

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Our mission is for all students to be successful, engaged, lifelong learners.

Revised School Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 10, 2011
School Committee Chambers – District Office
5:00 p.m.

Members

Val Gilman, Chairperson
Melissa Teixeira, Vice Chairperson
Kathleen Clancy, Secretary
Michelle Sweet
Roger Garberg
Mayor Carolyn Kirk

Administration Present

Interim Superintendent Dr. Joseph Connelly
Assistant Superintendent Brian Tarr
CFO Tom Markham
Jean Perry, West Parish Principal

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gilman called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Note: Chairperson Gilman stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools and recognized the following guests: West Parish School Principal Jean Perry, Fran Quinn from the Gloucester Daily Times, Jennifer from Cape Ann TV, and Mike Gilbert, consultant from MASC. Chairperson Gilman noted that the School Committee is presently a six-person committee until a seventh member is selected because Nancy Harrison resigned the first week of January.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Gilman stated that the School Committee has been working diligently on the superintendent search and the education forum scheduled for January 25, 2011.

V. RECOGNITIONS

- Ms. Teixeira recognized the article in the newspaper today about Newell Stadium and the GFAA's possible contribution.
- Chairperson Gilman recognized and thanked Fran Quinn for doing a great job covering the literacy and math initiatives at Beeman and Veterans' Schools.

VI. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – None present

(At this time, the Agenda was taken out of order.)

XI. ACTION

West Parish Principal Jean Perry thanked Mary Ellen Lepionka for everything she has done for West Parish School and read a letter from the Gloucester Civic and Garden Council enclosing a check for \$100 for the West Parish garden.

D. Acceptance of Gift

Upon a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept a check in the amount of \$1,500 from BioLabs donated to the West Parish Elementary School.

(At this time, the Agenda was taken out of order.)

X. DISCUSSION

A. Superintendent Search Update – Chairperson Gilman thanked the superintendent search committee for their volunteerism and hard work.

Note: Chairperson Gilman recognized CFO Tom Markham and Assistant Superintendent Brian Tarr.

1. Discussion of Four Site Visits and Reference Checks – School Committee members reported to the full committee on their site visits, as follows:

- Ms. Teixeira and Mrs. Sweet reported on their site visit in Buena Vista, Virginia (Dr. Rebecca Gates)
- Chairperson Gilman and Kathy Clancy reported on their site visit in Swampscott (Dr. Maureen Bingham).
- Kathy Clancy and Mr. Garberg reported on their site visit in Billerica (Dr. Richard Safier).

Note: Chairperson Gilman recognized Kathy Clancy for conducting three consecutive site visits.

- Mr. Garberg, Kathy Clancy and Chairperson Gilman reported on their site visit in Lowell (Mr. Paul Schlichtman).
- Chairperson Gilman, Ms. Teixeira, Mr. Garberg and Kathy Clancy reported on their telephone interviews with respect to Mr. Kelly Clenchy, who is not currently working.

2. Preparation for Upcoming Interviews – Chairperson Gilman reviewed the Gloucester site visit schedule for the candidates and requested that Mayor Kirk invite someone from her staff to attend lunch with the candidates each day. There was a discussion about possible schedule changes in light of the weather forecast.

Mr. Gilbert distributed a question guide and examples of questions that cannot be asked during the interviews. A discussion was held on the format for asking questions of the candidates.

There was a discussion of the process of deliberating on the selection on the superintendent on January 20th after completion of the final candidate's interview. Mr. Gilbert indicated that he will provide the wording of the formal motion to appoint the new superintendent. Chairperson Gilman thanked Mr. Gilbert for all of his work.

(At this time, the Agenda was taken out of order.)

XI. ACTION

- A. Request from Deputy Fire Chief Miles Schlichte** – The deputy fire chief presented a request that the School Committee allow the use of certain space at Fuller School for an Emergency Operations Center.

Upon a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve a request from Deputy Fire Chief Miles Schlichte to utilize Rooms 228 and 229 and storage space at the Fuller School for an Emergency Operations Center.

After a 10-minute break, the Agenda was taken out of order.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Joint City Council Budget & Finance and School Committee Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes of December 6, 2010
2. School Committee Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2010
3. School Committee Executive Session Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2010
4. School Committee Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2010

B. Schedule of Future Meetings

Special School Committee Meetings – Superintendent Finalist Interviews at 7:00 p.m. at the Gloucester High School Library

1. Wednesday, January 12, 2011 (Dr. Richard Safier)
2. Thursday, January 13, 2011 (Dr. Rebecca Gates)
3. Tuesday, January 18, 2011 (Dr. Maureen Bingham)
4. Wednesday, January 19, 2011 (Mr. Paul Schlichtman)
5. Thursday, January 20, 2011 (Mr. Kelly Clenchy) followed by a short recess and vote

Building & Finance Sub-Committee – Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at 4:45 p.m.

Location: Council Conference Room at City Hall

Agenda: TBD

School Committee – Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

Agenda: TBD

Personnel Sub-Committee – Wednesday, February 15, 2011 at 4:45 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

Agenda: Personnel Evaluation Status, health insurance audit, and job qualifications for GAEP employees

C. District Education Forum Series

Location: Cruiseport Gloucester, 6 Rowe Square, Gloucester, MA

Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Topic: Essential Learning Skills in the 21st Century

It was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Consent Agenda as listed above.

Chairperson Gilman noted that a Program Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled at the next School Committee meeting on January 26th.

At this time, the Agenda was taken out of order.

XI. ACTION

B. Acceptance of Resignation from School Committee Member, Nancy Harrison

Kathy Clancy read Section 4-5 of the City Charter, “Filling of Vacancies,” and Linda Lowe’s recommendation on electing a new School Committee member. Mr. Gilbert also reviewed his recommendation. Chairperson Gilman suggested that in fairness to the city, the election process should be consistent with the city’s past practice. A discussion was held on allowing the candidates to speak to the School Committee.

Chairperson Gilman recommended that notices be placed in the newspapers on Friday requesting that letters of interest be sent to her by January 20th. She will then distribute them to the full committee. The interested candidates will be invited to speak for up to five minutes at the January 26th School Committee meeting, and the new School Committee member will be elected at that meeting. Linda Lowe will be asked to attend the meeting to swear in the new member, who will then join the committee for the rest of the meeting.

VIII. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

A. Report of the Superintendent of Schools – Interim Superintendent Dr. Connelly updated the School Committee on the following matters:

- Superintendent Finalists Visitation Schedule, Lunch and Tour Confirmation – The Per Day Assignment was revised as follows:

January 12	Dr. Richard Safier visits Beeman Memorial with Val Gilman
January 13	Dr. Rebecca Gates visits Veterans’ Memorial with Kathy Clancy
January 18	Dr. Maureen Bingham visits Plum Cove with Michelle Sweet
January 19	Mr. Paul Schlichtman visits West Parish with Melissa Teixeira
January 20	Mr. Kelly Clenchy visits East Gloucester with Roger Garberg
- Newell Stadium Reconstruction and Renovation Plan – Mayor Kirk reviewed the matching fundraising program for the renovation of Newell Stadium.
- After School Activities School Committee Policies (2)
- January 4, 2011 DESE Meeting on BSRI and Tribal Inspirational School Involvement at Veterans’ Memorial Elementary School
- School Bus Drivers Appreciation Letters – Kathy Clancy read Dr. Connelly’s letter to the bus drivers for their outstanding performance during the snowstorm on December 20th.
- Anti-Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan/Policy – Dr. Connelly provided the School Committee with the final approved policy and plan.
- Executive Session Update – Dr. Connelly indicated that discussion of the upcoming deposition must be discussed in open session.

Ms. Teixeira requested that Dr. Connelly provide the School Committee with information on the advisory committee dinner hosted by GHS at the Elks for the vocational school.

Chairperson Gilman requested that Dr. Connelly report to the School Committee on the number of email addresses we have for households. She would also like to know how many parents of students at each school have not signed the waiver for their children to be photographed and videotaped.

Dr. Connelly announced that he was notified by MSBA that all five of our schools are on the agenda to be approved to participate in the Green Repair Program.

IX. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Building & Finance Sub-Committee of December 15, 2010 – This Subcommittee Report was presented at the December 15, 2010 School Committee meeting.

X. DISCUSSION

- B. FY 2011 Year-End Budget Projection** – Dr. Connelly and Mr. Markham presented the first of five reports on the FY11 year-end projection, which shows a projected end of year balance of \$303,343. Dr. Connelly discussed the types of expenses that could be paid with this balance if it holds up until June.
- C. Charter Legislation Funding Reform** – Kathy Clancy updated the School Committee on a movement taking place in Western Massachusetts to try to change the charter school funding formula. She stated that she has reached out to people in Amherst to find out what they are doing. She also plans to meet with Senator Tarr and Representative Ferrante on legislative items we would like them to pursue. Chairperson Gilman thanked Kathy Clancy for bringing this matter to the attention of the School Committee.

XI. ACTION

C. Out-of-State Field Trip Request

Upon a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mrs. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve an out-of-state field trip request by the GHS Junior ROTC to attend the 2011 USMC Service Air-Rifle Championships in Albuquerque, New Mexico on Thursday, February 17 to Monday, February 21, 2011.

XII. OTHER COMMUNICATION

A. For Your Information

1. Information from Kathy Clancy on “*School Funding Reality: A Bargain Not Kept*,” prepared by Ed Moscovitch, President of Cape Ann Economics.
2. Copy of letter dated December 17, 2010, to Senator Tarr and Representative Ferrante.
3. Email Press Release from the DOE on “*Over 99 Percent of Districts Meet December 31st Deadline for Submitting Local Anti-Bullying Plans*.” Also attached is the approved Policy to Prevent Bullying, File JICFB, which was approved by the School Committee on December 15, 2010. Chairperson Gilman thanked Dr. Connelly for getting the anti-bullying plan in on time.

XIII. ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

- A.** To discuss strategies for pending litigation – Dr. Connelly updated the School Committee on a subpoena that the Administration Office received with respect to a deposition on January 18, 2011 in the case of Dolan, et al. v. Chester, et al. A discussion was held on who will represent the School Committee at the deposition and the issue of spending money to retain counsel. The School Committee designated Dr. Connelly and Mr. Markham to serve as their agents at the deposition.

The following matters were also discussed:

- Absence of Student Advisory Council member at School Committee meetings.
- Shoveling of sidewalks around East Gloucester Elementary School by volunteers. Mayor Kirk reviewed the process of filing a complaint with the police department about unshoveled sidewalks.
- Chairperson Gilman updated the School Committee on her upcoming “cup of coffee” with Joe Knowles from the charter school, which was in the headlines of the newspaper. She suggested deferring to Program Subcommittee the issue of the formal process of communicating with the charter school, or alternative schools/programs on initiatives that might require full committee review and approval. She reminded the committee that her acceptance of Joe’s request to have coffee was not as a person representing the school committee, rather a colleague meeting for coffee.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mrs. Sweet, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the School Committee Meeting of January 10, 2011 at 9:10 p.m.

All reference documents and reports are filed in the Superintendent’s office.

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*