

**PROVINCETOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
PROVINCETOWN HIGH SCHOOL  
ELMER I. SILVA LEARNING CENTER  
12 WINSLOW STREET  
PROVINCETOWN, MA 02657  
TUESDAY, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014**

**Members Present:** Kerry Adams, Cass Benson, Anthony Brackett, Shannon Patrick

**Members Absent:** Liz Lovati,

**Others:** Beth Singer, Superintendent

Helena Ferreira – ELL/Spanish Teacher

Beth Francis – Kindergarten Teacher/PYP Coordinator

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

**2. Roll Called: (See above)**

**3. Public Comments:**

**Beth Francis:** Announcement of, and invitation to, the culminating event for a unit of inquiry in Kindergarten; using literature music and the arts to talk about creative expression.

**Sean Patrick:** The reason I'm here with you is a new inaugural event we're hoping to make annual. A bridge for students here to connect to a global economy. One way's to do that is through a connection with a 4 year college. I sit on Suffolk University board of trustees, and we're proposing to forge a connection with Provincetown Schools MYP. This would include a trip to Suffolk University for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders with a mock college classroom, talking about options for financing, etc.

***Sean Patrick presentation on "grit"***

Part of the reason I shared that is the idea of education being a marathon, you need perseverance, i.e. there will be a lot of obstacles of going forward, but you can be gritty about your choice.

**Beth Singer:** Why 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade? Because that's primetime, because raising expectations in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and have huge effects for high school saying, "ooh I want to go there," through high school.

**SP:** Even the university has never done this, it's new for them too because they don't work with middle school students.

**Anthony Brackett:** My experience in teaching though a variety of situations – in the middle school years, that's where you lose kids. It can be a dangerous time, and the more you can keep tabs on them at that age, the better off they are going to be. Is Suffolk prepared to offer what we're looking for? We don't want to scare the students - are they on board with catering to middle school?

**SP:** I have one of my favorite professors tailoring a mock undergraduate session, there will be a tour, it will be inquiry based, etc. And we're going to be inviting parents, and

everyone will have a connection with an admissions officer, and a career counselor. We've been working hard on that.

**Cass Benson:** I think it's great, it can be really abstract for kids when we talk about college, so it will be great that they'll actually be able to see it.

**SP:** Next step would be to bring this to the PTA and sending a letter home and getting people on board.

**AB:** I wonder what the teachers who are here think.

**Helena Ferreira:** Sounds great, it can be intimidating to a 12<sup>th</sup> grader, so I worry about overwhelming them, but I'm comfortable with the way you're thinking about it.

**Beth Francis:** I also hear 5 and 6 year olds talk about what they're going to be when they grow up, so that's a dialogue they're always having. Hope there would be a trickle down effect from the older students, since we're all here in one building.

**BF:** On the heels of this exciting project our children are doing, the preschool has been working on an animal welfare projects, and we've decided to raise fund for a Project Samana in the Dominican Republic.

#### **4. Minutes March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**Motion to accept the minutes of March 11<sup>th</sup> as printed.**

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

**Motion to accept the Executive Session Minutes of February 11<sup>th</sup> as printed**

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

#### **5. Superintendent's Update**

##### **5.1 Town Hall Art Exhibit**

Yesterday the students had an event at town hall, you'll notice when you go to town meeting that they cover and back of program are designed by our students and their art is on exhibition at town hall.

##### **5.2 School Play**

Peter Pan will be this weekend, April 4, 5, 6. There are about 25 students in the cast and another 10-15 working behind the scenes. The 4<sup>th</sup> graders recorded a plug on WOMR and PTV this past week.

##### **5.2 Exterior restoration**

Down to three unfinished items

- The outside of the auditorium still needs to have some painting done, we can't do that until we have 2 or 3 days of warm weather
- The main columns on front entrance have minor work at the bases, that also requires warm weather
- The louvers on the exterior are on order and we expect their deliver soon

Predicting all the costs going forward, we will have \$300,289.86 - That should be our final accounting

### **5.3 MSBA funding feasibility study**

We will talk about this at special town meeting. We are progressing with meeting their requirements. We're up to date, our next deadline is Thursday when we have to have a listing of all the members of the school building committee, those people are:

Me, Beth Singer (One member has to be MCPPO certified – I am on the waiting list to get trained in May)

David Gardener

Tony Brackett – School Committee Member

Kim Pike - Principal

Carissa Silva – PTA Member

Eva Enos – PTA Member

Tom Donegan - Board of Selectmen

Eric Larson - DPW

Ann McGuire – chair of the charter commission

I've invited a member of finance committee who was unable to confirm so I also invited Stan Kowarsky from the Finance Committee

And someone from the town building committee

### **5.4 Anticipated Vacancies**

*Letters of resignation from 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Val Valdez and Music Teacher Eleanor Lincoln*

We're also advertising for part time Spanish teacher for middle school and a receptionist

### **5.5 April 3<sup>rd</sup> presentation by Cindy Horgan**

There will be a presentation on Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 on Temperament and Behavior. There will be free pizza and childcare.

### **5.6 Direct Communication**

I would like to let the world know I don't do social networking, twitter, facebook, etc.

Anyone is free to call my direct line at the school: 508-487-5206, or e-mail me.

Everyone's e-mail at the school is "firstinitial" "lastname" @provincetown.k12.ma.us so I can be reached at [bsinger@provincetown.k12.ma.us](mailto:bsinger@provincetown.k12.ma.us)

## **6. Unfinished Business**

### **6.1 Annual Town Meeting**

Article 2 is PK-8 and Nauset tuition combined, instead of separated as we had wanted it so it's important that on town floor we do our best to clear it up

Funds for charter schools come out of state aid – so they represent a loss or revenue to the town rather than an expense

We have two slides and will try to provide the rest of the slideshow as a handout.

### **6.2 Special Town Meeting**

Article 6 this will be to approve \$300,000 for the feasibility study – We have \$300,000 remaining from the current renovation project. The fin comm did not vote to recommend this, nor did they vote to not recommend it. If article 6 gets approved, that money will be transferred.

About 1.2 million was how much spent, this was the first major project in this building since 2002 when there was a renovation. In 2002 when they did a renovation they replaced the windows and redid floors and the rest was mostly cosmetic – no infrastructure repair or upgrades. Those upgrades were in the original plans but were taken out because of financial reasons. (The heating system for instance)

Fixing the heat here is really about saving money, not spending it, because we're burning up fuel and the system cannot be controlled, it's simply on or off – we could save \$20,000 to \$30,000 per year in heating costs. We're the highest consumer of fuel in town – in order to meet green community status progress we need to do this, and the idea is also to install solar panels – the town is actively seeking green community grants.

**CB:** Could we sit down with finn com before this to go over it with them?

**BS:** I'll give them a heads up about what's left in the exterior budget and lay it out

### **6.3 School calendars**

This new calendar reflects the changes we talked about at our last meeting

Negotiations start tomorrow and this is a top priority so that you can pass a calendar asap.

## **7. New Business**

### **7.1 Field Trip**

***Discussion of overnight field trip June 4-6 to heifer international overlook farm in Rutland, MA***

**Motion to approve the overnight field trip to Overlook Farm**

**Motion:** Cass Benson **Seconded:** Shannon Patrick **Vote:** 4-0-0

## **8. PSC Comments**

**Anthony Brackett:** It's not okay to post personal information on social media. If you need to address it something with a family at school, you pick up the phone and call the school. Peter Pan is a pretty great thing, if you believe in fairies please make an effort to come down. Cindy Horgan is very interesting, your child doesn't have to have any issues per-say to get a lot from her presentation. Very sorry to see Eleanor Lincoln go, it will be hard to replace her, she's grown the program greatly since she's been here.

**Shannon Patrick:** I'd like to echo Tony's statements about Val and Eleanor, their enthusiasm was appreciated and will be missed.

**Kerry Adams:** Thanks to Sean and PTV

## **9. Adjournment**

### **Motion to adjourn**

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

Respectively submitted,

Ben Williams

**Approved by the School Committee on May 20, 2014.**