



Provincetown School Committee Meeting

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

**Tuesday
October 4, 2011
5:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Cass Benson, Jamie Kryszkiewicz,
and Lory Stewart.

Members Absent: Kerry Adams and Shannon Patrick.

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

The meeting was called to order by Cass Benson at 5:15 p.m.

AGENDA

Public Comments

There were none.

Minutes: September 6, 2011

Motion: Move to approve the Sept. 6th minutes as written.

Motion: Lory Stewart Seconded: Jamie Kryszkiewicz Vote: 3-0-0.

Superintendent's Update:

Dr. Singer apologized and said that she may have made the mistake of not scheduling the meeting on a regular meeting date but she didn't hear anything from anybody when the agenda went out so she didn't know it was a problem.

▪ CIP Update

Beth's work on the CIP continues. She has received quotes for moving the playground - \$34,000.

The estimate from Honeywell to replace the steam heating system is well over \$1M so what we are now looking at fixing the system we have to make it more efficient.

A question was raised regarding Cape Cod Compact's availability for heating? Beth responded that Cape Cod Compact does not do heating and as renovation fixed most of the issues, the only area the Compact will assist us with is the lighting in both gyms.

The estimate for replacing all of existing fence is \$20,860. Jamie K. feels that the Rec Center should also share in the cost. Beth said we need it for the early childhood center so if the Rec Ctr decides they need it – then maybe they will pick up the rest of the cost. The fencing back there is in particularly bad shape so instead of replacing it – it may be more feasible to just put a new fence in front of the decayed one.

New grading on the side of building would take care of the water problem (instead of sand bags) and would cost \$5,500 and that we will definitely do.

Landscaping the front lawn would cost \$10K.

We had an evaluation of all the leaking we have in this building. The leaks come from the vertical mortar seals which leak and water comes in the windows. The roof is not a problem... so we don't have a quote yet. One side of the building (the south side) had been done and it isn't leaking; however the masonry is crumbling, so it will also require attention.

We're waiting for a quote on the kitchen floor. Beth is meeting with Sharon Lynn and Tom Coen on October 18th so that means that the Finance Committee will get involved. We don't have enough information to go before the fall town meeting, so we are preparing for May.

Lory Stewart suggested - assuming that the heat will be more efficient – perhaps we might use the same funding stream that Nauset Regional is using for all its “green” improvements. It's a big process and she wonders if this is what we should be looking into. The building authority sent out an e-mail

to Superintendents to gather applications. It is a process with no guarantee, but nothing to lose in trying.

▪ **China Exchange**

We have a China exchange in the works. Kim Pike was asked to apply for a china shadowing exchange. We will have a visiting Principal from China – he'll be coming over with a group of 28 other educators. They'll be going to Boston Newton High School and then he'll be coming here.

We will host our Chinese administrator from November 12th through the 18th. We will have to provide housing and an interpreter. They prefer that he be at someone's house and we've formed a committee. Kim will be going over to China in April and will be there for two weeks including the April vacation. She hopes that this program will have the immediate benefit of getting to know different cultures. The research has found that if you do this it allows you to form relationships.

The visiting educator does have spotty English. Kim has sent something home to families to let them know that on November 14th there will be a welcoming happening for him. There is also a superintendent from Wareham who will host this visitor for a day with his Chinese delegate. He will be getting to know our educational system and how it works.

▪ **Open Houses & Paint Along**

We've had two successful open houses and following this we had a paint along in The Early Childhood Center. Wic has moved into the Center and the play group will be meeting once/week also in the new library.

▪ **October 1 count**

Our count is the basis for a lot of funding and planning. We have 20 children in the pre-K and 78 in the rest of the grades.

Cass Benson wondered about the Provincetown kids who don't go to our school – are they in the budget? No and it accounts for a loss of revenue to the Town. It's a contentious arrangement because school districts receive Choice money for students coming in and the Town loses Choice money for students going out.

▪ **MCAS scores**

Kim said that the recent mistake found in the MCAS exam may have a benefit to two of our students. There's also a movement that the President is giving states some leeway to discontinue compliance with "no child left behind's" AYP requirements and this is in the works. The intent of the law was to focus on subgroups of kids who have been successful, but over 60% of the districts in Massachusetts don't meet the AYP criteria. There are no funds to support the mandate.

The "race to the top" is now due into the state and Beth feels that we should decline. It requires that we participate in several projects – most of which we will have to do a year later. We would get \$22,000 to spend over the next 3 years. We did a MOU and we agreed to do it; however we're trying to opt out. It's not a good fit for us. It involves an interoperability function, whereby the state can look at our data in the moment. The technology for that is struggling to work and school districts don't have the capability to do this yet.

Kim shared publications which are being sent home to parents. They are intended to build a culture of unity in the community.

Fish Tales is a newsletter-type publication that will let the families know what is going on. It's really a home-school connector. Also there will be activities that you can do with your children and parenting tips.

PSC Policy Manual Proposal

Beth said that we have talked about redoing this and most of the policies are over 20 years old. She received a proposal from the Massachusetts Assoc. of School Committees, Inc. and it's certainly one way to do it and it would take about 2 years to complete and we could pay for it over 3 years. They would take what we already have – not just the policies – but the contracts and any handbooks that we would have. We could use our attorney at the rate of \$250/hour or Beth could try to work on it but that would take forever. Or we can try to borrow from a school which has just completed their policy manual – and copy it. In this case, it would not be a finished product but would just be a place to start, as we'd have to make each policy ours.

Lory said that our current policy manual is a train wreck and it does need to be done. She would like to have a sub committee who works with them. A

3rd party just can't come in and do it for us. Other people don't know the climate of our town but she would like to have input from the membership and she feels strongly about this. Lory further said that she would not feel comfortable voting on it without the full committee present.

It will come back next meeting & Beth will get feedback from other districts that have used MASC.

New Business:

Computer Use & Loan Agreements

Beth said - we're all stakeholders in this and there should be expectations for everyone. These loan agreements are for students in grades 3-12 and are like borrowing books from a library, in that families are responsible for school property. This is a first reading BUT we're also anxious to start this process going so Beth would like to have a 2nd meeting in October – maybe 2 weeks from this – to make a final decision.

Jamie wants to see something about bullying in the agreements. This subject – if you read carefully – is contained in the school handbook but she could add something to the bullets which come off the district policy.

Lory wondered - what is the reason that music is not on computer – because of the size of the files? She feels that the students really need it for poetry, music, etc. and for mixing.

They will rework the agreement regarding no music – unless they get permission. Kim said that we don't want to be responsible for violating copyright law, but we will add language that allows for some use with the permission of a teacher.”

Technology Handbook

Not ready yet.

District Goals

This is a first reading. Typically district goals set the agenda for school goals and are for multiple years of work. Beth said that she took two core values – excellence in teaching and learning and community support for Provincetown Schools and developed 7 goals. These should direct where and how we focus our resources. Adult education is included in IB-offering opportunities for the community to access school resources.

Cass said that she worries that it doesn't include diversity and wants it added.

Jamie doesn't think you can have a community without having schools. She doesn't think the community realizes how hard everyone at the school works.

PSC Comments

Lory said that she has a friend with 3 children in the Wee Care program and they speak very highly of the program and how much one of their children has grown in the program.

**NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY – OCTOBER 18TH
5:00 P.M.**

At the meeting on the 18th we will determine when to schedule future meetings. Lory said that it had been determined at prior meetings that the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays would be scheduled with the 2nd meeting of the month scrubbed if it were deemed unnecessary. To be decided.....

Adjournment happened at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on October 18, 2011

Cass Benson, Vice Chair