



Provincetown School Committee Meeting

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

**Tuesday
December 13, 2011
5:00 p.m.**

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

Member Absent: Kerry Adams

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

AGENDA

Public Comments

There were none.

Minutes: November 8, 2011

Motion: Move to accept the minutes as written.

Motion: Cass Benson Seconded: Lory Stewart Vote: 4-0-0.

Presentation-Musical Performance

The violin instructor introduced the older children first who gave a rendition of *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*. Next the wee children played their mini violins energetically and bowed in conclusion. They all received much applause and encouragement.

Superintendent's Update:

▪ Sidewalk & Drainage Problems

Dr. Singer said that we have a drainage problem; the Town has a storm drain fund and that's what we are going to use to fix the problem. To fix it permanently, it will probably cost between \$20,000 and \$25,000. We also have a neighbor's tree that is hanging over our property and that, too, will have to be addressed.

We're on the DPW schedule to have the Winslow Street sidewalk repaired in April 2012.

▪ Motta Field

Beth met with the town manager, the DPW and the Rec department to discuss the field. With our reduction in custodial staff – it's a burden for us to continue the upkeep. The DPW will maintain the field. We will offer advice and use of our equipment. It will become a town park, play area, and athletic field. The Rec Dept. will be in charge of all scheduling of the field. Everyone was good with this sharing of the field.

▪ Remind Chair-Town Report

Shannon Patrick was reminded that the school report for the Town is due no later than January 25th. Beth suggested that Shannon read old town reports and use them as an example.

▪ Educator Evaluation

The DESE has established new evaluation guidelines which we will need to negotiate into our contract agreements. The new system includes use of rubrics. The guidelines also include unannounced observations, team and individual goals and evidence collections by employees.

The packet that was handed out detailed the phased implementation of the evaluations.

Beth said that we will negotiate this with the union. If we can get the union to move along faster we might start this before 2013. Also, measured student achievement needs to be a piece of teacher and administrators evaluations.

▪ **Community Education**

Everyone felt sorry that Kerry was missing since tonight was the debut of his dream. The community education will begin the first week of February and go through March. A sample of classes, thus far, was provided

Unfinished Business:

There was none.

New Business:

FY-13 Budget Presentation

Dr. Singer introduced the budget by saying that it is one way that we support the efforts we value and the initiatives we want to achieve. This is the first budget with an increase presented to PSC. We've seen an almost 11% decline in our budget the past two years. This budget continues our commitment to our senior class including participation in the 4Cs and in the Chatham co-op sports programs. It includes support for the Early Childhood Center and the International Baccalaureate (IB) project for grades PreK-8. Our teachers are enjoying improved technology, i.e. smart boards, etc. Employees are close to learning Spanish and we have begun planning and instructing the IB way. The feedback on our move to PHS has been very positive, from all constituencies. This budget will be accompanied by a capital improvement budget which will hopefully further enhance our new home.

At this point the budget was explored line by line with a few question and answer exchanges. The budget is projected to rise about \$105,000 to an amount of \$3,292,164. They felt that the increase would trigger a Prop 2½ override.

There was discussion about reimbursements to administrators and Lori suggested including these costs in e-rate.

There were also a few questions regarding the community education courses, i.e., does the instructor get the entire \$800? The answer was that some courses may be money makers, others may lose money. We hope to be self-supporting.

The budget contains \$4,300.00 for enrollment fees for any students who need to take a course at 4Cs or on-line courses.

Also, the School Choice population has diminished which led to adjustments in the budget. The “Out of District Placements” for just one child totals close to \$70,000 and is a necessary expenditure mandated by the state; however, the state reimburses a portion of that amount.

Beth said that – to date – we don’t have a tuition rate with Nauset and she has an estimate she has worked out but still doesn’t have a tight figure. The number of kids in Nauset grows and the rate has grown substantially. We will return and discuss tuition later on in the meeting.

After concluding budget discussion the discussion returned to tuition with Nauset. The discussion was lengthy. Nauset has said that they’d like a sit-down meeting with Provincetown in regard to tuition but on their agenda is a capital improvement plan which may substantially increase the tuition. The main problem is that we are not in their regionalization group – have no vote – and we have been – more or less – held hostage to whatever Nauset decides we should pay.

Beth has taken the liberty of calling Monomoy (the new “state of the art” high school proposed for Harwich) and they indicated that they may be than interested in exploring a regionalization agreement with Provincetown and/or may be willing to negotiate a tuition rate. For FY13 we are projecting 25 children to be needing a high school program. The difference in being a member of a Regional District would be that we would have a vote on decisions. Nauset has not been available to discuss this until perhaps now. Also, to assuage some of the concerns of the PSC – any child – should we decide to go with Monomoy – would still have the option of Nauset under the School Choice selection.

Lory said that Monomoy will be a state of the art school and will have a strong alliance with the Museum of Science and other very strong alliances. She thinks it’s a great idea. Putting travel aside, Nauset hasn’t played well. We really need another option; we’ve had children going to Cape Cod Tech and this town voted to support going to Tech which is also in Harwich.

Dr. Hoffman is going to call Beth and will be putting the Capital Improvement costs on the agenda. He wants to sit down with the chairs and find a way to make the town feel more comfortable. Beth would like to go to that meeting with the possibility of Monomoy in her back pocket.

Beth asked the PSC if they wanted her to pursue a possible agreement with Harwich and the response is contained in the following motion:

Motion: Move that we have Dr. Singer approach the Monomoy School District to discuss an agreement.

Motion: Lory Stewart Seconded: Jamie Kryszkiewicz Vote: 4-0-0

Paraprofessional Evaluation Proposal

This is a new evaluation proposal for paraprofessionals and since it's the first reading we'll edit and/or approve at the next meeting. The PAE must also vote to approve it.

**NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY
DECEMBER 20TH
5:00 P.M.**

The above meeting on December 20th will just be to deal with the budget.

PSC Comments

Cass Benson said that she had spoken to Kim about opening the gyms in February and March and wondered if there was any money to do that? The PSC policy is that you need a custodian whenever anyone is in the building.

Jamie K. suggested that she talk to Brandon in the Rec Department and they may not have those rules. She also wanted to know if the Board of Selectmen have been invited to the upcoming concert. (Will do.)

Cass B. then said that she wondered if the school could "beat the drum" for people to sign up for the new affordable housing which is taking pre-apps now and to sign on on-line. She's concerned and she thinks that we need a big effort to get people to apply. She feels that the dwindling school population is due to a lack of housing.

Adjournment happened 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on December 20, 2011

Shannon Patrick, Chair