

**Provincetown School Committee Meeting
Veterans Memorial Elementary School
Library Media Center – Room #73
2 Mayflower Lane
Provincetown, MA 02657**

Tuesday
February 16, 2010
5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Kerry Adams, Peter Grosso, Carrie Notaro,
and Deb Trovato.

Members Absent: Shannon Patrick

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

Public Comments

There were none.

PSC Student Rep Comments

Students were excused due to school vacation.

Minutes: 12/16/2009, 1/19/2010

Motion: Move to approve the minutes of the Dec. 16th meeting as amended.

Motion: Kerry Adams **Seconded:** Deb Trovato **Vote:** 4-0-0.

Motion: Move to approve the minutes of the Jan. 19th meeting as amended.

Motion: Kerry Adams **Seconded:** Deb Trovato **Vote:** 4-0-0.

Superintendent's Update:

• **Step up Day**

Dr. Singer explained "Step up Day" as being a day when Truro sends their students to Nauset and then to Provincetown on another day so that they can experience what school would be like in either of those two places. A great deal of effort is expended in making the visiting children feel welcome and enticed by all the offerings that Provincetown schools have.

Provincetown Long Point Middle School

Kim Pike said that she has designed the brochure "Long Point Middle School" along with a core team of middle school teachers who decided to change the school day a bit. "We wanted to have them get a feel for the middle school we're creating." It was an active day experience that we tried to make exciting. Among others, we had Nancy Flasher for

academy; Laurie Welch did graphing; and someone from the Center for Coastal Studies explained the importance of the harbor's health, and the children even walked away with something they made – pencil holders. It was a way to get them to start team building activities. Mary Ann Campagna also gave a talk about mentoring younger students. It was a very pleasant busy day.

Kim said that she saw a lot of smiles and heard great things from the children. She also made an open invitation to anyone from the community to come in for a tour. There were 17 children who came in for the Long Point Middle School experience which, as Kim described, is still in the embryonic stage. It is being developed with input from a group of interested teachers – and also needing input from parents on what they'd like to see. They want children to have real world experiences and learn through the environment.

What is proposed is very personalized and it is hoped that those involved will feel as one with each other and the community.

Beth said that this is a match for this community and she wants the schools to work for and with the community; she encourages everyone to come and see how the school works.

Some of the PSC had questions about how all of this will work with blocks of time, lunch hours, mentoring, etc. This is still in a developing mode and in a “stay tuned” type of development.

BOS, Fin Com meetings

Beth gave the PSC an update on the February 8th meeting with the Board of Selectmen (BoS) – unfortunately the meeting could not be called a joint meeting because the PSC didn't have a quorum but it went nicely with the BoS voting to recommend the School budget.

On the following day the School Department went before the Finance Committee and also received their vote to unanimously recommend the budget. Beth was very happy with the outcome.

FY-10 Financial status

A detailed memo was handed out regarding the *Mid Year Financial Statement Review FY 10*. Basically many questions were asked and satisfied by Beth. Kerry had one question at the end of this presentation: “Are we in trouble?” The answer was an assuring, “No, not at all.”

Unfinished Business:

Job Descriptions – 2nd Reading

- **School Nurse**

Motion: Move to accept the School Nurse job description as written.

Motion: Deb Trovato Seconded: Kerry Adams Vote: 4-0-0.

- **Adm. Assistant to the Superintendent – Human Resources**

Motion: Move to accept the Ass't to the Supt. – Human Resources as written.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Deb Trovato Vote: 4-0-0.

New Business:

Student Trip – Carol D'Amico

There was no update.

Job Description – 1st Reading

- **Adm. Assistant to the Superintendent - Business & Finance**

New harassment, bullying, hazing policy

The Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents recommends having a policy due to the suicide of high school students who are the victims of bullies. There is no current policy relative to bullying.

Again there were many questions, i.e., to whom are these infractions reported, how are the incidents documented, etc. The school has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Police Department and because of this both groups would be involved with any instances of bullying.

As for documentation, cyber bullying leaves a trail readily accessible. The policy extends to behaviors outside of school, so that - even if it doesn't happen here – it is still subject to our jurisdiction.

This policy will eventually be part of the student handbook. Peter asked about a possible "he said" "she said" accusation. Beth and Kim both agreed that they are skilled at determining the truthfulness of an accusation.

On page 6 of the policy the person receiving the complaint was discussed and it was decided that it should be someone in an administrative role. This would mean that if the case were disputed, it could be appealed to the Superintendent.

PSC Comments

Carrie Notaro reported on the Friday, February 5th fund raiser for Haiti night. She felt it was a huge success that perhaps could be repeated in the future.

Deb Trovato wondered about the handbooks. She'd like to receive it in sections so she can go over it. Kim is currently working on it. She'll have a better timeframe in the near future and also stated that there haven't been a lot of changes.

Peter Grosso asked about graduation and said that people have been asking him about a tent and wondered if we are doing it again this year? Peter felt that there should be some sort of an emcee who would announce, i.e., our valedictorian, Ann Jones, will now be speaking, etc. Peter even suggested that it could be the Class President. Kim said that it's a smaller class this year.

Kerry Adams wondered about the next meeting of the Recreation Department. He asked because he had coordinated a recent evening at the K of C building for catechism and confirmation children. It was simple with popcorn, movies, and, in general, great sociability. He received phone calls from the parents the next day thanking him for the great time their children had. He wondered why we couldn't do something like that – perhaps - once a month up here. Kerry would be happy to throw his name in for chaperone and perhaps the church might opt to underwrite it. Carrie volunteered to speak to Brandon Motta regarding the Rec group joining in orchestrating some of these happenings.

THE NEXT TWO MEETINGS OF THE PSC

MARCH 2ND AND MARCH 23RD

same time – same place

(Note: They're 3 wks apart.)

Executive Session:

- Discussion Non-Union Contracts

Adjournment happened at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on March 2, 2010

Peter Grosso, Chairperson