

**Town of Princeton, MA  
Meeting Minutes  
Thomas Prince Middle School Enrollment Study Committee  
September 7, 2010  
Town Hall Annex**

---

**As the Committee had not yet organized, John called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Members present were Larry Pistrang, Toryn Bright, Laura Gal, Larry Greene, Matt Lindberg, Dawn Sulmasy, and Carla Volturo. Also: Principal Mary Cringan, WRSD School Committee Member Robert Imber, and Town Administrator John Lebeaux.**

**Introductions**

The Committee members introduced themselves and briefly related their backgrounds, skill sets, and why they wanted to participate on the Committee.

**Election of Officers**

By unanimous vote the Committee elected Larry Pistrang Chairman. Larry asked for discussion of candidates for Vice-Chair. By unanimous vote the Committee elected Laura Gal as Vice-Chair.

**Role of Supporting Staff**

John explained that the Selectmen had directed him to provide whatever support he can to the Committee. As neither Mary and her staff, nor the school committee members are under the authority of the Selectmen, it was agreed that all requests for information to T Prince or the District be submitted through John.

**Background Presentation: Mary Cringan**

Mary provided an overview of the problem and what the town faces. A critical point is that the current census of those now entering Kindergarten (34, with 5 of those students not expected to attend Grades 1-8 at T Prince) is not large enough to support two sections when it reaches Grade 7. The other grades currently attending the school are large enough to support two sections except for Grade 5 that requires three sections. Mary explained that a minimum of two sections per grade supports current staffing levels. One section per grade would not. With only one section per grade, teacher certification then becomes an issue for Grades 7 and 8.

**Discussion of BOS Charge to Committee**

The Committee had a wide-ranging discussion of the Charge and how to accomplish its goals. Action items discussed were:

- Learning exactly why there are fewer children in Princeton.
- Understanding past efforts to boost enrollment. Mary will provide a sample of a marketing brochure used in the recent past.
- Producing a town-wide survey. Dawn will contact a resident with professional experience to request volunteer assistance.
- Holding a Public Hearing in the very near future and a subsequent brainstorming session with members of the community.
- Investigating the whole matter of certification including dual certification, waivers, and financial incentives.
- Understanding (1) how the results of doing nothing would affect the T Prince educational program and (2) the issues related to the attendance of Princeton Grade 7 and 8 students at a possible renovation/renovation-addition/replacement of the Mountview Middle School in Holden put forth by WRSD Superintendent Pandiscio.
- Developing a set of umbrellas under which possible future actions by the Town are established and organizing them into a matrix.

In consideration of the length of the meeting, Larry suggested and the Committee agreed putting off to the next meeting a full discussion of interim and final products to be created. It was agreed that a final report would need completion no later than April 15, 2011.

**Logistical Matters**

John will contact Mary Cringan to ascertain Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 5, 6, 7 as possible dates for a Public Hearing to be held in the T Prince cafeteria.

The Committee will next meet Tuesday, September 21 at the Town Hall Annex. John will reserve room. Larry will develop an agenda. Committee members may submit possible agenda items to John.

**Other Business**

John briefly reviewed elements of the recently modified Open Meeting Law (OML). Committee members were encouraged to communicate through John's office to avoid any inadvertent OML issues.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Lebeaux". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Lebeaux,  
Town Administrator