

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 14, 2012
City Hall – Kyrouz Auditorium
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 (7:51 p.m.)

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Asst. Superintendent Brian Tarr
CFO Tom Markham

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – Chairman Pope welcomed the audience from Cape Ann TV and asked that they provide him with feedback that might make the meetings more user friendly or engaging. His understanding is that the reason the meetings are held at City Hall is for the sole purpose of having live broadcasts. He indicated that the committee will be looking into other venues for the meetings that are more acoustically advantageous unless there is an outpouring of public support for the live broadcasts.

V. RECOGNITIONS – Kathy Clancy recognized Talia Brown and Leslie Sellers for the exceptionally outstanding job they did on the O’Maley Middle School play “Willy Wonka.” She encouraged the public to attend the two remaining performances on Friday at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

Mrs. Gilman recognized the O’Maley Middle School staff for the welcome session for fifth grade elementary school students and parents.

Chairman Pope recognized the culinary class at GHS for providing excellent lunches for teachers and the public every couple of weeks.

VI. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Eleanor Keller, Kevin Rogers and Nicole Rapucci introduced themselves and updated the School Committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: spring sports, Relay for Life fundraiser, assembly run by the Student Council, prom, eighth grade welcome session, and senior college searches.

In addition, Ms. Keller stated that the student body is sad to see both Dr. Goodwin and Mr. Bedrosian leaving the high school but are excited to see the new faces that will arrive. In the next few weeks, five members of the Student Council are planning to meet with Dr. Goodwin to talk about how Student Council is going to work next year.

Kathy Clancy recognized the girls' varsity basketball team for making it to the quarter finals.

Chairman Pope reminded the SAC that they have the right to stay for the full meeting and participate in discussions. Mrs. Gilman indicated that the budget will be discussed during the next several meetings, which may be something that they would be interested in hearing and providing input on. Ms. Keller believes that if it is scheduled in advance, some of the upper classmen may be able to attend.

Finally, Chairman Pope reported that the GFAA will be having a work day on Saturday, March 31st to give students an opportunity to earn money towards spring sports.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Amended Special Joint Meeting Minutes of the City Council and School Committee of February 7, 2012
2. Second Amended Program Subcommittee Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2012
3. Amended School Committee Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2012
4. Ad Hoc Policy Manual Subcommittee Meeting of February 27, 2012
5. Ad Hoc City Charter Subcommittee Meeting of February 27, 2012
6. School Committee Governance Workshop of February 29, 2012
7. School Committee Meeting of February 29, 2012
8. Personnel Subcommittee Meeting of March 3, 2012 and Executive Session
Personnel Subcommittee Meeting of March 3, 2012 – **Confidential**
9. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of March 6, 2012
10. Program Subcommittee Meeting of March 8, 2012
11. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of March 12, 2012

B. Schedule of Future Meetings

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 Interview of Assistant Superintendent Finalists – Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Location: GHS Library

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

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

School Committee Public Hearing – Wednesday, April 4, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: To be determined

Program Subcommittee – Thursday, April 5, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

School Committee – Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

School Committee – Wednesday, April 25, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

Kathy Clancy removed Items A1, A2 and A3 from the Consent Agenda since they were approved at the last meeting, and Mrs. Gilman removed the School Committee Public Hearing from the Schedule of Future Meetings.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

With respect to the public hearing, Mrs. Gilman would like to specify that it is a School Committee Public Hearing on the FY13 Budget.

On a motion by Chairman Pope, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the change from “School Committee Public Hearing” to “School Committee Public Hearing on the Proposed School Budget for FY13” on Wednesday, April 4, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in a location to be determined.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT/DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

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

- Technology: The New England 1:1 Summit – Dr. Safier stated that the electronic device that is ultimately selected is less important than the process, professional development, and basis for instructional delivery. If we were to go with iPads as an option for teachers, he does not believe that is a requirement for students, as well. We would need to see what the most effective device would be to distribute to students. At the conference, he was given the impression that the extent and quality of apps for the iPad are the highest quality. The district technology committee will study these questions over the course of at least the next year to see if it is a viable option for the district. He has not looked at devices that would enrich the classroom rather than putting devices into students' hands.
- Preschool/Pathways Update – Dr. Safier noted that the city is well aware that the cost of occupancy is not included in the current FY13 proposed level service budget, and they are working closely with the city on that matter.
- MSBA Update – The first meeting of the School Building Committee will take place on March 20th at 10:00 a.m. Kathy Clancy noted that there is not an average parent from West Parish on the committee. Rather, the parents that are on the committee have building expertise. She suggested to the PTO president that a parent who volunteers at the school and who has a feel for how a school operates might bring that perspective to the committee.
- New Evaluation Update
- School Calendar 2012-13 – Dr. Safier noted that September 6th is a primary day, and the City Clerk would like it to be an early release day to facilitate voting. A second early release day is tentatively scheduled for September 18th, since teachers are supposed to have completed a self-assessment by October 1st. A third early release day would be on October 16th, since plans have to be completed by November 1st. Finally, November 6th, Election Day, will be a full professional development day. Dr. Safier hopes to be able to bring the school calendar forward for the School Committee's review and approval at the next meeting.
- Retirement and Resignation – Dr. Safier stated that it would be advantageous to have the new GHS principal interview the candidates for the academic dean position. He noted that the new evaluation system needs to be taken into consideration when hiring the new principal.
- Finalist Candidate for Director of Special Education – Final interviews were completed this afternoon. Dr. Safier is recommending Patricia Wegman for the position and would like the School Committee's approval of that

recommendation at the next meeting. Ms. Wegman is currently the program leader at O'Maley Middle School. Dr. Safier is confident that she will excel in this position.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Ad Hoc Policy Manual Subcommittee Meeting of February 27, 2012 –** Chairperson Teixeira reported that the Ad Hoc Policy Manual Subcommittee continued to discuss the policies in Section B of the GPSD Policy Manual at its February 27, 2012 meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for March 26th at 5:00 p.m. to complete Section B of the policy manual and to review Section C (administration). There was a discussion of rotating School Committee members to attend these meetings.

Mayor Kirk joined the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

- B. Ad Hoc City Charter Subcommittee Meeting of February 27, 2012 –** Chairman Pope noted that this meeting has already been reported on but that a legal opinion has not yet been received. Therefore, this matter was tabled to the next meeting.
- C. Personnel Subcommittee Meeting of March 3, 2012 –** Chairperson Teixeira reported that the Personnel Subcommittee discussed The Massachusetts Model System for Educator Evaluation at its meeting on March 3, 2012. She noted that Dr. Safier recommended that the School Committee adopt the model language as developed by the DESE. Chairman Pope stated for the record that he left the meeting when the subcommittee went into Executive Session to discuss strategy, since his wife is a teacher.
- D. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of March 6, 2012 –** Chairperson Clancy reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed the Magnolia School House and the FY 2013 proposed budget at its meeting on March 6, 2012.
- E. Program Subcommittee Meeting of March 8, 2012 –** Chairperson Gilman reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed the School Committee website at its meeting on March 9, 2012:

After discussion, on a motion by Mrs. Gilman, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to appoint Roger Garberg as webmaster for the School Committee web page of the GPSD website.

There was a discussion about the responsibilities of the webmaster and the process of posting information on the website. Mr. Gross expressed the need for a policy governing the School Committee website, and Chairman Pope referred that matter to the Ad Hoc Policy Manual Subcommittee. Chairman Pope thanked Mr. Garberg for accepting this position.

- F. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meetings of March 12 and March 14, 2012 –** Chairperson Clancy reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee continued its review of the FY13 proposed budget, including the athletic budget, at its meetings on March 12 and March 14, 2012.

After a lengthy discussion and review of Tab 9 in the budget book, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was

VOTED: 6 in favor, one present (Mayor Kirk) to approve the proposed budget for the School Committee Public Hearing as presented in the amount of \$36,168,452.

Chairman Pope noted that the proposed budget does not include any expenses for moving the preschool to Pathways, moving the administrative offices or transportation to other locations, or supplementing the gym space that is currently being used at Fuller. He stated that the BSRI literacy curriculum is extremely important for moving the district forward.

Mr. Markham indicated that the updated version of the athletic budget replaces the last appendix in Section B of the budget book.

X. ACTION

- A. School Committee Rules and Procedures 2012 –** Deferred to the next meeting.
- B. FY 2013 Operating Budget –** See Item IX.F. above.
- C. Gloucester Fishermen’s Athletic Association Auction –** Chairman Pope indicated that the auction will be held on March 24th at 6:00 p.m. at the Elks. He listed some of the items that will be up for auction.

After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to authorize the Gloucester Fishermen’s Athletic Association to issue three passes to Gloucester High School home athletic games – one for five years, one for three years, and one for two years – with a start date of September 2013, to be used for the purpose of fundraising for the renewal of Newell Stadium.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS

- A. Presentation from the Gloucester Education Foundation Regarding District-Wide K-12 Art Coordinator** – Chairman Pope noted that Ed Shoucair of GEF was unable to be at the meeting tonight. He referred this matter to both the Program and B&F Subcommittees. Mr. Gross suggested scheduling a special joint Program/B&F Subcommittee meeting for this presentation.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

XIII. FYI

- A. GHS National Honor Society Induction Invitation** – Invitation from the GHS National Honor Society to attend the induction of new members on Thursday, March 29, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the GHS auditorium, followed by light refreshments in the cafeteria.
- B. MASC Day on the Hill** – Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. Kathy Clancy, Mrs. Gilman and Ms. Teixeira will be attending.
- C. School Committee Governance Workshop** – Wednesday, April 4, 2012 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the O'Maley Middle School conference room.
- D. School Committee Public Hearing** – Wednesday, April 4, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the O'Maley Middle School auditorium. Publication must be made no later than March 21st. Mr. Gross will not be able to attend the public hearing.
- E. State of the Schools** – Tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 30, 2012 at the O'Maley Middle School auditorium.
- F. Update on K12 Insight Survey** – Dr. Safier expects to have the survey instrument by March 21st. Mr. Garberg noted that standard protocol for developing a new survey is to interview representative users of the survey. Mrs. Gilman stated that all members of the committee will have the opportunity to talk to Dr. Safier about the final draft of the survey to provide their feedback.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of March 14, 2012 at 8:50 p.m.

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

Maria Puglisi, Recording Secretary