

**PROVINCETOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
PROVINCETOWN HIGH SCHOOL
ELMER I. SILVA LEARNING CENTER
12 WINSLOW STREET
PROVINCETOWN, MA 02657
TUESDAY, February 11th, 2014**

Members Present: Liz Lovati, Anthony Brackett, Cass Benson, Kerry Adams (Left 6:25), Shannon Patrick

Members Absent:

Others: Dr. Beth Singer, Superintendent
Kim Pike, Principal

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30

2. Roll Called: (See above)

3. Public Comments: None

4. Minutes:

Dec 17th

Motion to accept the minutes of Dec 17th as printed:

Motion: Cass Benson **Seconded:** Liz Lovati **Vote:** 5-0-0

Dec 19th

Motion to accept the minutes of Dec 19th as printed:

Motion: Anthony Brackett **Seconded:** Cass Benson **Vote:** 5-0-0

Jan 21st

Motion to accept the minutes of January 21st as printed:

Motion: Anthony Brackett **Seconded:** Cass Benson **Vote:** 5-0-0

Jan 28th

Motion to accept the minutes of January 28th as printed:

Motion: Cass Benson **Seconded:** Anthony Brackett **Vote:** 5-0-0

5. Superintendent's Update

5.1 Exterior Renovation

At today's meeting our frustration with the weather was shared by all. Our progress has been stopped by cold and precipitation. The expectation is that March 15th may be a reasonable date for completion.

5.2 IB Visitation

As you know the IB visiting team was here for 2 full days of meetings with students, teacher, community members, and staff. Kim will update you on what happened:

Kim Pike: Thanks to the PSC for your participation, one of the things they cited was the involvement with the school committee and community is great. Overall they went through the different places of the application and look to see they have physical evidence that everything is happening. Went through with myself and Nancy Flasher, started with positives and went to constructive criticism. The extra half year we gave ourselves was the right thing to do, we came out of it in a cohesive manner, and the visiting team saw that. We won't know until May or June. We can receive 3 different responses – One is “Approved” and we move forward with implemented. Two is they have concerns and they would approve us but with the intention that within a year we would have our concerns addressed. Three is they don't feel there's enough evidence to move forward as verified MYP program and they would give us another few years to come up to speed.

Shannon Patrick: They gave us constructive criticism; did you feel that there was something that might hold them back from verifying us?

KP: No, I didn't think there was anything glaring.

Beth Singer: One of the things they said to me was “You must know this is an amazing place”

KP: Last thing they said to Nancy and I was that the students and subject area teachers shined. They said that we have a lot to be proud of here, to think about where we were 5 years ago and where we are now. It's exciting to hear somebody recognize that who hasn't known us.

Anthony Brackett: It's nice to have professional educators come from somewhere else come and say such positive things about the work you've done.

5.3 Parent Nights

The Special Education parent Advisory Council has engaged two speakers to do workshops for parents. On Thursday, March 6th Jill Mays will be presenting a Motor Development workshop, and on April 3rd, Cindy Horgan will be presenting a workshop on childhood behavior and temperament.

5.4 Community education

We've offering a second sessions of class. We'll be having fewer classes, but this is our first time offering a separate session in the spring. Next year might try to make it to a graphic book and do a mass postal mailing, which may actually be cheaper than advertising in the banner.

6. New Business

6.1 PTV Sound issues

Kerry Adams: PTV has said that it's hard to hear us, is there any other place we can meet?

Discussion ensues of possible other options for meeting places or recording methods.

6.2 MSBA Eligibility Period, Attachment A

The Massachusetts School Building Authority has a specific timeline we need to follow if we want to get reimbursed by the state. If we follow their timeline you can get reimbursed 50% for what you spend on the Feasibility Study and Construction. Part of the requirement is that we need to have the money appropriated for the feasibility study, which would be in the neighborhood of \$300,000, which includes hiring an OPM, engineers, plans etc.

AB: Don't like that the timeline requires that money to be appropriate at town meeting, but it does fall within the town's decision to do regular maintenance and upkeep since this is a town building.

KA: And also with the town's commitment to better energy standards.

BS: We also need to form a building committee by April 3rd.

LL: Will be good to let people know at town meeting how much we'll save with a new heating system and solar energy.

BS: If we invest in a feasibility study we then have to go back to the town and ask for the money for construction.

Motion to follow through with MSBA eligibility and requirements and initial compliance certification

Shannon Patrick Cass Benson 5-0-0

6.2 Nauset Tuition Agreement

I sent the proposed agreement to Ed Lenox, and he said it looks favorable for Provincetown. Asked him if it limits our options. It doesn't, if we decided to have some agreement with Monomoy for instance, we could do that. I asked about the tuition agreement with Truro, and he replied that it would probably be lower but with a higher rate of increase per year.

AB: What would happen if we offered 9th and 10th grade

BS: The agreement is only for students we send, so if we only send 11th and 12th, we only pay for those students.

LL: Could we work on having Truro students come here for MYP, and possibly 9 and 10?

AB: Seems as though Nauset didn't negotiate in good faith, that we were told that they wanted to have the same rate for everyone.

Kerry Adams leaves at (6:25)

AB: Could we offer a tuition agreement to Truro?

BS: Truro is looking for a new superintendent, so there might be some negotiation possibilities.

LL: There are a lot of Truro parents interested in IB

Motion to hold of accepting tuition agreement until we know what the tuition agreement is with truro

Motion: Anthony Brackett **Seconded:** Cass Benson **Vote:** 4-0-1

6.3 Study Skills Options

Anthony Brackett: I'd like to propose a study skills class be offered or make it part of a class already in place, because it's something we assume students have, but many students don't.

Discussion of best avenue for this to happen, ages, classes, etc.. Further discussion of continuing parent involvement and education to help with homework and study skills including parent and student training on how to best use technology.

AB: Would like to request as this happens (discussion about implementation and possible offerings) that the administration reports back to the school committee.

6.4 Recent Banner Article

Anthony Brackett: Recent front page banner headline reads "School stumbles on construction bid." I think we're at a point where when the Banner has such a negative article the school committee should respond with a letter to the editor. That this is an old issue, it was a small misstep based on bad information, which we owned and knew about, and happened months ago. The timing also puts the school in a negative light right before we present our budget.

CB and SP: Sports teams are also not being covered.

AB: We'll send the banner a schedule of games and a letter to the editor.

Motion to send letter to editor to banner with edits.

Motion: Anthony Brackett **Seconded:** Liz Lovati **Vote:** 4-0-1

7. PSC Comments

AB: Big thanks to Kim and Beth and all the faculty and staff for the thorough preparation for the IB visit. We appreciate all the work.

CB: Thanks for the budget presentation and the Board of Selectmen and Finance committee for listening, asking good questions, and for their understanding and support.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn to executive session, not to return to regular session

Motion: Anthony Brackett **Seconded:** Cass Benson **Vote:** 4-0-1

9. Executive Session

Respectively submitted,

Ben Williams

Approved by the School Committee on March 11, 2014