamond - someone even stole home plate! The infield has weeds growing in it.

Beth has tried to get the sheriff's crew for grounds maintenance, BUT the next time they're available is in September. We asked the Town to help and they are providing custodians tomorrow but they couldn't help us prepare the field. The condition of the field isn't what it should be and we could lower the fee but it's the same as town hall - when you rent you pay, regardless of being a non-profit.

So Beth apologizes for Motta Field not being what it should be but it's an ongoing situation. It does get used and does bring in some income but it also requires regular maintenance.

Shannon Patrick said that she would hate to give up the playground and the field. Beth said that we can't give it up because it was deeded to the school. Everyone uses the tennis courts and the school maintains them. Also, Beth agreed to have the infield mowed again before the event.

▪ PHS building update

The front sidewalk is about 75% done and what you see will be continued. Also the workers will fix the steps that go up to the VMES.

On August 23rd – Cape Cod Alarm will be coming to put in an external locking system. There will be one card for 4 doors and when that is finished all the external locks will be changed. There will be buzzers at the front and back door here and at VMES.

We have created a conference room with new furniture next to Kim's office. The school signs are currently being completed and will be in place before the schools open.

Brian Carlson, the Health Inspector and Emergency Coordinator, came up with a company that does hurricane shades and shutters and the FEMA grant is moving along to pay for this and a generator for PHS.

All the air conditioning in both schools is complete. The chemicals have been removed. A new dishwasher has been installed and an estimate on fixing the kitchen floor is being worked on. Everybody who is moving into the building now has a permanent space. They have been in and are arranging their spaces.

What's left on the painting is that some of the trim work and the cafeteria have yet to be completed. The sheriff's crew will be here Friday and will continue working throughout the week-end.

▪ **VMES building update**

We have expanded Wee Care so now there are 2 classrooms in use for them. There will be a health station, a library, and a space for WIC. A lot of the art that is in VMES will be moved down to the early childhood center. Kim will decide where the relocated art will be placed. All the telephones are in and we will be doing training on them in September.

▪ **Meeting with BOS 8/8 re: parking proposal**

Beth reported that last night both she and Jamie Kryszkiewicz met with the Board of Selectmen (BoS) and all the members of the School Committee had a hand-out on what was proposed and what the reconfiguration will look like.

Kerry Adams asked – if we own the parking lot – why do we have to beg for parking spaces (that we own)? Beth explained that it is our lot but we work

with the Town because we don't have the resources they have to manage a parking lot.

Beth also said that the current agreement isn't quite so simple because the "powers that be" are looking into changing the way traffic flows in Town so this is a one year agreement. Also - there was no safe way for youngsters to enter this campus, so we determined - if teachers and employees enter in the morning and don't go in and out it should be a bit safer for the children. It's the best solution, it's not perfect, but it's only for a year.

The temporary parking solution gave rise to a discussion on alternatives, safety, etc. Also the office will have a stamp for visitors who park in the Grace Hall lot. The discussion also raged on toward speed bumps, crosswalks, signs, Town Manager's input, Police Chief's input, etc. One of the committee members also pointed out that at VMES you could go there and park there for as long as you want.

Unfinished Business:

Discussion: Joint PSC/BOS Meeting

As previously discussed - we're going to have a joint meeting in September. Beth said that you wanted to have some kind of a plan of what you'd like to discuss with the BoS. Motta Field is one item. Beth said that this past year we've employed a part time custodian whose main job was field maintenance. When we had teams it was much more demanding but now things are changing; Beth said that we'll definitely use the field so she thinks that there is an opportunity to discuss this as one common interest. We occupy about 1/3 of VMES and the other town departments will occupy 2/3 of the building. Sharing the building is another area of common interest.

Adult Education might also be on the docket. Additionally, perhaps we could agree on some common goals such as 1.supporting families and 2.energy efficiency.

Finally, we need a Capital Improvement Plan and it's important to have the BOS support of this.

Lory asked if Beth ever got a copy of the building assessment that was done. Answer: Yes. Also, Lory asked – do you have a plan on replacing windows? Beth said that it's the bricks that leak above the windows so we

need pointing and sealing. Beth said that we are sealing from the inside now. Peter Grosso is advising Beth on how to proceed.

Lory said, “How about an energy audit?” Beth said that Honeywell is doing that for us now. In the next few weeks we should have an answer on whether we should go with steam and fix what we have – or replace the system. Lory is big on energy efficiency and alternative energy and the oil bills for this building are outrageous. She also added that right now there is a lot of money for green energy.

There will be one more meeting – September 6th - before the joint meeting with the BOS and Beth will draft an introduction for the School Committee.

Kerry – going back to the green thoughts - said that there are companies who will come out and do that for the experimental value, i.e., the wind turbine on the pier. Unfortunately there was just too much wind on the pier and the turbine blew apart.

New Business:

Wee Care & Pre School Handbooks-1st reading

Kim Pike did a tremendous amount of work on the Wee Care and Pre School Handbook. It will be of value to families with children enrolled in the programs and also – it’s necessary in applying for vouchers for child care. The book encompasses - how you register a child.....what the tuition is..... some routines, i.e., lunches....breakfasts and - in general - just how children’s days go.

Discussion: Capital Improvement Plan

Beth’s wish list includes - upgrade and replace the heating system – point and seal the brick work where it leaks – to remediate the problems with the roof – replace the fencing for both schools (chain link all around) it’s an enormous job. We are looking at replacing the kitchen floor and this is not simple because so many of the appliances are permanently fixed.....also irrigating the front lawn - and removing what’s there and hydro seeding. She’s getting prices for all this. If we have irrigation then we can plant. We already have a well and a pump so all we need to do is run a pipe under the road. Some of the bushes are past pruning and they have to be replaced. Beth would like to create an area for playing right out side the library. She thinks it’s bigger than it looks – and some of the area where the trees are could become a picnic area.

Kerry feels a committee or subcommittee is needed. Maybe a meeting with the Beautification Committee would be in order. Beth wonders if we should be replacing the oil tanks - this would be the case for both buildings. At this point it's just a question. Kerry cautioned that an oil spill is not covered by insurance policies.

Lory again stated that there is a whole lot of green money out there and suggested asking Michelle Jarusiewicz who is the Town's grant writer and also the Housing Guru – for help in submitting grants.

PSC Comments

Jamie thought the PSC had made a great start for the BoS meeting.

Kerry suggested adjournment of the meeting.

**NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 6TH
5:00 P.M.**

Adjournment happened at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on September 6 , 2011

Shannon Patrick, Chairperson