



School Committee

Provincetown School Committee Meeting

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

**Tuesday
September 21, 2010
5:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Peter Grosso, Chairman, Kerry Adams, Cass Benson,
Lory Stewart and Shannon Patrick (arr. 5:15pm)

Members Absent: none

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

AGENDA

Public Comments

There were none.

Welcome Cass Benson

Cass was welcomed by all members of the School Committee and thanked for offering to fill in the vacancy on the committee.

Introduction New Staff

Kim Pike took over the introductions of the new staff:

Eleanor Lincoln who originally trained as a classical violist is a recent graduate of UMASS and will be a music/theater teacher for grades K-8 and on up.

Amy MacAvery has been engaged as the district receptionist and comes from the Needham Public School System. She was an original stay-at-home mom and lives in Brewster.

John Vosburgh has been engaged as a Title I math teacher and comes to us from Pennsylvania where he was in an early intervention program.

Melissa Yeaw is a teacher who was previously here and just finished her studies at Emerson for documentary film making. She will be a technology teacher and is a media specialist.

Nathalie Ferrier who couldn't make tonight's meeting will be our French teacher and graduated from the MA College of Art and Design.

Janice Paine is in the infant toddler program and delights in sometimes singing toddlers to sleep.

Beth said it's particularly nice to create spaces for new people and create energy and life. It's an opportunity for all of us and we appreciate all their experiences.

The "new kids on the block" were welcomed by all and told they were welcome to stay for the entire meeting but could leave if so desired. They all left.

Minutes: Sept. 7 2010

Because the minutes were just received by the PSC, the following motion was made:

Motion: Move to table the minutes until the next meeting.

Motion: Lory Stewart Seconded: Shannon Patrick Vote: 5-0-0

Superintendent's Update:

BOS Meeting 09/13/2010

Beth thought it was wise and courteous to share her meeting with the PSC. She met at the BoS' request to talk about plans for the school buildings. She explained to them that they were a little bit ahead of us and she shared the current plan: K-8 will move into the high school building and that Wee Care and PreSchool will remain at Veterans Memorial Elementary School (VMES) and this will be a PSC decision. Beth continued by explaining her thinking on why she would recommend this to you. This building is bigger, in better condition and offers us room to expand. The young kids have the playground at the VMES and it's not moveable but could be duplicated. She felt that since the front lawn of the high school would be inappropriate - then probably a piece of the parking lot could be utilized for a replicated playground.

The other basis is the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) which is the organization that can decide on whether the grant for over \$3M that was given to the high school would have to be paid back; the grant for VMES was for only a

bit over \$1M. We may have to pay something back - in any event we have to give the MSBA 6 months to decide on a settlement. Perhaps we should put this on our October meeting agenda.

Peter said - not so much for their approval - but they do tell us how much money we would have to give back. The BoS was probably looking for a timeline and they were very supportive. The move probably wouldn't be until 2013.

Beth said that if we were thinking 2012 then we'd have to accelerate our timetable but we can have a plan that doesn't take effect until 2013.

Peter proposed a probable scenario – maybe children would choose to leave for the last 2 years and we would have the high school sooner rather than the later projection.

MASC/MASS Joint Meeting

Beth reminded the PSC that a workshop for new committee members will be held on November 3rd thru 6th. New members are invited to participate.

Wee Care in Provincetown

Enrollment in Wee Care is at 11 children from 6 weeks to 3 years of age.

Peter asked, “Will they be here for the whole school year?”

Beth said that as they age into pre-school, we're hoping for that.

Enrollment Update

We have 32 pre-schoolers – aged 3-5. There are 31 high schoolers and the rest through grade 12 numbers 126 – as of Friday. This building feels a little empty but we'll do a little work around that. We have 5 new staff people and we're enthused.

New Business:

MCAS Presentation – Amy Rokicki

Amy made her presentation and gave out hand-outs. She explained that some of our classes have less than 10 students so - in these classes - the scores read N/A so it makes it hard for us to assess. Kerry wanted to know if the data for under 10 students would be available? Short answer: She has no data on any under 10.

To sum up the presentation it proved that our scores still remain underwhelming. The hand-outs re-enforced that with a few gains in certain areas. According to Amy, the data was truly not very helpful because most of the comparisons are in

larger schools and we just don't have enough students to get this. The conclusion was that we actually didn't see a whole lot of improvement. Amy concluded by saying, "It wasn't our best year."

Pet Emergency Shelter Proposal for VMES (1st reading)

Brian Carlson, Health Inspector, went to Massachusetts website regarding the clean-up after using a facility as an animal shelter. The information he obtained was basically about disinfecting after shelter use by using bleach solutions, etc. Brian said that he was representing the BoH at this meeting. Also the risk of bites and injuries, fleas and ticks, etc. Quoting from the Mass response, we're looking at hard surface areas. Opinion from the state is that there is a risk from bites, etc. but all other risks are manageable. The state was very positive.

Candace said they would plan on putting up a snow fence to mark an outdoor bathroom area for dogs. Cats would stay in their crates. The only animals outside would be the dogs.

Kerry, our insurance man, asked about the bite risk – "Who takes responsibility?" Candace said that in MA law it's the owner's responsibility. When pets enter the pet section they need to read and sign an agreement to that end. That will be in place.

Lory thanked the group for all the information and said that she's learned a lot about it. She felt that we need to have a pet shelter if we ever want to get disaster relief. She did notice that 2 rooms – pet registration, etc. are carpeted. She wondered "What will you do about that?"

Candace said that the BoS approved a pet emergency fund and one thing we can do is to put rubber mats down on top of the carpeting and if that isn't viable, then we'll change our plans. She indicated that she has raised and appropriated monies but indicated neither how much was in the coffers nor the amount that all this would entail.

Lory also worried that since Harwich is the closest shelter; we could be inundated with pets. On the fleas & ticks subject, she was also concerned about Lyme disease.

Candace said that if an animal arrives with that problem it will go directly into the vet and be treated. If an animal arrives without documentation of inoculations, it will be vaccinated and quarantined.

The discussion went on for quite a while with the following motion being made:
Motion: Move to allow the Pet Emergency Shelter Proposal for VMES to proceed to the next level – a definitive plan.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Peter Grosso Vote: 4-0-1 ab (SP)

Unfinished Business:

Peter Grosso wants a generator for the high school. He's not worried about a storm in August; he's thinking about a storm in January and/or February and the possibility of having pipes freeze. Beth will look into getting estimates which would probably cost in the neighborhood of \$60K.

Job Descriptions

District Principal's Adm. Asst.
District Receptionist

Out of deference to a couple of members who were out of the loop at the last meeting, it was rectified with the following motion:

Motion: Move to table approval of the job descriptions until the next meeting.

Motion: Shannon Patrick Seconded: Lory Stewart Vote: 5-0-0.

Michelle Crone letter of 9/8/10

Disabilities Commission

The above was yet another letter in support of the Animal Shelter. The Chamber of Commerce also sent in a support letter. It was jokingly stated that about the only committee who hadn't been heard from was the Historic District Commission.

PSC Comments

The only comment was from Kerry who thanked the PSC for putting up with his absence during the past weeks.

Adjournment of the regular PSC meeting happened at 6:45 p.m.

Executive Session:

Discussion with respect to Collective Bargaining

Discussion with respect to Special Education BSEA hearing

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on October 5, 2010

Peter Grosso, Chairperson