

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Val Gilman, Vice Chairperson
Kathy Clancy, Secretary
Melissa Teixeira
Roger Garberg
Tony Gross
Mayor Carolyn Kirk

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Asst. Superintendent Brian Tarr

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and welcomed Cape Ann TV. He asked that the television audience provide him with feedback on what will make these presentations more exciting and vibrant.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Pope stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – None.

V. RECOGNITIONS – Mrs. Gilman recognized the O'Maley Middle School performing arts teachers for the work that they are doing in support of the upcoming play "Willy Wonka," which will be showing on March 9, 10, 16 and 17. She provided information on ticket prices and where tickets can be purchased.

VI. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – None present.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Amended Program Subcommittee Meeting of February 7, 2012
2. Special Joint City Council/School Committee Meeting of February 7, 2012
3. Ad Hoc Policy Manual Subcommittee Meeting of February 13, 2012
4. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of February 14, 2012
5. School Committee Meeting of February 15, 2012

B. Schedule of Future Meetings

Personnel Subcommittee – Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

Building & Finance Subcommittee – Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

Program Subcommittee – Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

Building & Finance Subcommittee – Monday, March 12, 2012 at 4:45 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

School Committee – Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

Building & Finance Subcommittee – Wednesday, March 21, 2012 at 4:45 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

Ad Hoc Policy Manual Subcommittee – Monday, March 26, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

School Committee – Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

C. Acceptance of Grant

1. DESE FY12 Innovation Schools Planning Grant in the amount of \$10,000.00

Mr. Garberg removed Item A1 from the Consent Agenda. He noted that he also has concerns about the minutes of the January 20, 2012 Program Subcommittee minutes, which are not included on the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Gross removed Item A2 and Kathy Clancy removed Item A5 from the Consent Agenda.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

Without objection, Mr. Garberg amended the Program Subcommittee minutes of January 20, 2012 with respect to the Fuller School decision. (See amended minutes.)

Chairman Pope recommended that subcommittee minutes be placed on the Consent Agenda for approval. If they are pulled out and changes are offered and there is no objection, the full committee could proceed to approve the minutes. If there is an objection to the proposed changes, the minutes will be referred back to the subcommittee to resolve the issue.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Program Subcommittee Meeting minutes of January 20, 2012, as amended.

Without objection, Mr. Garberg amended the Program Subcommittee minutes of February 7, 2012 to add a reference to the Mt. Vernon plan. (See amended minutes.)

On a motion by Chairman Pope, seconded by Mrs. Gilman, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Program Subcommittee Meeting minutes of February 7, 2012, as amended.

Without objection, Mr. Gross amended the Special Joint Meeting Minutes of the City Council and School Committee by listing Mayor Kirk as a School Committee member rather than city administration.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Special Joint Meeting Minutes of the City Council and School Committee of February 7, 2012, as amended.

Without objection, Kathy Clancy amended Item IX.E. of the School Committee meeting minutes of February 15, 2012 by deleting the phrase “at its February 14, 2012 meeting.”

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to approve the School Committee Meeting minutes of February 15, 2012, as amended.

VIII. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

A. Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Safier updated the School Committee on the following matters:

- Surveillance cameras at the high school
- Parents Advisory Council
- Appointment of Assistant Principal at the high school

- Update on Search Committees – After discussion, final interviews for the Assistant Superintendent candidates were scheduled for Thursday, March 15, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. There was also a discussion about the questions to be asked of the candidates.
- Update on possible preschool relocation to Pathways building
- Projections on Full Cost of Fuller School – Mr. Garberg observed that there is no relationship between square footage and total cost shown in the data presented by Dr. Safier on current repair projects and, therefore, we do not really understand what is driving the cost. Kathy Clancy offered to call the Somerville School Department to get more detail on the scope of their renovation project. Mrs. Gilman suggested that this matter go back to the Building & Finance Subcommittee for further discussion.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Superintendent's Report.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – See Item X below.

X. ACTION

- A. Ad Hoc City Charter Subcommittee Recommendations** – Chairman Pope indicated that this item was listed incorrectly and that the recommendations will be reviewed by legal counsel before they are brought forward. Mr. Gross distributed and reviewed the draft School Committee Rules of Procedure as revised by the ad hoc subcommittee on February 27, 2012.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS

- A. GFAA Auction** – Mrs. Gilman supports the idea of donating a pass for free admission to athletic events. She also suggested that the committee give the same consideration to the GEF if they decide to have an auction or fundraiser in the future. This matter will be formalized and brought forward at the March 14th School Committee meeting.
- B. Lunch on Half Days** – Ms. Teixeira referred the matter of serving lunch to students on half days to the Building & Finance and Program Subcommittees for further discussion.
- C. Condition of Fuller School** – Mrs. Gilman stated that she learned about the issue with the occupancy permit from a reporter calling her yesterday and requested that the city inform the School Committee in advance when something like that occurs. Mayor Kirk explained that she received a letter from the building inspector dated January 18th with a lengthy “cc” list that apparently did not include the superintendent or Chairman Pope.

She stated that a parent of a YMCA after school program student had called the state and complained about the conditions at the school and that Mike Hale put a price of \$5 to \$6 million to address the issues in order to get an occupancy permit. Mayor Kirk stated that she will look more carefully at that type of correspondence and make sure it gets to the superintendent and chairman.

Kathy Clancy added that a lot of work has been done on the MOU because one of the major themes is adherence to the communication that is in the existing MOU, as well as additional communication that the School Committee believes would facilitate a much better relationship and provide them with the information they need with respect to overseeing the school buildings. Dr. Safier indicated that the MOU is very close to being completed.

- D. K12 Insight Survey** – Dr. Safier indicated that he is meeting with representatives from K12 Insight on Monday at 8:30 a.m. The expectation is that the survey instrument will be written the week of March 12th and that it will be launched by March 19th. K12 Insight recommended putting the survey on the website and then advertising it.

Mrs. Gilman reiterated that any member of the community who wants to participate in the survey will be able to do so. Mr. Gross reported a concern by members of the community that their responses will be given less weight than parents' responses. Mr. Garberg stated that it is up to the committee to decide whether to give the community more weight than the parent group if the committee feels that the community is underrepresented in the survey.

Mayor Kirk stated that the committee must also decide how much of an influence the survey will have on its decision-making. She does not believe the School Committee should govern by survey and stated that they should not set the expectation that the survey results will govern what the committee does. Mrs. Gilman also indicated that Dr. Safier will be giving the committee his educational recommendation.

- E. Food Service Payment System** – Kathy Clancy reported that the payment system is up and running.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Gilman, seconded by Mayor Kirk, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of February 29, 2012 at 8:05 p.m.

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

Maria Puglisi, Recording Secretary