



Provincetown School Committee Meeting

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

**Tuesday
December 18, 2012
5:30 p.m.**

**Members Present: Kerry Adams, Cass Benson, Jamie Kryszkiewicz,
Shannon Patrick (arr 5:52 p.m.), and Lory Stewart.**

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Cass Benson, Vice Chair.

Public Comments

There were none.

Minutes: December 4, 2012

Motion: Move to accept the minutes of the December 4th meeting as amended.

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

Superintendent's Update:

▪ JAFFS Framework

A letter was received from Gail Browne, Chair of the John Anderson Francis Family Scholarship Committee. In it Gail and her committee suggested changes that would have to go through Probate Court since it deals with a will. She and her committee would like to have a stipulation added that – for anyone to receive a scholarship – they must have finished their last year of middle school in the Provincetown School System and that the scholarships be limited to the residents of Truro and Provincetown.

Jamie had questions about Truro with the qualification that 8th graders have to finish here in Provincetown?

▪ Pre School Personnel Change

Sandra Bostwick is retiring and is currently on leave. We have a substitute in her stead but will be interviewing a permanent replacement; we hope to have the new teacher in place by January 2nd.

▪ **Playground**

The playground retaining walls have been completed. The installer will be here tomorrow and stay through the week end. We're hoping (weather permitting) that it will be done within the next couple of weeks. The Town has asked Beth to get a quote from local contractors for extending the fence of the playground.

▪ **Asbestos Removal**

We weathered hurricane Sandy very well but during the last Nor Easter a piece of exterior gym window became dislodged and landed atop a sub roof. The material was determined to be asbestos and we have had it removed. Beth feels that it's a warning that something has to be done about the gym windows. You will observe later – in the Capital Improvements Plan - that we're trying to solve that permanently in order to make the gym a more viable shelter. (The windows don't open and are vulnerable and unnecessary.)

Unfinished Business:

Cost Proposal for Design, Bidding & Construction

Mark Almeda from Mark Almeda Architects, P.C., presented his proposal to the PSC for the repair of the high school building. He was the unanimous choice of the interviewing committee because of his extensive background in historic preservation and his very successful completion of the Town Hall and Public Library in Provincetown. There were 3 companies who were invited to interview for the repair and Mr. Almeda was chosen because of his extensive exterior stone work.

He did have unpaginated hand-outs which detailed the costs contained in his proposal. He spoke in a very soft voice but seemed to answer all the questions that the PSC had for him.

He continued by saying that because there have been some delays, we're slowly running out of time. He'll actually be removing stones from the building and we'll do it in enough places to guide us.

He also spoke about opening up the roof as well and said that – for each one of these tasks he'll be coming down here to supervise – so part of the cost is his driving down here, i.e., travel time, etc.

Kerry Adams asked - is problematic weather built into the cost? – Ans: No, that would have to be adjusted.

The last few pages of the proposal are just back-up material, i.e., cost estimates, engineering services, etc.

Beth said that she had met with the Massachusetts School Building Authority and they encouraged her to apply for funds for boiler and roof replacement. She wondered aloud - if we use their money for the roof - when we go to hire a clerk of the works – do we have full range of hiring those people if we get the money from them for the roof? Mark knows that we've applied for funds from other agencies - but that would entail invoices from the contractor. Mark continued - at this point it's good that you don't have the grant.

Beth said that the plan is to temporarily repair the roof and then replace. Mark said that he'll tell them how he wants it done.

Kerry said that he thought it was a pretty good explanation - same as the presentation.

Beth said that the next thing is that we negotiate a contract with help from town counsel. She also said that we should decide as soon as possible – whether we want this proposal or not.

Motion: Move to accept the proposal dated December 18, 2012 from Mark Almeda.

Motion: Kerry Adams

Seconded: Cass Benson

Vote: 5-0-0.

FY-14 Budget Presentation & Discussion

The original draft budget was presented a couple of weeks ago. At that time, Mr. Donovan from the Finance Committee, requested that we have some comparison of the high school costs – thus Beth and Betty White used FY10 because that was the last year that we had the entire cost of the budget including the high school and compared it to this year's budget where we have no high school.

We basically decided that 77% of the expenses would have been the high school and a lot of these expenses were things that we have to pay whether we have a high school or not, i.e., heat, lights, etc.

We do have reduced fixed costs because we're out of the Veterans Memorial Community Center (VMCC). Also, it's globally known that high school grades are far more expensive than elementary grades.

The next thing we did was to look at the change of personnel - so in FY10 we had 57.5 people – and now we have 39.1 FTEs – this is a reduction of 32% in personnel. These are savings that have already occurred. That's why people who expected a dramatic decrease in personnel – didn't get it.

Beth is disappointed that Tom and Doug are not here but she will e-mail it to them.

After the revamped budget presentation, the PSC then requested yet another way to present the figures. They would like the tuition charges for Nauset and Lower Cape Cod Tech listed on the first page of the budget in order that the citizenry might see the costs which are entailed in busing children out. Too, the budget represents 40 high school tuitions for next year. We currently have 13 8th graders.

Also, we have 5 new 9th graders that we didn't have last year.

Cass asked - what happens when we go over budget? Beth said that we'll try to find other money in the budget.

The general opinion of the PSC is that every time another student is added (in the high school range) they would suffer additional tuition charges.

Every line item seemed to be questioned but Beth and Betty will be going back to the drawing board to restate the same figures in a different way.

A big problem from the PSC was the lack of music and art. The administration felt that this lack would be made up by the addition of Spanish to the curriculum. Also there are after school programs for the arts (if children choose to attend them).

Cass said – our teachers are down – the lack of music contradicts what everyone says that you need. Beth replied - we're losing a lot of time because we have added Spanish so that's another special that they have – thus, there's a lot of enrichment built into their day.

Jamie said – so the children only get art – once/week for 45 minutes. Beth said that she saw mini piñatas that the kids made in school and they were beautiful.

Again, after school there is art, media instruction, music, etc. but the kids have to opt to take it as a middle school program - so the younger children can't take part in this.

Jamie would like to see artists donate their time. Kim said that this is what the Academy wants but the need hasn't been met as yet.

At this point almost every line item dealing with personnel was questioned. Nancy Flasher next came under discussion. Nancy has been middle school and high school so she's been full time and now she's .4 and .6.

Cass feels like we're chipping away and she challenges all this and feels that we're going down to bare bones. Beth said that this person spends a lot of time on supervision – but – is it essential.

Kerry asked – is that part of her profession – that's really not what she's here for.

Kim said a para-professional would normally be the person to be put in that position.

Beth said that she was trying to get to 2½ % which includes a 2½ % pay increase.

Cass - repeating what had already been said – stated that we have to highlight the problem - it all has to be separated because we can't keep decimating the budget if more high school students keep coming in.

Cass wants to see the tuition change depicted and when it relates to the high school tuition. So the tuition change from FY13 to FY 14. Lory feels the same way. One of the reasons that it goes up so much next year is that it's all four grades.

Beth – as weary as the PSC – said so we should bring closure to this discussion. There's a reduction in the cafeteria staff and the rest - we're adding a second color copier so the ink for this is more expensive. We have 5 copiers and we are actually turning one of them in. Also our contract expense will go down.

Kim said that the next thing coming up is common core where we are going to have to update – and that’s the money that we’re recycling over to the new curriculum that we’re going into. It’ll be math for next year.

Lory then asked about field trips. Why the increase?

There will be a reduction in technology because we’ve completed our computer leases.

Lory asked - did you recycle the seniors’ laptops and give them to the 4th grade? Ans: Yes. Also, when do you anticipate updating the Mac lab? Kim said - the lab isn’t used as much so we’ll have a bit longer shelf life.

Lory feels that the front page has to have the differences in tuition, etc. laid out. The reality is that we have very few discretionary funds so this is the first time that we have all four grades going elsewhere.

Beth said that on January 18th there will be a public meeting for the final budget discussion.

New Business:

CIP-5 Year Projection

The Town Hall wanted to know what we anticipated needing for the next 5 years. This is a good thing to do...so this is what is left of the 5 year plan that we started to do.

The first priority is the heating system at PHS which will be a 2-stage process. The second priority is the fencing around the rear of VMCC and the third priority will be the fencing on the north side of PHS. Fourth, we would like to deal with the gymnasium windows elaborated on earlier in the minutes and finally, the irrigation system for the PHS lawns.

The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) has money for some of these. They don’t know if they have a program to get rid of the gym windows.

Kerry asked - what about FEMA? Beth said that she will check that with Brian Carlson. Most of FEMA coverages will put in shades and shutters but this assumes that there are windows. MSBA said that they would talk about our boiler. They also deal in a “statement of interest” (SOI) whereby they match money.

Beth asked the PSC if there were other improvements that they think might be on this list. We pass this on to management and they put it into a bigger pile.

Cass can’t believe that this list is so short.

Kerry asked - where do we go with the building maintenance? Beth said that town manager is working on a maintenance schedule for all town buildings.

Lory asked – when will you hear on the SOI? Beth doesn't know but she was advised to get the requests in early.

Beth said that two men were here to determine if we owe back any money from the original renovation. – The answer is no - as long as we keep children in the building.

Motion: Move to go into Executive Session to discuss possible legal implications and to adjourn the public meeting and not return to it at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

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

Adjournment happened at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Gaudiano

E. Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by Shannon Patrick, Chair on January 15, 2013.