



School Committee

Provincetown School Committee Meeting

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

**Tuesday
November 9, 2010
5:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Kerry Adams, Cass Benson, Peter Grosso,
Shannon Patrick, and Lory Stewart.

Members Absent: none

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

Peter Grosso, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

AGENDA

Public Comments

Candace Nagle rose to ask how many people in the audience of at least 70 of her supporters were in favor of a pet shelter. All her supporters were in the affirmative.

Minutes: October 5, 2010

Motion: Move to accept the minutes of the October 5th meeting as written.

Motion: Kerry Adams **Seconded:** Peter Grosso **Vote:** 5-0-0.

**Teacher Presentation: Nancy Flasher
Community Project Service**

Nancy Flasher, one of the teachers and also a coordinator of the project, introduced the “Community Project Tuesdays” (CPT) to the gathered group. The CPT projects enable students to go to a variety of places in the community and to broaden their horizons. Nancy said CPT celebrates the community and serves the community. For example we’ve visited the National Seashore and have done cranberry picking, visited the Soup Kitchen in Provincetown (SKIP), visited the AIDS Support Group (ASG) and we’re looking forward to meeting people who serve in the Peace Corps, Americorp, etc.

The middle years program is focused currently on having children create a guide to Cape Cod.....also Intel thinking strategies are being taught. Just this coming Friday a group will be going to Boston to take part in a film festival.

Kerry Adams asked if these programs will happen throughout the year? Nancy said that there are 5 of us working together and planning for happenings for each week. Also the students will receive credit for the course.

Nancy Flasher suggested that if people are interested in having more information they can go on the school’s website which will give them the entire story. The CPT emphasizes rigor, relevance, and relationships.

The Provincetown School Committee members were all enthused about CPT.

Motion: Move to change the order of the agenda and have the Pet Emergency Shelter hearing heard now in deference to the large number of people in the audience. (Some were in SRO spots.)

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

Pet Emergency Shelter **Attachment: D**
(In your Readings see letters of support/Leave No Pet Behind Bill)

Candace Nagle introduced many of her supporters. Some of them were Brian Carlson, the Health Inspector, Carol McDonald, founder of CASAS, Ruth Ann Cowing, Dog Officer, David Gardner, Assistant Town Manager, and a myriad of others. The letters of support were mentioned which numbered about 40 and also the many, many town boards who had expressed support for this idea. Candace felt it was important for the school committee to see just how strong the community support has been.

Brian Carlson did have a site visit with Diane Brown, Regional Coordinator, and she was very enthusiastic.

Candace informed the school committee that former President Bush signed into law the requirement for towns to include pets in their emergency shelters. Failure to do so could result in loss of FEMA reimbursements for emergencies. She continued, "An emergency shelter for pets is a government requirement and we could lose a lot of funding."

Shannon Patrick then asked Candace if her talk was a Q and A or a presentation? Shannon thought that Candace was going to do research and then she thought there would be a definite presentation. Shannon had questions, i.e., who are the vets and are they voluntary or what?

It was determined that many of the questions previously asked were thoroughly answered in Attachment D and, therefore, a presentation was not necessary. There is \$4,900 in a fund which will pay for crates, cleaning supplies, etc.

Shannon had quite a few questions mainly regarding security, visitation, shots, etc. Part of the packet contained MA Dept. of Public Health's informational paper which was revised in April 2007 and had a disclaimer at the bottom of the first page which advised people to consult with their own attorneys for legal advice.

In regard to walking the dogs, Candace assured the audience that she had plenty of volunteers who would walk the dogs, if owners could not. Also anyone coming in without documentation of any rabies shots would have to put their dogs in isolation and there is room for 297 dogs in isolation.

Lory Stewart reminded Brian Carlson that he had stated that people said the VMES wasn't an appropriate spot and the high school was the only plausible place. Also she asked Brian if he were aware that the town is about to spend \$150K to assess the town-owned buildings. Mr. Carlson replied that he must have been misunderstood. He did not intentionally say that PHS was more appropriate.

Peter Grosso said that the \$150K study is to determine the structural integrity of the buildings not their use. Lory felt that we should wait to determine the best location.

David Gardner said that there is no plan to move the location of the shelter at any time soon. He feels the VMES is O.K. and there is no reason to delay this plan as

of right now. David also said that we can always revisit the issue if the future warrants it.

Lory quoted from an e-mail from Candace which stated that no carpet should be contained in the pet shelter area. Peter laid that to rest by saying that rubber roofing was suggested and the entire area in question could be covered with one large piece.

Kerry Adams felt that the plan was well laid out.

Motion: Move to allow the VMES to proceed as an emergency animal shelter.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Cass Benson

Vote: 3 in favor (Peter Grosso, Kerry Adams and Cass Benson) and

2 against (Shannon Patrick and Lory Stewart)

Noisy applause broke out from the audience.

Superintendent's Update:

PHS Generator Quote

Attachment: A

Dr. Singer said, "As you recall the PSC raised the issue of not having a generator at the high school and the fear of frozen pipes should a winter storm leave us powerless." I received a rough estimate for a generator with the capacity of 800 amps for the entire building at \$42,950. She continued, "Are you interested in pursuing this for the current budget?"

Peter G. said that he is not interested in all of this; he's only interested in keeping the heat on and to do that you can get a generator for 3 or \$4K - that's all you'd need and also the kitchen should be on the generator. Peter wants a price for just what he suggested.

There was a question of keeping the school open in an outage.

Beth said that there have been times when the power has gone out and we've been able to keep the VMES going throughout the outage because that school has a generator.

David Gardner said, "We've been working on a grant and it is for a generator for this building. We need a structural analysis of the building and that is in progress.

So - as far as we know - FEMA is holding that money for us - again the structural analysis comes first and then our grant application can move forward.”

Kerry asked, “So is it prudent for us to hold off on the generator until you see if we get the grant?” Also Kerry mused – can we get a generator that suits our needs and then get a reimbursement when the grant comes in. David said that the grants don’t play that way – either we wait or spend out of pocket. David also said that he started the grant over 2 years ago and we’re just now closer to closure.

Peter – moving back to his 3 or \$4K idea said that the town electrician can tell you just what size generator you need to keep the heat only in the building..

Lory asked - why would you do that – this is a public building – if you have a real big need why wouldn’t you really outfit the building.

Kerry said - if it’s going to be paid for - why don’t we wait. Cass said – why don’t we just start out with what is needed minimally and the discussion became cyclical. Even the antique generator used to power our trailer town hall was considered as a possible freebie until it was found that it was the old, old generator from the town hall and not terribly reliable. Mr. Santos, our newest Selectman, said that it may be made available as surplus.

Parent Workshops

The school has a series of professionals coming in to talk with parents on a set of topics. The first workshop was on “setting boundaries” and in January we’re going to host how to talk to your children about disappointments. There will also be a workshop on December 9th at 3:15 p.m. and all interested parties are more than welcome. Another one of the titles will be “How to survive winter on Cape Cod.”

New Business:

FY-12 Budget Planning

Attachment: B

This attachment was a proposal of meeting dates for budget deliberations. The schedule follows:

Tuesday	December 7, 2010	#1 Budget Presentation to PSC
Tuesday	December 21, 2010	#2 Budget Presentation to PSC
Tuesday	January 18, 2011	Public Hearing
Tuesday	January 25, 2011	Budget Adoption

Tom Coen, Finance Committee Chair, said that he was talking to the Finance Director and he's working on a 5 year plan and he's hoping that this will be a document that we will be able to use to give better guidance to the department heads. Beth said that she was waiting for the town to have a model for school departments to follow.

Tom continued by saying that if the legislature would be able to pass condo rentals and tax revenues – the projection is \$480K and we actually have only one month to base this on - July which is a peak month.

Beth asked if the PSC had any special directives for her? Peter said that he will have them for the next meeting.

**PSC Policy: Administering Medicines to Students JLCD 1st Reading
Attachment: C**

This policy is the lengthy replacement from the BoH and it covers everything related to medications. All typos found will be changed and will be ready for the 2nd reading.

Unfinished Business:

**PSC Policy: Facebook & Social Networking IJNDD 2nd Reading
Attachment: E**

Lory, once again, opined that this policy seems negative and it defines social behavior that could be entitled “common sense.” She also said that a good policy cannot be rushed or pushed and certainly shouldn't be punitive.

Peter Grosso asked Lory Stewart if she thought that we should craft our own policy. Beth said that she thought of it as protecting the teachers and asked if Lory could help her see where it is punitive. The following motion was made:

Motion: Move to table the 1st and 2nd reading of the above policy until it's researched and reworked. Committee members are invited to bring suggested language changes.

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

**PSC Policy: Bullying Prevention JICFB 2nd Reading
Attachment: F**

This policy was also a model from the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents.

There was a problem with this policy, too. Lory pointed out the directive that the investigation of the problem must be completed within fourteen school days from the date of the report - if you get to the 15th day – then what? Beth responded you would have to document what the delay was and have a reason for it. Also the definition of a school day would be the problem and would require definition..... so, anyway, change the 14 school days to 14 work days.

Motion: Move to accept Attachment F with the aforementioned changes.

Motion: Kerry Adams Seconded: Cass Benson Vote: 5-0-0.

Job Description: District Principal’s Adm. Assistant 3rd Reading

Attachment: G

Beth said #21 has been left open to accommodate negotiations which are about to begin. Currently the work load is 180 days (school year), plus 10 days before school opens and 10 days after school closes, plus 80 hours in July and August. As part of the negotiations, Beth plans on increasing that time. It is now defined as a 10 month job. The position really needs more time and consequently more money.

Lory said that she thought that #3 had been modified to read Microsoft office and any other office software programs adopted by the district.

Motion: Move to approve the Adm. Ass’t position listed above to include the corrections we made at today’s meeting.

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

PSC Comments

Peter Grosso mentioned the new light at door H-04. There is one set of lights and there’s another one coming in.

Shannon Patrick asked what you are doing about the track. Beth said there is a student working on a track design.

Kerry Adams said that he was amazed with the people who showed up for the pet shelter. He said he counted and there were about 70 in the audience. Also he would like to keep in touch with the town about the generator which might be good to be used temporarily.

Lory Stewart talked about the community projects and Mr. Hanlon’s past shell fish projects with students. She said that she and John Santos have taken over the

grant and we may be very interested in having a group come to observe our work as part of the CPT.

Julia Perry, a relatively new resident of Provincetown, wants to know what she can do to help the schools. Before she retired she used to volunteer. She is a retired attorney from the Washington, DC area and would like to share some of her knowledge with the children. She was thanked and will be contacted in the near future.

Executive Session:

Discussion with respect to collective bargaining

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by the School Committee on _____, 2010

Peter Grosso, Chairperson