



School Committee

Provincetown School Committee Meeting

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

**Tuesday
December 7, 2010-Pearl Harbor Day
5:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Kerry Adams, Cass Benson, Peter Grosso,
Shannon Patrick (arr. 5:22p), and Lory Stewart.

Members Absent: none

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m.

AGENDA

Public Comments

There were none.

Minutes: November 9, 2010

Motion: Move to accept the minutes of the Nov. 9th meeting as amended.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Lory Stewart Vote: 4-0-0.

Unfinished Business:

PSC Policy: Facebook & Social Networking IJNDD 3rd Reading

Motion: Move to not consider the Facebook and Social Networking Policy because it is punitive and doesn't have the right content.

Motion: Lory Stewart Seconded: Kerry Adams Vote: 4-0-0.

Peter Grosso said that this is similar to a 1st reading so we'll consider Lory's policy as a 1st reading.

Motion: Move to amend the motion on the Facebook and Social Networking Policy and consider the rewrite by Lory Stewart as a 1st reading.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Lory Stewart Vote: 4-0-0.

Beth Singer said that there is an article in everyone's packet referring to the above subject.

PSC Policy: Administering Medicines to Students JLCD 2nd Reading

Beth said that all the typos had been corrected and the policy is now in its final form.

Motion: Move to accept the policy on Administering Meds to Students.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Cass Benson Vote: 4-0-0.

New Business:

Bullying Plan Presentation

Dr. Singer requested that this discussion be postponed as she is not prepared to discuss it; she also requested that it be put on the December 21st agenda.

Motion: Move to table the Bullying Plan Presentation and put it on the agenda for December 21st.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Lory Stewart Vote: 5-0-0.

Beth also reminded the PSC that the bullying plan has to be completed and filed by December 31, 2010.

Overnight Field Trip Request – Boys Basketball Team

Coach John Hanlon

Coach Hanlon said that on January 14th there will be a "no school day" due to a professional development day. The team has been invited to play in The Putney School in Brattleboro, VT and then will stay in the dorms at the school. They have a game in Lexington the following day which will begin at 4:00 p.m. The Activity Bus will be used for transportation.

Motion: Move to approve the overnight boys' basketball team field trip.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Lory Stewart Vote: 5-0-0.

**Re-appointment to the John Francis Anderson Scholarship Committee
and Town Scholarship Committee**

Motion: Move to reappoint Gail Browne to both the above mentioned committees.

Motion: Shannon Patrick Seconded: Kerry Adams Vote: 5-0-0.

FY-12 Budget Proposal and Discussion

This was a comprehensive budget presentation given by Superintendent Singer and Business Manager, Betty White. The 2012 budget proposes that K-8 will be housed in one building – the high school building. The exceptions are for the pre-school and Wee-Care programs which are to remain in a segmented VMES building.

It was also felt that the High school is too empty and thus not a good learning environment for children. It was pointed out that maintaining two buildings was wasteful. Dr. Singer pointed out that too many of the staff have been traveling back and forth between buildings and this, too, is a wasteful scenario. It was hoped by the administration that this budget would be transparent so that everyone could understand it readily.

Lory Stewart said to Beth - when you talked about goals last summer and we asked about goals - we really haven't done that and Lory feels that goals drive fiscal planning.

Beth said that she was referring to setting goals for herself and this budget is a reflection of her recommendations.

Lory then asked, "Has anyone looked at other alternatives?"

Beth said, "This is my recommendation of what is best for education."

Lory said that she was just asking for clarification.

Shannon Patrick asked, "Does this include renovations to this building?"

Beth also said that we don't have concrete funding amounts from the state. Tom Coen, Chair of the Finance Committee, said that we have to wait for the proverbial "cherry sheets" to know what our funding amounts will be. The cherry sheet gives us our revenue and subtracts school choice from the amount.

Kerry Adams asked “What do you get for the money for the IB program? How long does it take to become an IB school?”

Answer: Depends on where you start – like getting a master’s program. The fees continue every year – unless we cease to be an IB school.

Then computers were discussed:

Lory asked about getting laptops for the children and said that you might think of getting these sooner rather than later. There is no better way to teach than for students to have their own ipads and/or laptops. It’s really almost an inconsequential amount of money.

Beth said the 18 computers referred to in the budget are the replacements for the nine year old computers that the teachers have.

Lory said that her school found that students benefit by getting involved in grade 4; grade 3 students have hands that are too small.

Finally the cost of tuition of high school students to Nauset was discussed. Beth doesn’t have the Nauset tuition rate at this point. Again, the budget is a subject that has to be fine tuned as the material becomes available. Right now the tuition is \$11,728.

Cass Benson then asked, “What does the transportation cost?” Answer: It’s under transportation but we don’t separate it out.

Special Ed - currently Beth is acting as the special education director and we’re considering combining the special education secretary with the administrative assistant Beth thinks that one person can do both jobs.

Peter asked - you’re talking about combining the spec ed and secretary – does this require some kind of a degree? Answer: “No – they just have to know how to run the software.”

The total appropriation for FY12 is \$3,166,987. This gave the PSC all the figures necessary to go home, study the budget, and have their questions and/or approvals ready for the next meeting on the 21st.

Shannon was upset that there is no library planned for the VMES. Beth said that the library is too big for little people. Shannon doesn’t want to give it up.

Questions:

Peter – upon learning of the proposed reconfiguration said - so if and when the town takes over the VMES – there will be no commingling?

Shannon wanted to know why we need a guidance counselor for so few students?

Kerry Adams asked Beth to seek out Lory to ask her for ideas about the cost of computers. Beth said that was a very good suggestion.

Lory asked, “Is the pre school self sufficient or do we pay?”

Beth said that the pre school is not self sufficient. Wee-Care is funded partly by us and a revolving account that is acquired thru fees.

Lory - how many pre schools for next year – Ans: about 10 or 12.

Lory - \$65K for building maintenance – what for? Ans: fixing things. Lory wants a capital improvement line.

Beth reporting on the inspection of the high school said that the building needs pointing done. Lory asked about the sand bags in the front of the school. Ans: necessary to prevent rain from going into the basement.

Peter on the generator for the high school. Beth said that we would spend as much money rewiring for a small generator as for a large generator. Peter said that Napis has a roof generator.

Projected choice budget. We anticipate having less money in choice and so Beth has tried to make the budget reflective of that.

Lory pointed out that benefits included in the educational packages do not reflect the health benefits which – at this point – are a split of 80/20 with the town paying 80% and the existing employees and retirees paying 20%.

Cass asked, “If VMES is not used for a school any more – then do we have to repay for our renovations? Beth responded – if we have to pay anything back it will be for a part of the building that we don’t use. It’s impossible to predict as there is no pattern. It would be somewhere between 21 and 33 %.

Peter Grosso's said that his "gut instinct" is that you just got this budget and you might want to go home and look at it. We should go over this. One thing is that all this is predicated on the system coming into the one building and this would be his option - having all groups in it.

Shannon said that if we can't find 5 feet for a generator – where would we put a playground?

Kerry said isn't the playground at the VMES going to be used and Beth said to move it doesn't make sense.

Shannon was worried about the kids going outside to play in the playground – what would they do at this building? She was told that it was only a 3 or 4 minute walk to the playground.

Lory pointed out that your school enrollment numbers reflect that the largest numbers are in grades 3 and 4 and then the numbers start to decline. I don't understand why you can't use the annex and then why not turn this high school building over to the town?

Beth said that according to outsiders who are evaluating this building – the COA relocated to this building would not be easily accessed by the elderly. She doesn't disagree with all that Lory says but neither does she agree.

To put the entire matter to rest, the following motion was made:

Motion: Move to have the high school building used as the primary building for all school grades.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Cass Benson

Vote: 3 in favor – 2 against (LS & SP)

January Meeting Schedule

Beth proposed that January 18th and January 25th be the only two January meetings and then February 3rd – that would mean 3 Tuesday meetings in a row and all convening at 5:00 p.m.

PSC Comments

Lory commented that we have 29 Provincetown students who are choosing to Truro; have we done an exit survey to see why they're choosing to Truro? We'd like to get those students back. Twenty-nine is a lot of students and if an exit interview hasn't been done – she'd like to find out why they chose to leave.

Beth said we know their names – but we don't really know them. Asking families why they left didn't go well.

Peter said that previous administrations did this with disastrous results. Kim said that the exit interview procedure is now in place.

Kerry asked - what about the two students who left because of bullying? He was told that the newspaper article didn't tell the entire story.

Adjournment happened at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Session:

Discussion with respect to collective bargaining

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on December 21, 2010

Peter Grosso, Chairperson