



Provincetown School Committee Meeting

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

**Tuesday
December 20, 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
Tom Coen, FinCom Chair

AGENDA

Public Comments

There were no public comments

Minutes: December 13, 2011

Motion: Move to accept the minutes of Dec. 13th as written.

Motion: Jamie Kryszkiewicz Seconded: Cass Benson

Vote: 4-0-1 ab(KA)

Unfinished Business:

▪ FY-13 Budget and Related Discussion

Dr. Singer announced that we've had a crisis – of sorts – in the VMES. It's not on the agenda but the PSC has been supplied with some information and can bring it up under PSC comments later in the meeting. Tonight we have the 2nd presentation of the budget.

The first change you will notice is we took the summary page from the back and moved it to the front. This is the 1st time in years that the budget will have an increase. Even though – a small increase, – even though there are additional decreases in staffing. The salaries for the Superintendent and District Principal are level funded.

Lory Stewart wanted to know more about the superintendent's reimbursements and cell phone. Beth said that most of it is mileage to her home in Western Mass. each week. Lory also wanted to know how much time someone from the MIS is here. Ans: Marcin is almost full time and Lynne Martin as needed. The head of MIS is available to us – mainly through e-mail. The person here full time is always working on hardware and apps; also he's on deck for any set ups and trouble shooting.

Beth asked MIS about this – and it became clear to her that they are not funding a position but are funding services. The amount has gone down as we are doing more of those services. Now we're in less space but we're denser - and - we have more technology.

On page 2 – the first change – there was a reduction to a .6 for a social worker. Cass worried - are we going to be able to attract good people if we are reducing the positions? Beth said that we can't pay people for full time if we don't have full time work, but that might be a risk.

Kerry Adams asked - why the cut in art? Is it just to save money? Ans: we have one class left in high school and none of the 5 high school students has requested art.

Beth soldiering on said – we're not cutting classes – we're just adjusting for the student population.

Lory asked – why the Academy if the high school is gone? Answer, the Academy teacher has assignments from K-12. We need to break that out better for you in the budget so that it is clear.
Speech Therapy has been reduced to a .6 based on student needs.

There are no changes to custodians and Beth hopes that the sharing of duties of Motta Field will solve our shortage problems.

All personnel reflect a 2% increase in payroll, except for administrators.

Kerry asked - what does a data specialist do that an MIS person doesn't?

Ans: A data specialist looks at our raw data on student performance measures and helps teachers interpret it for instructional purposes. You recall a presentation on this from Amy Rokicki and John Vosburgh

Lory – are all these stipend positions in place permanently? Ans: No – This year we're trying to assess whether the job requires what we're paying – more or less, and then will negotiate changes accordingly .

International Baccalaureate (IB) Coordinators are required by the IB program.

Next question: How about the Activities Coordinator? Kim Pike responded that we have an after school program and this person organizes it and supervises it. The Coordinator becomes the glue of holding the program together.

There is a sizable decrease in funding for athletics – we are providing 2 (w/Chatham) co-op teams this year and anticipate the same arrangement in FY 13.

Instructional materials for K thru 8 will have an increase.

Cass still worried about the buses from Nauset at 5:00 or 6:00 p.m. to accommodate the sports teams. They have never been provided.

The cost for us to run another trip is the hourly rate for the bus driver since we own the bus and the gas. Beth knows that Truro does not provide a late bus.

Lory – What is included in athletic transportation? Ans: It's the coach driving the players to practices and games

We are anticipating that some of our seniors may want a 4C's class. We have included a new line item for dual enrollment and/or on line courses.

Lots of discussion on page 5 regarding tech supplies, i.e., Apple leases, etc.

The heating oil cost was based on \$3.50/gallon

The Nauset tuition will be discussed later in the meeting.

The “out of school” placement will be reaching its conclusion at the end of FY 13 based on the age of the child.

Nauset Tuition Rate

A brief history of the rate follows:

1 st year agreement was for	\$11,728
2 nd year agreement	\$13,742
3 rd year proposal	\$14,794

Beth e-mailed a list of questions to Nauset today and hasn't received an answer yet. Meanwhile we've been doing research on how other schools are doing this – and what they use for determining their tuition rate.

In a conversation with Monomoy, they are not yet prepared to give us a specific proposal but they understand that the 25 students that we would potentially send (over 3 grades) would not cost them any extra. The amount they would glean would be like icing on the cake.

Kerry asked - what's the difference in our rate and Truro's rate? Their agreement ends in June 2014. Truro refused to pay the increased 5.23% last year because they have had a 5 year contract.

Kerry then asked about the annual tuition to Sturgis and Pope John. He feels we're getting gouged and facetiously suggested that maybe we should just give the kids each \$12K and tell them to pick a school.

Beth has concerns about the way the tuition amount is calculated and feels the calculations should be consistent. The bigger question – what's the best match for our students?

Beth said that we're not going to accept their proposal. We will make a counter proposal. She's received help from the Massachusetts Department of Education and also has talked with Ed Lenox who is our attorney.

Beth said that everything Nauset proposes is legal and there is no language specific to what is included in tuition agreements, each district has to negotiate their own agreement. She has been told by the Dept. of Education that rarely do tuition agreements include capital costs. None of the schools that Beth has contacted have capital costs in their calculations.

Beth thinks our counter proposal should be for a minimum of 5 years. Monomoy's School Committee meets on January 11th to discuss a possible tuition agreement with Provincetown.

Beth wants guidance on how you want her to approach a counter proposal. Nauset just took a vote and agreed that we'd share in their new 6.5 million dollar capital improvement plan. Next year there will be a total of 25 students tuitioning out.

Jamie said that she is uncomfortable with the budget.

Lory asked – when do we have to have the budget finalized. Beth said that what we have in the budget now for tuition is enough to meet Nauset's proposal. We are safe but whether we can reduce more remains to be seen. The other concern is that we do want our budget and our C.I.P. to pass town meeting. We would have a better time if we were coming in level funded. Beth doesn't see any other place in the budget that can be reduced, other than tuition.

Kerry said that it would be interesting to see what the taxpayers will say now that the taxes might go up.

Beth will work on how the calculation is devised and she will use other districts and the Dept. of Ed.

Tom Coen said that most town departments are at 2½% increase.

Lory said that we should have a work session before our next regular meeting. It seems as though Beth is getting a lot of information and our next regularly scheduled meeting is January 17th. Maybe just a work session. You can also have all the information ready for us. Kerry said that he knows a family with 3 high school kids who are moving back here. A meeting was set for December 29 at 1:00PM in the conference room.

PSC Comments

Bad News.....

Conservation Solutions Corporation

Both schools (VMES and the High School) are heated by steam and a pipe at VMES needed repair. In fixing it we discovered that the problem was much bigger than we anticipated. There are holes about the size of an eraser in all pipes from corrosion. Mr. Cook fixed the first problem but the pipes are so fragile - the pipes are contained in crawl spaces under the building and start out 4 X 4 and get smaller and smaller. One of the guys working on it got burned – it's that close and that hot. The area contains an "asbestos suspected" section and the first thing is that we have to get a hazmat person to inspect it. We can't fix it if there is asbestos. We're talking 100s of thousands of dollars to fix all this. We've been nurturing these pipes for a while but this is the worst leaking we've ever had.

Beth met last week with Cape Compact and the engineering company that they use. They are coming up with a proposal based on the energy we will save if we move from steam heat to hot water heat or if we replace the steam pipes. So today we decided to move our children out of the building. We'll create the Early Childhood Center in here (part of the library) and the adjourning room.

Kerry said that the biggest issue we face is the asbestos issue.

The children (to be moved) count is 30-40 kids in January. This is a temporary crisis. The kids will come in here on January 3rd and we hope that they'll be back at VMES by February vacation.

Kerry wants to advise a second opinion if the problem is asbestos. Cost often is based on competition.

Beth said we may abandon the asbestos and steam pipes and choose hot water heat which would be in the attic. It will need to go to Town Meeting before we can do that.

Mr. Cook said that if we put in steam heat we'd be good for decades and we would still bring our fuel costs down. The town doesn't have this kind of money – there's no way that the town can put in a new system without going to town meeting. We now use about 1300 gallons of fuel every few days.

Lory said that there's crisis money for schools but the deadline for grants is January 11th.

**WORKSHOP MEETING
THURSDAY – 1:00 P.M.
DECEMBER 29TH
CONFERENCE ROOM**

Adjournment happened at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on January 17, 2012

Shannon Patrick, Chair