

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 23, 2013
City Hall – Kyrouz Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman (7:35 p.m.)
Val Gilman, Assistant Chairperson
Kathy Clancy, Secretary
Melissa Teixeira
Roger Garberg
Tony Gross
Mayor Carolyn Kirk (7:54 p.m.)

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Assistant Superintendent
Hans Baumhauer, Dir. of Finance and
and Operations
Erik Anderson, GHS Principal

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

I. CALL TO ORDER – Vice Chairperson Gilman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Vice Chairperson Gilman stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None.

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – Chairperson Gilman noted that Chairman Pope will be arriving later in the meeting.

V. RECOGNITIONS

A. Moose Youth Awareness Program – Dr. Safier welcomed Don Reilly and several GHS students who are members of the Moose Youth Awareness Program. Mr. Reilly introduced the students, who talked about their activities with 6-9 year olds in the elementary schools (i.e. talking about recycling, time management, leadership, and teamwork). Mr. Reilly then spoke about the Youth Awareness Program and alumni of the program and thanked former GHS principal Bill Goodwin and current principal Erik Anderson for embracing the program.

A 3-minute break was taken at this time.

B. Other Recognitions – Vice Chairperson Gilman recognized Mr. Garberg and Chairman Pope for their letters to the editor, as well as Dr. Safier for several letters that he has written recently. She also noted that Dr. Safier was mentioned by Tom Murphy, New Hampshire’s Principal of the Year, as being a profound influence on him in the Eagle Tribune yesterday. Finally, Vice Chairperson Gilman recognized Cape Ann TV for going into the elementary schools to tape the skits as part of the “Superintendent’s Corner” segment.

VI. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – None present.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Amended School Committee of December 19, 2012
2. Building & Finance Subcommittee of January 2, 2013
3. School Committee of January 9, 2013
4. School Committee Executive Session of January 9, 2013 (**Confidential**)
5. Special School Committee of January 16, 2013
6. Building & Finance Subcommittee of January 16, 2013

Kathy Clancy removed Item A3 from the Consent Agenda.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

Kathy Clancy requested that the committee's full discussion in connection with the Fuller School vote be included in the minutes of the January 9th School Committee meeting. Mrs. Puglisi will amend the minutes and they will be voted on at the next meeting.

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

(At the request of Mr. Gross, the agenda was taken out of order at this time.)

B. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Safier updated the committee on the following matters:

1. New Background Checks Bill, H. 4307 – Dr. Safier believes that the cost of the national fingerprint-based background check will be around \$55 per person which, in all likelihood, would be the responsibility of the individual being checked. It is unclear whether volunteers are subject to the background check. Ms. Teixeira indicated that more information can be found online or by contacting Senator Chang-Diaz or Representative Peisch, who cosponsored the bill.

Chairman Pope joined the meeting at 7:35 p.m., and Vice Chairperson Gilman turned the meeting over to him.

2. New Virtual Education Bill, H. 4274
3. Report on Renewing the Social Contract
4. Free Tickets for Parents of Student Athletes
5. Education Forum – Dr. Safier stated that members of the GEF are reaching out to experts in the field of digital learning to speak at the forum, which would also

provide a thumbnail sketch of what we consider to be an emerging five-year plan for technology. In addition, students and teachers would demonstrate their use of technology as an instructional tool.

6. Benchmark Assessments

On a motion by Mrs. Gilman, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Superintendent's Report.

Mayor Kirk joined the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

- A. Superintendent's Evaluation** – Dr. Safier reviewed his draft SMART goals, which include one professional practice goal, one student growth goal, and three district goals. He indicated that the goals are vertically aligned with the district improvement plan, and each of the goals is intended to overlap.

With respect to the student growth goal, Mr. Garberg questioned to what extent the achievement of this goal depends on the staffing of the administrative math coordinator and additional math coach. Dr. Safier indicated that the staffing of these positions is one of his highest priorities for FY14.

With respect to District SMART Goal 1, Dr. Safier distributed and reviewed a sample curriculum mapping template, which refers to the Common Core priority standards and Massachusetts priority standards.

With respect to District SMART Goal 3, Dr. Safier indicated that he is in the process of developing a technology plan and putting together a written document about what we are looking to accomplish with respect to technology, including developing inquisitive, creative, innovative and resourceful thinkers and fostering the excellence that flows from the ability to use technology effectively. Some of the objectives include developing learning resources that use technology to embody design principles from the learning sciences, developing learning resources that exploit the flexibility and power of technology to reach all learners anytime and anywhere, and using the advances in learning sciences to help promote STEM. He suggested adding the use of technology in the arts to the list, as well.

Mrs. Gilman suggested adding “updated monthly” to “School and District website current events” so that outdated information is purged and new information is posted on the district's home page. She also suggested that a percentage increase be added to the “District-wide email address contact list.”

Mr. Garberg expressed some concern about the focus of the professional practice goal. He believes the goal is to enhance teaching practices in the district by way of walkthroughs and stated that it is incumbent on us to keep in mind that activities like walkthroughs and meetings serve an end, which is presumably better teaching, more engaged students, etc. Mr. Garberg believes it will be difficult for him to provide an effective evaluation with the evidence that is described. He stated that some of the more important things about this goal

are somewhat buried in the key actions. Therefore, he is hoping that the committee will have an opportunity to hear from principals, who are going to be providing some of the most important evidence about this goal, such as the quality of the walkthrough. He believes the pieces are there and that they will come together in time. In response, Mr. Gross stated that it is his understanding that the actual walkthroughs are the goal, and he believes that too much is being read into what is written.

Mayor Kirk believes that, going forward, it will be important to carry with the budget message the change in how the School Department is held accountable for its performance. She stated that there will be certain things in the budget request that are required in order for the superintendent to fulfill his goals.

Mr. Gross made a motion, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, to accept the Superintendent's Goals, January 2013-December 2014 as presented for the calendar year 2013. After discussion, Ms. Teixeira amended the motion as follows:

On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to add the following to District SMART Goal 3 of the Superintendent's Goals, January 2013-December 2014:

- District-wide email address contact list – establish a benchmark and improve it by an incremental percentage each year.
- School and District website current events will be updated on a regular basis.
- Digital Learning Environment – include an arts technology focus as an additional bullet point.

On a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

Chairman Pope – yes
Ms. Teixeira – yes
Kathy Clancy – yes
Mr. Garberg – yes
Mrs. Gilman – yes
Mr. Gross – yes
Mayor Kirk – yes

To accept the Superintendent's Goals, January 2013-December 2014 as amended for the calendar year 2013.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Personnel Subcommittee of January 15, 2013** – Chairperson Teixeira stated that the meeting on January 15th was a negotiation session and not a subcommittee meeting.

B. Building & Finance Subcommittee of January 16, 2013 – Chairperson Clancy reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its meeting on January 16, 2013:

- Settlement Funds Regarding Facilities Repairs
- Reduction of Athletic Cap and/or Other Student Fees
- Outside Facilities Assessment for the District

After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to request from the Mayor the sum of \$75,000.00 for the purpose of reducing athletic fees and transportation fees.

Before the vote was taken, both Mrs. Gilman and Mayor Kirk indicated that they filed disclosures with the City Clerk as required by 930 CMR 6.09 indicating that their sons are involved in athletics and ride the bus.

Chairman Pope indicated that the reduction in transportation fees would be applied to next year's fees and that the reduction in athletic fees could be applied starting with spring sports and then to fall and winter sports next year.

Mayor Kirk stated that she has put forward the request to the City Council for \$75,000. However, that request specified athletic and other user fees. Therefore, she recommended that the School Committee clarify at the City Council B&F Committee meeting next week on the free cash appropriation that the \$75,000 request includes transportation fees.

Mrs. Gilman expressed concern about how the reduced fees will be sustained in the future and indicated that she would feel more comfortable knowing that there will be an incremental amount added to the school budget every year to account for the reduction in fees. Mayor Kirk believes that using free cash to put some seed money in the revolving account is appropriate and that the \$75,000 would become part of the base going forward. Kathy Clancy noted that health insurance costs have not increased in the past two years but that if those costs start going up, tradeoffs would have to be made.

Mrs. Gilman recommended that this matter be referred back to the Building & Finance Subcommittee to look at how the fee reduction will be applied. Mayor Kirk agreed and recommended that the subcommittee direct the superintendent to speak with Kim Patience to get some input on the timing of the fee reduction.

After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, that we request from the Mayor the funding of an outsourced education/facilities assessment for the district's school buildings.

Mayor Kirk recommended that a task force be assembled with representatives from the School Department and the city to put together a scope of services, collect and evaluate proposals, select the firm to do the assessment, and put together the project plan.

- C. **Personnel Subcommittee of January 22, 2013** – Chairperson Teixeira stated that the meeting on January 22nd was a negotiation session and not a subcommittee meeting.

X. ACTION

- A. **Funding to Reduce Athletic and Transportation Fees** – See Item IX.B.
- B. **Gloucester Public Schools Education and Facilities Assessment Request** – See Item IX.B.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS

- A. **MSBA Update** – Dr. Safier reported that the subcommittee to the building committee has met and deliberated on the proposals from the applicants for the designer position. He, Mayor Kirk and Kathy Clancy will be going to the MSBA on February 5th to meet with their designer selection panel and to make their recommendation.
- B. **Letters of Notification from James Breslin, Staff Representative of AFSCME Council 93 (1/14/13) to enter into negotiations with AFSCME Unit A and AFSCME Unit B**
- C. **Flu Clinics** – Mrs. Gilman thanked Mayor Kirk for the flu clinics at Addison Gilbert Hospital.
- D. **Suburban Coalition** – Mrs. Gilman reported that on January 30, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at the Newton Marriott, the Suburban Coalition is meeting to talk about local aid and suggested that any interested parties attend.
- E. **School Resource Officer** – Mrs. Gilman requested that the scope of the position of a School Resource Officer be referred to the Program Subcommittee. Dr. Safier stated that this matter will also be brought forward to the Building & Finance Subcommittee. Ms. Teixeira indicated that the matter of a job description of a potential employee should be referred to the Personnel Subcommittee.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of January 23, 2013 at 9:32 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*