

**Town of Provincetown
John Anderson Francis Family
Scholarship Committee
Meeting Minutes of
Tuesday, May 29, 2007
Meeting Room A**

Chairperson Gail Browne convened the meeting at 4:05 PM noting the following members present: Gail Browne, Mary Ann Cabral, Olympia Ciliberto, Phil Gaudiano and Bill Schneider. Alternate member Eleanora Irving was also present.

Public Statements: Hillary Bach Davis expressed her opinion that the goal of the Scholarship Committee should be to award scholarship requests submitted by all students who graduate from Provincetown High School.

Superintendent of Provincetown Schools Jessica Waugh stated her support of the graduates of 2007, all of whom should be eligible for scholarship awards.

Dr. Pavao, Provincetown High School principal, stated he believes in rewarding academic excellence.

Deborah Lee Ambroseno, graduate of Provincetown High School Class of 2006, stated her class worked very hard and their efforts should be recognized.

Calendar and Guidelines: Chairperson Browne stated there is a discrepancy between the revised Calendar and Guidelines with respect to residency requirements of Provincetown/Truro students.

Mr. Gaudiano spoke about the Calendar and Guidelines revision, which he authored in 2005. Mr. Gaudiano believes the dispute regarding residency was resolved in 1985 by the Provincetown Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Cabral pointed out the Will of Ms. Francis does not specify residency.

Ms. Ciliberto stated there has been extensive research completed by members of the Scholarship Committee during the last year to confirm the long-standing practice of awarding scholarships to students who attend Provincetown High School irrespective of their residency. This research has produced documents that support the fact that since 1997, students who reside outside of Provincetown and Truro, but who attend Provincetown High School, have been awarded scholarships.

Mr. Gaudiano stated that legal counsel has supported the position he has taken to award scholarships only to students who live in Provincetown and Truro. The alternative for the Scholarship Committee is, in his opinion, to have the Board of Selectmen amend their earlier decision. He stated he continues to believe only residents of Provincetown and Truro should be eligible for the scholarship awards.

Ms. Browne confirmed the results of the research she and other members of the Scholarship Committee had completed. This research confirmed from 1997 through 2005, 100% of "School Choice" scholarship applicants have been awarded scholarships from the Scholarship Committee.

Ms. Ciliberto stated her concern that the Scholarship Committee must be consistent with the long-standing past practice established.

Ms. Cabral commented that Town Counsel's most recent opinion (May, 2007) was ambiguous and open for interpretation. As a compromise, she suggested the Committee might consider returning to the long-established practice as they approach the awarding of scholarships for 2007 and revisit the issue surrounding scholarship awards for 2006 with the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Gaudiano suggested the Committee clarify the residency requirement concerns and have the Board of

Selectmen, as trustees, amend the guidelines for the Scholarship Committee to follow. He requested to revisit the Committee's Statement of Purpose.

A discussion ensued regarding the previous opinions of Town Counsel regarding this matter. Ms. Browne revisited the wording the Will of Cecilia Francis.

Mr. Gaudio stated he believed that Provincetown and Truro residents attending Provincetown High School are the only students who should be eligible for the scholarship awards.

MOTION: Move to follow the long-standing past practice of awarding scholarships to all students of Provincetown High School who apply for a scholarship.

Motion by: Mary Ann Cabral; **Seconded by:** Olympia Ciliberto; **Yea:** 4 **Nay:** 1 (PG) **Abstain:** 0

Discussion regarding the opinion of Town Counsel ensued. Mr. Schneider commented that the first opinion from Town Counsel was provided before all of the information had been presented.

MOTION: Move to award scholarships to the six "School Choice" scholarship applicants from the Provincetown High School Class of 2006.

Motion by: Mary Ann Cabral; **Seconded by:** Olympia Ciliberto; **Yea:** 3 **Nay:** 1 (PG) **Abstain:** 1 (BS)

Discussion ensued regarding how the scholarship awards would be funded. Ms. Browne confirmed that a total of 21 students graduated from the Class of 2006. Of the original 15 scholarship applications awarded, 10 have returned paperwork and had scholarships processed, which provided funding available through the end of the current fiscal year. The six students who were now eligible for 2006 scholarships would be contacted to provide paperwork in order to receive their scholarship awards.

Ms. Browne revisited the concerns regarding the amended Calendar and Guidelines.

MOTION: Move to strike the reference on the revised Calendar and Guidelines dated August 29, 2005, which adds a reference to residency requirements for students attending Provincetown High School.

Motion by: Gail Browne; **Seconded by:** Olympia Ciliberto; **Yea:** 3 **Nay:** 1 (PG) **Abstain:** 1 (BS)

Gracien Scholarship Update: Ms. Browne stated this scholarship has been absorbed into the JAFFSC fund.

Minutes from May 16, 2007 meeting:

MOTION: Move to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2007 JAFFSC meeting.

Motion by: Olympia Ciliberto; **Seconded by:** Bill Schneider; **Yea:** 4 **Nay:** 0 **Abstain:** 2 (MC, PG)

New Business: Ms. Browne presented an invoice from Scholarship America in the amount of \$270, representing the fee for processing scholarship applications for the Provincetown High School Class of 2007.

MOTION: Move to approve payment of the invoice from Scholarship America in the amount of \$270.

Motion by: Gail Browne; **Seconded by:** Mary Ann Cabral; **Yea:** 5 **Nay:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

Ms. Browne confirmed that the Merrill Lynch investment representative would like to schedule a meeting with the Committee to discuss investment options in July. The dates agreed upon are either Tuesday, June 24, 2007 or Tuesday, July 31, 2007.

Executive Session: The Committee met in Executive Session to review the scholarship applications submitted by students graduating from the Class of 2007.

MOTION: Move to award the 18 scholarships for the Class of 2007, as approved by the Scholarship Committee on May 29, 2007.

Motion by: Bill Schneider; **Seconded by:** Mary Ann Cabral; **Yea:** 5 **Nay:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

Chairman Browne stated she would notify the six School Choice scholarship applicants from the Class of 2006 that their scholarships will be awarded upon receiving proper documentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 PM.