

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

November 9, 1999

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Susan Fleming (Superintendent), Mr. Rokicki (VMES Principal), Mr. Marino (PHS Principal), Ms. Slivka, SPED Director, Nate Mayo (Student Representative from the Principal's Advisory Council), Rachel Crosby (Recording Secretary), parents, students and staff.

Call to Order: Chair Lois Borgesi called the Meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

REGULAR SESSION

VISITORS STATEMENTS

- Emily Anderson spoke concerning the results of the recent election of student representatives to the Principal's Advisory Council.
- Mr. Fox spoke concerning the Homework Policy (IKB), stating that the public has not yet had an opportunity to comment on the policy.
- Cynthia Lester requested that item 7.5, VMES Review of Staffing for Pre-K to 3rd Grade, be moved up on the agenda.

Chair Lois Borgesi stated that, in the interest of time, the procedure for this meeting would be to limit public comments to Visitors' Statements, rather than allow such comments during the School Committee's discussions on specific agenda items.

- Emily Anderson objected to any final approval of the Homework Policy without input from the public.

Dana Berry asked that he be allowed to reply to Visitor Statements. By consensus, the School Committee decided that such replies were not appropriate.

- Cindy Bowes spoke concerning the VMES staffing issue.
- Ms Trovato spoke concerning the VMES staffing issue recommendation.
- Ms Edwards spoke concerning the VMES staffing issue recommendations
- Ms Burns spoke concerning the VMES staffing issue recommendations
- Ms Lester spoke concerning the VMES staffing issue recommendations

- *Adrienne Duncan moved to take Agenda Item 7.5, VMES Review of Staffing - PreK to 3rd Grade, next, Frank Wills seconded and it was so voted unanimously.*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VMES Review of Staffing - PreK to 3rd Grade – Dr. Fleming referred to a staffing recommendation prepared by Mr. Rokicki and mailed to School Committee members. Dr. Fleming stated that she supported the recommendation. Mr. Rokicki explained his recommendation. The School Committee discussed the recommendation and Ms Slivka, SPED Director, voiced her support. Dr. Fleming explained the proposed funding mechanism. William Rogers commented on his visits to the VMES classes and recommended that other School Committee members make similar visits. Frank Wills also commented on his visits to the VMES classes. *Adrienne Duncan moved to approve Mr.*

Rokicki's recommendation for staffing at VMES as specified in his memo, William Rogers seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.

MINUTES

October 12, 1999, Regular Session – Adrienne Duncan moved to approve with minor corrections and changes, Dana Berry seconded, and it was so voted, 4-0, 1 absent (William Rogers).

COMMUNICATIONS

1. City and Town Newsletter, October Issue
2. Recent VMES Newsletters
3. PHS and VMES Site Council Minutes
4. Board in Brief Newsletter
5. Wastewater Facilities Planning Memo from Keith Bergman, Town Manager. The issue is the possibility that the Town may seek to use School property for part of the proposed wastewater facilities. Dr. Fleming will contact the Town Manager about this possibility and will report back to the School Committee.
6. Superintendent's Newsletter - first issue.

EDUCATIONAL UPDATE

Review of District Improvement Panel Workshops – Dr. Fleming stated that the feedback from participants has been positive. Dr. Fleming also reported that the National Faculty will be providing a site coordinator and that the hope was to reconvene the Panel on February 29, 2000. William Rogers expressed his discomfort at basing District performance strictly on data, cautioning against depersonalization. Frank Wills commented on the need to collect both quantitative and narrative data. Dr. Fleming said that she felt the focus in Provincetown should be on individual student progress, rather than on aggregate statistics.

Superintendent's Newsletter – Dr. Fleming reviewed the contents of the first issue of the Newsletter.

MCAS Update: State Workshop and Timeline - Dr. Fleming reported on the Workshop and on how the State would be reporting the 1999 MCAS scores. She referred to documents distributed to the School Committee members, commenting particularly on the State's long-term goals.

MASS/MASC Conference - Lois Borgesi, Dr. Fleming and Frank Wills attended the conference. Lois Borgesi reported on the proceedings. Frank Wills commented on the Share the Success exhibits, stating that Provincetown had exhibits from both the elementary and high schools, as well as one from the Academy.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Homework Discussion: District Homework Policy IKB – Dr. Fleming referred to a memo and accompanying proposed District policy, as well as more specific policies from both schools. The proposed District Homework Policy will be on the agenda for a first reading at the next School Committee meeting.

Vote on RFP for Building Master Plan – Dr. Fleming referred to and distributed a document showing how the screening sub-committee had ranked the bidders. *Dana Berry moved to invite the Maguire Group for a second interview with the School Committee, William Rogers seconded.* After discussion, *the School Committee voted 5-0 to approve the motion.* Dr. Fleming commented that the timeline may not allow for an article to be presented to Town Meeting.

School District Policies: 2nd Reading –

IIAC, Library Resources – *Adrienne Duncan moved to approve the policy for a second reading, Dana Berry seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.*

IIAE, Reconsideration of Instructional Resources – *Dana Berry moved to approve the policy for a second reading, Adrienne Duncan seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.*

IJ, Instructional Materials – *Adrienne Duncan moved to approve the policy for a second reading, Frank Wills seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.*

IJK, Supplementary Materials Selection and Adoption – *Dana Berry moved to approve the policy for a second reading, Frank Wills seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.*

IJL, Library Materials Selection and Adoption – *Dana Berry moved to approve the policy for a second reading, Frank Wills seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.*

IJL-R, Re-Evaluation (Weeding) of Library Resources – *Dana Berry moved to approve the policy for a second reading, Frank Wills seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.*

IJM, Special Interest Materials Selection and Adoption – *Frank Wills moved to approve the policy for a second reading, Dana Berry seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.*

IJOA Field Trips – *Dana Berry moved to approve the policy for a second reading, Frank Wills seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.*

IJOA-1, Field Trips – *Dana Berry moved to approve the policy for a second reading, Frank Wills seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.*

IJOB, Community Resource Persons/Speakers – *Frank Wills moved to approve the policy for a second reading, Dana Berry seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.*

IJOC, School Volunteers – *Frank Wills moved to approve the policy for a second reading, Dana Berry seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.*

IK, Academic Achievement – *Dana Berry moved to approve the policy for a second reading, Frank Wills seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.*

IKAB, Student Progress Reports to Parents – *Frank Wills moved to approve the policy for a second reading, Dana Berry seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.*

IKE Promotion and Retention of Students – *Dana Berry moved to approve the policy for a second reading, Frank Wills seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.*

IL Evaluation of Instructional Goals – *Frank Wills moved to approve the policy for a second reading, Dana Berry seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.*

IMA Teaching Activities/Presentations – *Dana Berry moved to approve the policy for a second reading, Frank Wills seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.*

IMB Teaching About Controversial Issues/Controversial Speakers – *Dana Berry moved to approve the policy for a second reading, Frank Wills seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.*

IMD School Ceremonies and Observations – *Dana Berry moved to approve the policy for a second reading, Frank Wills seconded, and it was so voted, 5-0.*

Town Article for Revolving Funds for State Wards – Dr. Fleming referred to a memo and accompanying document showing alternative wordings for the Town Meeting article. Dr. Fleming reviewed the process to be followed and discussed the alternatives with the School Committee. Dr. Fleming will research this issue further.

VMES Review of Staffing - Pre-K to 3rd Grade – discussed earlier in the meeting.

Update on Grace Hall Parking Lot – Rachel Crosby reported on the results of her research to-date. After discussion, the School Committee's consensus was to have Ms Crosby continue to research the issue.

Other –

- William Rogers asked about the Department of Education's rumored intention to classify 18 districts in Southeastern Massachusetts as under-performing. Dr. Fleming replied that she had asked the Commissioner of Education about the rumor and the Commissioner had replied that district classification would not occur until 2001.
- Dana Berry has prepared draft a superintendent evaluation and job description and submitted same to Dr. Fleming for her review. These documents will be discussed at the next School Committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Early Retirement Incentives for Teachers – Dr. Fleming discussed incentives offered in the past and recommended that there be incentives offered this year. She referred to and discussed a document, dated November 3, 1999, outlining a recommended incentive program. The School Committee discussed the recommended program. *Adrienne Duncan moved to approve the Incentive Program as recommended, Dana Berry seconded.* After discussion, *Adrienne Duncan amended her motion to change the number of incentives offered to three, Dana Berry seconded the amendment, and the motion as amended was approved, 4-0, 1 abstain (William Rogers).*

Request for Line Item Transfer PHS Technology – \$2,500 from certain lines in Technology to other lines to purchase computers enough for all students in the Learning Center. *Frank Wills moved to approve the line item transfer in the amount of \$2,500, Dana Berry seconded and it was so voted, 5-0.*

FY 2001 Budget Time Line – Dr. Fleming referred to documents distributed to the School Committee concerning the budget process timeline. The School Committee discussed the process to be followed in creating the School Budget for FY 2001, commenting that there are three union contracts to be negotiated. The School Committee decided by consensus to meet in Executive Session with the Negotiating Sub-Committee on the 23rd of November to discuss the negotiating points.

OTHER –

- Dana Berry referred to the MGL statutes concerning the student representative from the Principal's Advisory Council attending the School Committee meetings. Dana Berry stated that the statute specifies that only the chair of the Advisory Council can attend the School Committee meeting. The School Committee discussed whether the chair of the Advisory Council could designate another member to attend the School Committee

meeting. Lois Borgesi read from the statute, stating that there also was a requirement that the School Committee meet every other month with the full Principal's Advisory Council. By consensus, the School Committee decided to invite the entire Principal's Advisory Council to meet with the School Committee on November 23rd, prior to the start of the regular meeting.

- Dana Berry said that his 73 year old father had just graduated from high school and had received a diploma in a special ceremony. Dr. Fleming will investigate the possibility of awarding diplomas to such graduates in Provincetown.

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CLOSING STATEMENTS

- None.

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ADJOURNMENT

Adrienne Duncan made a motion to adjourn at 10:00 P.M. and it was so voted unanimously.

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These minutes were approved by a vote of the Provincetown School Committee present at their meeting on _____, 199__

Respectfully Submitted:

School Committee Signature

Title

Rachel T. Crosby, On-call secretary