

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

City Hall – Kyrouz Auditorium

7:00 p.m.

Members

Val Gilman, Chairperson
Melissa Teixeira, Vice Chairperson
Kathleen Clancy, Secretary
Roger Garberg
Tony Gross

Administration Present

Interim Superintendent Dr. Joseph Connelly
Assistant Superintendent Brian Tarr
CFO Tom Markham
Gregg Bach, East Gloucester School Principal
Mike Hall, DPW Director

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gilman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Note: Chairperson Gilman stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools, welcomed East Gloucester School Principal Gregg Bach and CFO Tom Markham, and introduced new superintendent Dr. Richard Safier to the community members present at the meeting.

III. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- A. After School Program Work and the School Newspaper** – Principal Gregg Bach gave some background information on the after school program which was implemented with Title I funds and introduced Ms. Flaherty and the students who worked on the school newspaper. The students read the goals they wanted to achieve by working on the newspaper and the processes that they went through. The students then reviewed the newspaper and explained what they wrote about. Chairperson Gilman thanked the students for their presentation.

At this time, a three-minute recess was taken.

Note: Chairperson Gilman recognized Assistant Superintendent Brian Tarr and DPW Director Mike Hale.

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

VII. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Kelly Benson and Lauren Palazola updated the School Committee on events at Gloucester High School, including midterms, the Northeast Mass. Student Council conference, the juniors' talent show and class dance, and the sale of carnations for Valentine's Day. Chairperson Gilman thanked Ms. Benson and Ms. Palazola for their report.

III. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS (Continued)

- B. O'Maley Middle School Campus "Outdoor Classrooms of the Future"** – Kaye Lynn Johnson Shoucair, a parent of two O'Maley students and a registered landscape architect, described her background and presented a design concept for an "Outdoor Classroom of the Future" at O'Maley Middle School. She described the features of the project, and there was a discussion about completing the project in phases in order to spread out the cost. Ms. Johnson Shoucair indicated that she would volunteer her time for the design development so long as she gets a commitment that the city will look for a \$50,000 grant to hire someone to put together a bid set. A discussion was held on the next steps to move the project forward.

After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

VOTED: To add the O'Maley Middle School Campus "Outdoor Classroom of the Future" with an estimated cost of \$750,000 to the five-year capital plan.

Chairperson Gilman thanked Ms. Johnson Shoucair for all of her hard work on this project.

- C. Status of School Roofs** – Dr. Connelly thanked Mike Hale and Brian Tarr for putting so much time into making important decisions about the safety of the kids (i.e. school closings and delayed openings) and stated that they have been a tremendous help this winter.

Mr. Hale updated the School Committee on the status of the school roofs, indicating that they had all been inspected by the building inspector and there is no structural damage from snow loads. Ms. Teixeira thanked him for all of his efforts this winter.

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

V. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – None

VI. RECOGNITIONS

- Dr. Connelly acknowledged 18 GHS students for participating in the volunteer snow removal community service project on January 29 and 30, 2011 and read the letter he sent to each of the students thanking them for their contribution. Kathy Clancy read the names of the students that were part of the snow removal project. Dr. Connelly also acknowledged GHS Principal Dr. William Goodwin for leading this volunteer effort.
- Dr. Connelly acknowledged five staff members for their contribution at the first Educational Forum held on January 25, 2011 and read the letter he sent to each of them thanking them for their assistance. He also acknowledged the Gloucester Education Foundation for sponsoring the Educational Forum.
- Ms. Teixeira recognized the GFAA for their successful attempt last night with the City Council in obtaining funding for a new stadium at Gloucester High School. She thanked them for their efforts in making the Gloucester Public Schools a better place and thanked the City Council for working with the GFAA.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. REVISED School Committee Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2011
 2. School Committee Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2011
 3. School Committee Executive Session Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2011 *
- *Not released

B. Schedule of Future Meetings

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

Building & Finance Sub-Committee – Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at 4:45 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

Agenda: To be announced

Joint City/School B & F – Thursday, February 17, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

Agenda: To be announced

School Committee – Wednesday, March 2, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: School Committee Chambers – Fuller District Office

Agenda: To be announced

NOTE: *The School Committee will also meet on March 16 (at the School Committee Chambers) and on March 30 (at the City Hall Kyrouz Auditorium).*

Program Sub-Committee – Friday, March 4, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

Agenda: To be announced

C. Acceptance of Grant

To accept a DESE Grant “Race to the Top” in the amount of \$15,090.

Chairperson Gilman noted that the Revised School Committee Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2011 that were previously circulated was the incorrect document but that the minutes contained in the packet is the correct document. Ms. Teixeira stated that the date of the Personnel Subcommittee meeting should be **Tuesday**, February 15, 2011. Kathy Clancy stated that the Joint City/School B & F meeting is at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Conference Room at City Hall.

Ms. Teixeira removed the School Committee meetings on March 2, 16 and 30, 2011 from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

It was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

IX. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

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

- O'Maley Middle School Newspaper Advertisement
- Student Photograph/Videotaping Policy Parental Permission Status
- March 2nd School Committee Meeting to make up for missed meeting on February 23rd
- End of Year Financial Report – June 30, 2009

X. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Building & Finance Sub-Committee of January 26, 2011 – This subcommittee report was presented at the January 26th, 2011 School Committee meeting.

B. Program Sub-Committee Report of February 4, 2011 – Chairman Garberg reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed the following matters:

- Physical Restraint and Law
- Strategic Development Process
- Policy entitled “Administrative Protocol When Dealing with Serious Criminal and/or Legal Incidents”
- Update on GPS Website – Dr. Connelly reviewed the Website Goal.
- Two conflicting after school policies

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Garberg, seconded by Chairperson Gilman, it was unanimously

VOTED: To consider a Superintendent goal which would include oversight of a new web design, the ability to email all parents and interested community stakeholders, and the policy development by a date to be confirmed with the new Superintendent.

Ms. Teixeira requested a five-minute presentation on the website from the IT Department.

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Garberg, seconded by Chairperson Gilman, it was unanimously

VOTED: To rescind File LB entitled “Relations with Other Schools – Participation of Non-Enrolled Students in Extracurricular Programs” if it was adopted by the School Committee, based on the fact that File IHC entitled “After School Activities” was clearly adopted by the School Committee on January 12, 2005 and conflicts with File LB.

Chairperson Gilman thanked Mr. Garberg for his report.

XI. DISCUSSION

- A. FY 2012 School Budget Update** – Dr. Connelly stated that the Draft 1 budget that will be presented at the next meeting is a level service budget. However, he anticipates that the School Department will be facing significant reductions. Dr. Connelly reviewed the projected revenues and assessments for FY12, and there was a discussion about the charter school numbers. In summary, Dr. Connelly indicated that revenues are down \$944,000 compared to this year before the budget process even begins. There will also be higher SPED costs and health insurance costs next year. Finally, Dr. Connelly reviewed a letter he plans to send to all teachers and staff asking them to notify him of their plans for next year to help project costs.
- B. Joint School Committee Building & Finance Sub-Committee and City Council Budget & Finance Committee Meeting** – Dr. Connelly suggested addressing at this meeting the outstanding prerequisites that must be done to keep the roof projects moving forward. There was a discussion about addressing the O’Maley Middle School “Outdoor Classrooms of the Future.”

XII. ACTION

A. Policies

- Administrative Protocol – Dr. Connelly reviewed the purpose of this policy and stated that Suzanne Egan is in the process of reviewing it. He recommended tabling this matter until we hear back from her. Chairperson Gilman stated that the first reading of this policy will be done at the next School Committee meeting.
- Pregnant Students Administrative Guidelines

On a motion by Chairperson Gilman, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Pregnant Students Administrative Guidelines.

- B. Recommendations made by the Building & Finance Sub-Committee at their meeting of January 26, 2011** – See III.B.

XIII. OTHER COMMUNICATION

A. For Your Information

1. Email (1/27/11) from Chairperson Gilman regarding the City’s Budget & Finance Committee Agenda Amendment for 2/3/11.
2. Email (1/28/11) from Chairperson Gilman regarding sub-committee assignment update.
3. Email (1/29/11) from Chairperson Gilman regarding MOU Talbot Rink FY2011 Retained Earnings.

4. Email (2/1/11) from Chairperson Gilman regarding School Lunch Fund.
5. MASC Legislative Bulletin.
6. Labor, Employment & Benefits Alert – January 2011 from Murphy Hesse Toomey & Lehane, LLP.
7. Enterprise Funds, G.L. c.44, §53F½ from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

XI. DISCUSSION (Continued)

- Scheduling of School Committee Meetings on March 2, 16 and 30, 2011 – Ms. Teixeira expressed concern about having three School Committee meetings in March and indicated that the B&F Subcommittee meeting will fall on one of the above dates. She suggested changing the March B&F meeting to a Tuesday or Thursday to avoid having two meetings in one night starting at 4:45 p.m. and ending as late as 11:00 p.m. Chairperson Gilman asked the members of the B&F Subcommittee to come up with a different date for the March B&F meeting other than a Wednesday. Ms. Teixeira suggested it be scheduled on a Tuesday before a School Committee meeting in order to quickly address any action items that come up.

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

VOTED: To approve the Wednesday, March 2, 2011 School Committee meeting as noted in the Consent Agenda.

- School Improvement Plans – A discussion was held on the school improvement plans and when they will be presented. Dr. Connelly suggested that one or two principals at a time come before the School Committee to briefly highlight their plans during a regular School Committee meeting, which will give the plans more visibility in a televised meeting. There was a discussion about whether the School Committee must approve the plans. Chairperson Gilman requested that Dr. Connelly confirm that the plans do not need to be approved by the School Committee.
- MCAS Report – Dr. Connelly indicated that the MCAS report by the principals is ready to be presented. Chairperson Gilman would like to integrate it and put it on a School Committee meeting agenda in the near future.
- Policy Subcommittee – Chairperson Gilman strongly urged that this matter be put on the next School Committee agenda for further discussion (i.e. whether a fourth subcommittee is needed or whether a special group as a subset of an existing subcommittee should be formed). She stated that she would like to get consensus from the new Superintendent.
- North Shore Coalition for School Funding Meeting – Chairperson Gilman stated that she and Kathy Clancy will be attending this meeting on Monday at 4:00 p.m. and that she will report back to the School Committee after the meeting. She indicated that she will reach out to see if Mayor Kirk or Jeff Towne would like to attend, as well as City Councilor Steve Curcuro.

- Transition to New Superintendent – Chairperson Gilman requested that Dr. Connelly begin working on a training plan, including the transition of personnel issues, different goals for his direct staff, the budget process, and a timetable of all important dates during the year to make sure that the transition goes smoothly. Dr. Connelly indicated that he, Dr. Safier and Brian Tarr will be spending the day together on Monday at the mid-winter superintendents’ meeting in Marlborough and will start talking about all of those issues. Dr. Connelly expects that during March and April, he and Dr. Safier will get together several times to achieve the transition.
- Citizens for Public Schools – Kathy Clancy stated that she will be attending a legislative breakfast hosted by Citizens for Public Schools tomorrow and will report back after that meeting.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

Chairperson Gilman – yes
Kathy Clancy – yes
Ms. Teixeira – yes
Mr. Garberg – yes
Mr. Gross – yes

To enter into Executive Session at 9:05 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations with the Superintendent of Schools, to discuss contract negotiations with union and non-union groups, and to consider conditions of the lease of classrooms and other facilities at Fuller School, per MGL, Chapter 30A, Section 21 #6, and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of voting on the Superintendent’s contract and adjournment.

XII. ACTION (Continued)

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

Chairperson Gilman – yes
Kathy Clancy – yes
Ms. Teixeira – yes
Mr. Garberg – yes
Mr. Gross – yes

To approve the language as discussed and presented in executive session between the Gloucester School Committee and Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent of Schools, pending Dr. Safier’s signature.

The committee discussed the possibility of posting another meeting next week if Dr. Safier does not agree to the final terms of the contract but agreed to wait.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: To adjourn the School Committee Meeting of February 9, 2011 at 11:00 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*