



## **Provincetown School Committee Meeting**

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

**Tuesday  
September 6, 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 5:08 p.m.

### **AGENDA**

#### **Public Comments**

There were none.

#### **Minutes: August 9, 2011**

**Motion:** Move to approve the minutes of the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting as amended.

**Motion:** Kerry Adams      **Seconded:** Lory Stewart      **Vote:** 5-0-0

#### **Superintendent's Update:**

##### **▪ Building Update**

The front of the building has been done and is beautiful. The parking lot has been set up with signs for the 17 staff parking lots, as well as, the visitors' slots. Also, the walkway has been painted. We are waiting for the speed bump. The welcoming signs would have been up today if it had not rained. All the smart boards are in and wired; they can operate wireless and all of our furniture has been placed. Dr. Singer invited the PSC to walk around and view all the improvements.

The early childhood area is also looking great. Our custodial staff of 3 has worked very hard in addition to the volunteers we had last week. Cass and Jamie are planning to do some planting tomorrow. Beth continued, today we opened for adults (teachers and staff) and did some training on smart boards and macs. We did some team building and the administration gave all a pep talk - so it was a very nice productive day. Tomorrow is their day to work in their classrooms and students start on Thursday.

- **School Opening**

Kim Pike added: We're looking forward to the classes beginning – it's the best time, we had a great summer program, but there is nothing like school starting.

- **Enrollments**

In gross numbers we've lost a few students. For the coming year we have no 8<sup>th</sup> graders and there are 9 students in the Junior class and 5 in the Senior class. The total enrollment for PreK through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade is 96 and Wee Care consists of 15 bringing the total to 111. The losses have been in the middle school. Beth may have to make some more decisions in the future about middle school.

Kim also said that due to a lack of affordable housing families had to leave town. She feels the dwindling enrollment can be blamed on the lack of affordable housing and that is really the big issue.

- **Improvement Status**

We were notified that Provincetown Public Schools had not made Annual Yearly Progress in math. There are some designations that have been mandated and since we did not make it, we have specific testing, reporting, and teaching guidelines that we must follow. Questions about NCLB were raised. It is rumored that the feds have “no child left behind” on their agendas and will be discussing it in the future.

Cass asked if these kids take a test. Answer: yes, indeed. Currently MCAS includes science and math and ELA. There has been a lot of animosity about MCAS. In the near future families will get a letter explaining all this. We will be offering students supplemental education – aka tutoring - and will have to allocate money out of our title one funds for these supplemental services.

Kim Pike talked about sub-aggregates being some of the issues because our numbers are so small they are easily skewed by one score.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Joint Meeting BOS/PSC-Planning Discussion**

The joint meeting will be held on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> and the meeting starts at 6 p.m. Vernon advised that if we're there at 6:30 p.m. that would be plenty of time because we come after Public Hearings.

Beth had drafted a brief introduction piece to be read at the meeting outlining topics of interest for the Provincetown school system and Town Selectman. Shannon Patrick, Chair, decided that she would read it to the BoS on Monday night.

Beth was thanked for composing the intro and then members added concerns that should be voiced at the joint meeting. Kerry mentioned the use of the tennis courts which seem to be used by summer visitors more than the tennis teams. (It was decided this was a dead issue since there are no more tennis teams.) Also the field is a burden to maintain and it might be valuable for us to share it. She doesn't think it will be decided upon at the meeting but it's a topic for discussion. Kerry thought that the Rec Department would be an obvious department to involve in the field's maintenance. Lory felt that the maintenance seems like a lot of duplication of effort & equipment and it would be financially smart to have the DPW take over the maintenance; the magic word is cooperation.

Kerry wondered about the much discussed generator for the school. Beth said that Brian Carlson will probably be at our next meeting regarding the FEMA grant. There is a generator in that grant as well as hurricane shutters, etc. and if that grant doesn't come to fruition – then that might be the time to put it on our CIP list. We will probably find out in October.

Kerry then asked - what about the speed bumps being installed in the parking lot? Will the town be able to plow the lots? Beth said the speed bumps will be removable.

### **Capital Improvement Plan Discussion**

The **fencing** for both the VMES and PHS will be put on the CIP list. The estimates for VMES was \$12,430 and for PHS - \$8,421 with a total amount of \$20,851.

Beth said that we also want to move the **playground** to the high school between the parking lot and the school and – if so – we need to put up a piece of fence separating it from the parking area. We are getting an estimate from the original playground installer who would do the move. All this won't happen until next year, at the earliest.

Grading the side of PHS and installing a new **catch basin** and stone, etc. is estimated to cost ~\$5,500.

The **roof** is in very good condition except for a few places where sea gulls have dropped shells to break them so only minor repairs are needed.

The leaks due to pointing and sealing of the **brick work** have to be addressed. There was discussion about the need to involve the Historic Commission.

Honeywell is going to give an estimate on replacing or fixing the **heating system**. Beth has talked to a green specialist about solar and wind options.

VMES is not historic at all so it might make sense to look at whatever is feasible for **green energy** there. We had the person from Cape Cod Collaborative do an audit but there were minimal things they could recommend because most was done in the last renovation. He's looking at the lighting in the gym. It would be limited to that.

The **kitchen floor** contractor is looking at ways to do the floor – many of the appliances are permanently fixed thus making the job far more labor intensive and difficult.

### **New Business:**

**Wee Care & Pre School Handbook-2<sup>nd</sup> reading**

**Motion: Move to approve the Wee Care & Pre School Handbook.**

**Motion: Kerry Adams                      Seconded: Lory Stewart                      Vote: 5-0-0**

### **Superintendent's Goals for 2012**

Beth came upon her goals for last year and read them. Most of them had been accomplished.

### **Now for the FY12 Goals**

1. Obtain funds for the Capital Improvement Program
2. Update the District Policy Manual
3. Continue and build upon cooperation with Town offices
4. To assess through a variety of surveys – school culture and climate, i.e., (what’s working and not working) and develop an action plan based on those results.

The Superintendent will come back with suggested District goals.

### **PSC Comments**

Jamie Kryszkiewicz had a story that had to do with Police Department rudeness to her when she protested being given a ticket for being illegally parked to attend a PSC meeting. She would like to protest the rudeness to the Town Manager and prays that any other parent is treated in a far better fashion. This subject was brought up during the enrollment section but it was felt that it would be more appropriately addressed in this venue.

Beth said that parking is only an issue on the week-ends. Part of the agenda for this year is to determine what works and what needs to be adjusted in the plan.

Kerry Adams was approached by Candace Nagle and asked to give a brief report to the PSC which stated that in the recent non-hurricane 8 animals were sheltered at VMES and it worked out well. Beth said that she was told that there were 5 people and 1 dog who sought shelter.

Kerry then said that at one point we had representatives from the student body. Kim said that she has it on her list. We’d also have the teachers come in to report.

Cass Benson suggested having an open house for the town because a lot of people don’t know where the school is. Kevin Mullaney is going to be assigned to us as our Banner reporter. Cass also gave a thank you to Kim and Beth for scraping paint during the move and reddec scenario.

Shannon Patrick wondered if all the seniors have letter jackets? They should. Kim said that most of our students have earned a jacket.

Shannon raised the issue of the schools involvement in a Town event. Kim wondered if there might be an event in Town that happens in the fall that we could tie into.

As far as Adult Education goes, Beth said that it isn't happening because it takes a lot of time to organize it and we haven't had someone to administer it. Kerry said that recreation might be able to share it with us.

Adjournment happened at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on October 4, 2011

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Shannon Patrick, Chairperson