

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of May 11, 1999

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Members Present: Lois Borgesi (Chair), Frank Wills (Vice-Chair), William Rogers, Dana Berry

Members Absent: Adrienne Duncan

Others Present: Dr. Susan Fleming (Superintendent), Michael Marino (PHS Principal), parents and staff.

Chair Lois Borgesi called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

REGULAR SESSION

REORGANIZATION

Dr. Fleming took over the gavel and opened the meeting for nominations for the 1999-2000 School Committee term.

Frank Wills nominated Lois Borgesi for Chair, William Rogers seconded and it was so voted, 3-0, 1 abstain (Lois Borgesi), 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan) .

Lois Borgesi welcomed newly elected member Dana Berry to the School Committee.

William Rogers nominated Frank Wills for Vice Chair, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan) .

William Rogers nominated Adrienne Duncan for Secretary, Frank Wills seconded. Lois Borgesi suggested that Dana Berry might want to serve as Secretary. Lois Borgesi explained the duties of the Secretary. Mr Berry said he felt that Adrienne Duncan should be Secretary. The nomination was approved by a vote of 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).

VISITORS STATEMENTS

Lois Borgesi asked that each of three groups that had participated in the Goals workshop present their five-year goals.

Peggy Sheehan, Diane Racine, and Terese Nelson listed and explained each of their group's goals.

Lois Borgesi thanked the workshop participants for their time and work.

Paul Trainor spoke on the issue of school enrollment and suggested it should have been included on the list of goals. He also suggested that the school pursue the upgrading of the instructional buildings for a variety of reasons. He also suggested the School Committee include provisions for not meeting goals.

Peggy Sheehan responded, speaking on the issue of declining enrollment, that it was important to first guarantee that

the schools deliver a quality product.

Mr Trainor said that it was important to establish a realistic time frame for the goals, that five years was too long.

Ms Nelson praised the School Committee for their presentations at Town Meeting.

MINUTES

February 23, 1999 - *Frank Wills moved to approve with corrections, William Rogers seconded and it was so voted, 3-0, 1 abstain (Dana Berry), 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan) .*

March 9, 1999 - *Frank Wills moved to approve with corrections, William Rogers seconded and it was so voted, 3-0, 1 abstain (Dana Berry), 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).*

March 23, 1999 - *Frank Wills moved to approve, William Rogers seconded and it was so voted. On discussion, consensus was to postpone to clarify a motion made by Adrienne Duncan. Frank Wills withdrew his motion.*

April 13, 1999 - Postponed by consensus.

April 16, 1999 - Postponed by consensus.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Fleming welcomed Dana Berry to the School Committee.

Dr. Fleming presented the following:

- Parent Letter: School Safety Issues;
- Letter from Mrs. Cook thanking National Honor Society;
- VMES Newsletter;
- Grade 6 Trip Request;
- Press Release: School Safety;
- A Parent Information Assistance phone list;
- A notice concerning the upcoming National Honor Society event;
- A memo from Town Manager Keith Bergman concerning the Fiscal Realities and Facilities Report.

EDUCATIONAL UPDATE

Curriculum Update: Course Outlines

Dr. Fleming explained the creation of the Learning Standards database and how the staff has decided which learning standard will be taught in which grade(s). Teachers are in the process of reviewing the Learning Standards/Targeted Skills for which they will be responsible. The database will allow for easier subsequent changes in course outlines for each grade.

William Rogers asked how the Learning Standards address the different student levels in Math, i.e., the children that are not involved in a specific subject (algebra, for example). Dr. Fleming said that the general curriculum for each grade will have to include some element of each targeted learning standard. Dr. Fleming said that the School had the responsibility of offering the curriculum standards to each and every student, because they will be tested on these standards in the MCAS tests. Dr. Fleming referred to a legal obligation to teach to the standards.

Frank Wills asked what are the provisions, either at the State or local level, for the kid that just cannot learn a subject.

Dr. Fleming responded that the State is now expecting that each and every student (excluding SPED children) be exposed to the subjects in the standards. Dr. Fleming discussed the subject of differentiated diplomas.

Summer Institute - Dr. Fleming distributed a handout outlining the schedule and describing the National Faculty scholars who will be presenting at the Institute. Dr. Fleming suggested that the School Committee members meet with the scholars on May 17, 1999.

Other - Dr. Fleming discussed a recent workshop conducted by a legal firm on various subjects. She distributed a handout on Sexual Harassment. Dr. Fleming also distributed and discussed a draft of a 'Philosophy, Definitions and Protocol That Support a caring educational environment that values and respects each person, that is free from negative bias, and that is free from harassment and hate'.

Noreen Baring requested that agenda item 8.2, Crisis Protocol Plan: Draft, be moved up and discussed next.

Frank Wills made a motion to move agenda item 8.2 up on the agenda, William Rogers seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).

Crisis Protocol Plan: Draft - Dr. Fleming explained the Plan and distributed a Preliminary document, listing each building's Crisis Team and how each staff member should react in an emergency. Dr. Fleming asked that the School Committee review the documents and that it be on the next meeting agenda for final approval. Dr. Fleming said that though these are draft and preliminary documents, they will be considered in effect until the School Committee gives it approval.

Dr. Fleming discussed several upcoming meetings with parents and a emergency response trainer.

Noreen Baring questioned whether it had not been agreed that no decisions would be made until there could be a forum with parents. Dr. Fleming clarified that this was just a temporary draft, that the Administration felt that they needed to have something in place immediately until all interested parties could be consulted. Ms Baring said that a written policy should be established concerning instances where a student becomes violent at school.

Mr Trainor asked if the staff training would be from the local Police staff and Dr. Fleming replied that it would be probably be done by people outside the community. Mr Trainor asked how the training would be paid for and Dr. Fleming replied that she felt it would be funded by several sources, including the school and police.

Dr. Fleming mentioned a school policy in the Crisis Protocol Plan that refers to crisis management and that the School Committee might want to consider it for their own Policy Manual.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PSC Policies: IE, IGA, IGB, IGBE, IGBH, IGD - Second Reading

Lois Borgesi explained the Policy review and approval process.

PSC Policy IE, Organization of Instruction - *William Rogers moved to approve for a second reading, Frank Wills seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).*

PSC Policy IGA, Curriculum Development - *William Rogers moved to approve for a second reading, Frank Wills seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).*

PSC Policy IGB, Student Support Services Programs - *William Rogers moved to approve for a second reading, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).*

PSC Policy IGBE, Remedial Instruction - *William Rogers moved to approve for a second reading, Dana Berry*

seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).

PSC Policy IGBH, Alternative Programs -*William Rogers moved to approve for a second reading, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).*

PSC Policy IGD, Curriculum Adoption -*William Rogers moved to approve for a second reading, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (Adrienne Duncan).*

Other - None.

NEW BUSINESS

School Choice Participation 1999-2000 - Dr. Fleming explained this item. The School Committee discussed the open enrollment option. William Rogers said that he felt that there was a need to promote the district to the public. Frank Wills said that part of the problem was lack of "know-how" and mentioned that Ms Sheehan, who does have some abilities in marketing, might want to get involved in a promotion project. Dr. Fleming said that they have outreached to the media, but that the media is being selective about subjects they publicize. Dr. Fleming distributed copies of the Academy of Art, Science and Technology brochure and suggested the possibility of hiring a marketing consultant. Dana Berry suggested targeting their audience to those students who are considering school choice.

The School Committee discussed the type of students that have chosen Provincetown under the School Choice Program. In response to a question from Dana Berry, Dr. Fleming said that Nauset Schools are not currently interested in encouraging more of their students to attend other schools (except perhaps for SPED students who are in danger of becoming residential students). Dana Berry suggested it might be a general rule that students who are getting good grades are probably less likely to use school choice. Dr. Fleming said there were probably 10 to 15 kids who were no longer attending school at Nauset and might be interested in coming to Provincetown's Alternative Program. Dana Berry asked if, under school choice, a problem student wanted to come to Provincetown, would the school be obligated to take that student. Dr. Fleming confirmed that, yes, every student, regardless of history, would have to be accepted and allowed to complete their school experience at Provincetown or until age 22, whichever comes first.

Frank Wills commented on the merits of word-of-mouth advertising. Dr. Fleming said that they should get testimonials from students who have graduated and Lois Borgesi concurred. Dr. Fleming said she wanted to establish a data-gathering process for each student who attends or who has attended Provincetown schools.

Dr. Fleming commented that there have been threats at several other Cape schools, but not at Provincetown. Dr. Fleming said that Provincetown is one of the most drug-free schools around and that all the students get 'noticed' due to the high staff-to-student ratio. Lois Borgesi and William Rogers both said that their daughters felt very good about being in the Provincetown school.

Lois Borgesi clarified that if they did not take a vote, the district would remain in School Choice. *Frank Wills moved that the Provincetown School district remain in the School Choice Program for the 1999-2000 school year, William Rogers seconded and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent.*

Other- Dr. Fleming asked that the members of the School Committee and other participants review the material discussed in the Goals-Setting Workshop and return with specific recommendations for the School District Improvement Plan. Frank Wills and Lois Borgesi volunteered to participate in the sub-committee to review the material.

CLOSING STATEMENTS

William Rogers thanked Lois Borgesi for her work as Chair of the School Committee.

Frank Wills stated that response to the workshop had been positive.

ADJOURNMENT

William Rogers made a motion to adjourn at 9:28 P.M. and it was so voted unanimously.