



## **Provincetown School Committee Meeting**

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

**Tuesday  
January 24, 2012  
5:00 p.m.**

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

**Members Absent:** Shannon Patrick

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

### **AGENDA**

The meeting was opened by Cass Benson at 5:03 p.m.

### **Public Comments**

There were none.

### **Minutes: January 17, 2012**

They were not ready for distribution to the PSC.

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

#### **▪ Negotiations with Nauset Regional**

Since the last meeting, Lory & Beth met last Friday morning at 7:30a.m. with Dr. Hoffman and a member of NRSC. Nauset has made a counter proposal which was an improvement in terms of cost. We are predicting sending 26 students to Nauset next year. Lory made a passionate and persuasive presentation on why we should not be paying the \$198 add-on for capital improvements. Dr. Hoffman plans to present our position tomorrow

night to the Nauset RSC. Both Nauset proposals have included the 5.3% override increase with understanding the 2.5% limit would begin with this agreement.

Lory and Beth will be meeting with them again this coming Friday morning. Beth said that their consistent statement is that their towns expect that we would pay close to what they pay. They're under pressure for tuition rates to be close to what their town members pay.

Kerry asked if anyone looked at what the other towns are paying per student. He did and they're all in the 12Ks. Are they all on an agreement? Beth said the Regional Agreement states that every child has a per pupil rate – no matter which town they come from.

The 2½ % cap can't go higher if we sign the agreement but it can be lower. We won't know until they have a budget.

Kerry said that all the schools are pretty close. We are not yet deciding on an agreement with Nauset and/or Monomoy and Beth said that we have enough money in the budget to pay for this.

Lory said that we want to see what comes out of their meeting. Beth said whether or not they are as persuasive as Lory was in presenting our position, remains to be seen.

Lory said that they realize that we're pretty adamant.

Kerry said that he's surprised that they are offering a multi-year agreement. He was also pleasantly surprised that we may have 2 advisory seats (non voting) and they will accept that, at least, temporarily.

Lory did think that we might want to consider going into some agreement that would expire when Truro's agreement expires. She's sure that Truro is watching what we do, too, but she's not sure that Truro would want to be at the table along with us. June of 2014 is the date to consider as it is the same time that Monomoy will be opening.

Lory said that Beth told them that they didn't consult us when they changed the school hours. That was another thing that came onto the table. This

change definitely added cost to us and was not an insignificant amount. Had we had a voice at the table – our position may have been considered.

▪ **Pre School Developments**

Last week both pre-schools were located in the other side of the library. We have now moved the older children (4 and 5 yr olds) into a classroom. They have to go up and down to go to lunch but not to the bathroom or specials. They've taken over the PTV room. We are expecting in March – about 3 more 3 year old students. We anticipate that we will hire additional staff and the cost of additional staffing would come from the revolving account. There are 2 adults in each class at all times so there is always someone ready to escort the children.

▪ **Visit by BOS and Town Management**

The BoS, Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, COA Director and Assistant Directors of DPW and Recreation toured PHS last week. They had a visit and spent over 2½ hrs touring this building and then touring VMES. It was fun showing them around and was a nice experience. They were impressed and enthusiastic. In the future we'd like to invite the BoS and the FinCom to school events so they get a better sense of what is going on.

▪ **I.B. Next Step**

We have 3 major policy requirements for I.B. that reflect I.B. Philosophy. They are: a new mission statement, a language policy, and an assessment policy. These policies require participation of teachers, community members, parents, and school committee. We will begin working on them this week and anticipate completion in May. Included in the packets are drafts which will act as guidelines for our work. As they are worked on, everyone will get a good sense of what I.B. means and values as well as a good sense of where we are going.

**Unfinished Business:**

**FY-13 Budget Adoption**

The budget is basically the same as we've seen before.

Kerry asked – the positions that are being cut - do we know if we are going to lose people from these positions. Beth said that's possible.

Jamie asked about the longevity. Beth said that after a certain number of years employees get a certain stipend added to their salary. The amount depends on the employee group.

**Motion: Move to accept the FY13 budget.**

**Motion: Jamie Kryszkiewicz Seconded: Kerry Adams      Vote: 4-0-0**

Kerry said that he feels we're betraying some people who - a few years ago - stood by us when we had a problem and asked them to not insist on a raise. He hates to lose good people from the cuts we are making. Beth said that Shannon feels similarly. To make a decision like this is not easy. Beth said that it's not the only alternative but in her opinion is the best alternative.

Cass is buying the argument that we are being cost conscious but she thinks it's a skinny budget. She's concerned about the continuity of the school.

There is only one person cut to .40 and there's a reduction of one paraprofessional FTE. If we need to hire additional personnel we would use whatever discretionary money is in the budget. For example - we have money in the budget for science equipment and that's discretionary - maybe Beth and Kim will assume more responsibilities and not fund stipends.

**Paraprofessional Evaluation Proposal-2<sup>nd</sup> reading**

This has been negotiated with the PAE. It's the same kind of format that we've talked about in other evaluations. There will also be a new job description for paraprofessionals that compliments this.

**Motion: Move to accept the Paraprofessional Evaluation Proposal.**

**Motion: Kerry Adams      Seconded: Lory Stewart      Vote: 4-0-0**

**New Business:**

**January Report-Student Enrollments**

Beth said that we are about to begin marketing Provincetown schools. It's a competitive process of finding kids but we're going to begin to do that especially now that we have something to market. We are the only school with a violin program which provides the instruments - and, also the I.B. program. We have many avenues of working with the community at large so we're putting together a group of people to work with us. We need to tell people that Provincetown is the place to be.

Beth thinks families are changing; in addition to traditional families we have non-traditional families with children and they are growing.

Cass attended a group and met a guy who was told that his kids would have to go to Truro because Provincetown didn't have schools. His 2 children attend Provincetown and he is very happy.

There are a lot of the bad experience stories which are old. Kim says that we're in her year 3 and Beth said that we are now ready to market ourselves.

### **PSC Comments**

Lory said that – we have the Wee Care and the pre school in this building now and she doesn't know where we stand but maybe we should think about giving all of VMES back to the town.

Beth responded that there are a lot of positive things in having the pre-school here. It's delightful but there are challenges. Having been through the VMES you would never know that it had been a school. In answer to Lory's suggestion – we wouldn't have any room to expand - so that's Beth's hesitation in giving up the VMES.

Lory suggested - just find out if the town is even interested in having that idea.

Kerry Adams had an issue with an English class opportunity that was missed by some students.

Adjournment happened at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on \_\_\_\_\_, 2012

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