



Provincetown School Committee Meeting

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

**Tuesday
January 17, 2012
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

Carol D'Amico, a long term teacher, has been slated for partial reduction in her teaching duties and the attendant pay decrease. Her 3-page letter which she composed and was allowed to read in its entirety basically enumerated her many accomplishments and stated that she would have to leave the school if the reduction in her position were allowed to stay for the next school year. She also said – in the letter – that she may have to seek a grievance ruling from the union.

A support letter for Carol from Amy Rokicki accompanied Carol's letter. Also, a retired French teacher spoke in support of Carol's retention.

Minutes: December 20, 2011

Motion: Move to approve the minutes as amended.

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

PUBLIC HEARING:

FY-13 SCHOOL BUDGET DISCUSSION/REVIEW

Beth said that the school budget includes a 2½% increase and the personnel reductions are based on what we need. The numbers include Nauset's tuition and - at this moment - there has been no change in Nauset's tuition from the last meeting.

The budget includes funds to support our IB candidacy for the personnel, fees, and the supplies needed. It also includes a strong program for the last graduating class.

There's only one change in this budget and it corrects the work load of one teacher. It does not change the dollar amounts.

One of the men in the audience commented, "So the teachers got cut but the janitors have received increases?"

Answer: All employees received 2% increases except administrators. Custodial services were cut previously from 5 to 3 custodians.

Kerry Adams asked about the FTEs that are cut. "Does that mean less classes?"

Answer: Yes

Dr. Singer said that the children who are here – make their selections – and we will only have a senior class next year-that means we need fewer classes.

Kerry continued, "What about 5, 6, 7, and 8th grades? Would they be able to have a class that has not been offered?"

Answer: Their schedules are full

Ans: The senior's choices are also fulfilled. They can also take classes on line and/or go to 4Cs.

Cass Benson asked if the 2½ percent increase is mandated by the town and are the other departments in the town adhering to the 2½ percent? What if we need to hire a teacher?

Beth answered - if we needed to add a teacher in the near future, we would need to find it in the budget. If it is in a different fiscal year we would put it in the budget, but that doesn't necessarily mean an increase in the total because every year we have increased some expenses and decreased others.

One of the people in the audience wanted to have input thus the following motion was made:

Motion: Move to allow participation of the audience.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Cass Benson Vote: 5-0-0

Carol D'Amico rose to defend her filing of a grievance which basically reiterated her reasoning in her position paper.

Beth patiently said that the budget does not indicate a judgment of the personnel. Some teachers are multi-faceted. Again, you're adopting a budget – you're not making personnel decisions. Personnel can change between now and September. This year we had a change in guidance counselors. You're voting on a budget that does not reflect abilities but does reflect student needs.

Kerry said that he hopes he understands the problems and he wants to add to the curriculum.

Kim Pike said that she also did present extra choices to the high school students. The current students are not interested in them. Furthermore, the seniors don't have one ounce of time available to add more courses.

Kerry said that we're thinking that the school is not growing. We have a library media person who is .6 and a paraprofessional is here. Why is there not a librarian here all day? Ans: Because we don't need a full time librarian and the paraprofessional has been working in the library for years.

Beth explained that the budget is not developed to spend money or save money. It's developed to meet the needs of students. In the past we had many teachers working here full time in the hope that they would have classes to teach.

Tony Bracket, a member of the audience, who has relatively recently moved into 8 Cottage Street with his partner - has twin sons who are in the preK program. He's disappointed that art was not taken by the high school students and to not have students take art is an embarrassment.

Kim said that her background is in art and offerings include performing arts; they're also involved with PAAM – and this particular year – the 8 seniors just didn't want an art class. Kim continued saying that there is also technology and they have art, music, violin, and they have so many opportunities – so many things that we're giving them. She has teachers saying that there's not enough time. We hope that they are getting a well-rounded education and she also agrees that a lack of high school art is disheartening.

Beth said that none of these reductions is because of money and she feels that as we grow – classes will be added.

A woman in the audience said that she'd like to see more marketing for the Provincetown schools. It seems as though the schools should step it up and encourage more people to live here.

Beth said that we are in the process of forming a task force to do just what the previous woman suggested. Part of that is to market us, but we still can't say that we're an IB school until we're fully qualified.

Lory Stewart said - because of delay with the tuition agreement – could we postpone our vote on the budget?

Tom Coen said that we still need a vote.

Beth said that we have to present the budget on January 30th to Fin Com and BOS.

Sharon Lynn, the town manager, said that if the tuition rate comes out higher – then we may have to change the budget. Any increase to the school budget would mean looking at all department budgets and reassessing the budget.

Beth said that she feels that any negotiation of the tuition agreement will need to be made face-to-face. Dr. Hoffman (Supt. of Nauset) wants to meet with a PSC member; Kerry and Lory volunteered.

Lory S. said that on the 5th of January she and Kerry attended the Nauset School Committee meeting.

Lory said that Nauset was adamant that the cost was fair. They also said that the figures for Truro would have to change once their long term agreement had expired. Dr. Hoffman cautioned that Provincetown needs to have an agreement to assure seats for our group. They seemed to want us and they would like to open up the regional agreement with Truro, too. They definitely want Provincetown at the table. They reiterated that they are being accountable to their towns. Their constituents felt that Provincetown should be paying the same pupil cost.

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

Cass said that she's not focused on the tuition rate and she just wants to make her decision on what will be best for our children.

Beth feels that we shouldn't have dollars added to our rate that Truro didn't have added to theirs. Further, Beth said, when Nauset decided to change their hours, they didn't even consult Provincetown to ascertain how the change might impact our school. Also the CIP added to the tuition formula rankles.

Lory opined - if they decided to let us in – that is not a one-year process – they could put CIP on us and we would have no voice. Where will it stop? She's personally annoyed by the fact that our children are being held hostage.

Kerry – as long as we have children at Nauset – we have to pay – period.

Beth said that we don't have to have an agreement that's cast in concrete.....and now you always have an option because there is Monomoy. She also said that the enrollment problem we have is Cape-wide.

Kim said that they just received 6 different grants for writing, etc. - we have to get out the word that the schools are vibrant. She cited an artist, Pasquale who just came in and worked with the K group. We also have great ties with Seashore Point – with the soup kitchen – and we’re making wonderful connections.

Kerry asked - when will we actually become an IB school? Ans: Sometime the end of March we will have visits, etc. and the IB coordinators will make recommendations – so primary years program will be the next school year – around this time – we’re just about 4 months behind that for the middle years program.

Kerry said that Sturgis is the next nearest school for IB – he understands about making cuts but he would hate to lose people that we need for another year.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved by all for adjournment.

Adjournment happened at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on _____, 2012

Shannon Patrick, Chair