

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**Amended School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, March 28, 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

**Administration Present**

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent  
CFO Tom Markham

**Others Present**

Patricia Wegmann, O'Maley Sped Coordinator

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Recorded by Cape Ann TV

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 Cape Ann TV and its viewers and asked that they provide him with feedback on any improvements that could be made to make the meetings more engaging.

**At this time, the agenda was taken out of order.**

**X. ACTION**

- C. Director of Special Education –** Dr. Safier recommended Patricia Wegmann for the position of Director of Special Education. He reviewed her educational background, certifications, and positions in the district and elsewhere, as well as comments made by her coworkers and her qualifications for the position.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor zero opposed, to support the superintendent's recommendation of Patricia Wegmann as Director of Special Education.

Ms. Wegmann thanked the committee for the appointment and stated that she is thrilled to continue her work in Gloucester. She hopes that she can continue to provide for the varied needs of the many students in the district who need support.

- V. RECOGNITIONS** – Mrs. Gilman recognized the GFAA and its volunteers for their work on the auction last weekend. She read the letter that was sent on behalf of the School Committee to the board and volunteers for the successful fundraising event. Ms. Teixeira recognized Kristin Michel and Leah Lovasco, who were a huge driving force in putting the auction together. She also recognized the Elks for contributing \$10,000 and noted that an anonymous donor contributed \$12,500. Chairman Pope reported that over \$46,000 was raised for the renewal of Newell Stadium.

Kathy Clancy noted that East Gloucester School is having their fifth grade play this weekend, Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream," and Mr. Garberg recognized Martin DelVecchio for creating a wonderful commercial for the play. He stated that the commercial can be viewed on YouTube and on the East Gloucester School website.

Mrs. Gilman announced that the Cape Ann Report will be featuring the O'Maley performing arts program promoting skills for 21st century learning. Gloucester Stage Company's Heidi Dallin interviewed teachers Leslie Sellers and Talia Brown, as well as a sixth grader and Mrs. Gilman herself. The Cape Ann Report will air on April 4th at 7:30, April 5th at 6 p.m., April 6th at 1 p.m., and April 8th at 3 p.m. Mrs. Gilman also noted that the O'Maley performing arts video can be viewed at [www.gloucesterschools.com](http://www.gloucesterschools.com).

Chairman Pope recognized the O'Maley production of "Willy Wonka Jr." which he thought was very well-done.

Finally, Dr. Safier indicated that the National Honor Society induction ceremony will be held tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m.

- VI. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Eleanor Keller, Samuel Bevins and Alicia Fillipo introduced themselves and updated the School Committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: NHS induction ceremony, spring sports, senior scholarships, and GFAA work day. Chairman Pope stated that the students will be staying for the entire meeting tonight.

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

1. Program Subcommittee Meeting of March 8, 2012
2. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of March 12, 2012
3. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of March 14, 2012
4. School Committee Meeting of March 14, 2012
5. Building & Finance Subcommittee of March 21, 2012

6. Joint Building & Finance and Program Subcommittee Meeting of March 26, 2012
7. Special School Committee Meeting of March 27, 2012
8. Special Program Subcommittee Meeting of March 28, 2012

**B. Schedule of Future Meetings**

Personnel Subcommittee – Monday, April 2, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

School Committee Public Hearing on Proposed FY13 School Budget – Wednesday, April 4, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: O’Maley Middle School Auditorium

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

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

School Committee Governance Workshop – Tuesday, April 10, 2012

Location: Time and place to be determined

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

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

Building & Finance Subcommittee – Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at 4:45 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

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

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

**C. Acceptance of Grant**

To accept a DESE Academic Support Services Allocation Grant Program (Summer) in the amount of \$14,834.00.

**D. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip Request**

To approve an out-of-state field trip request from the Junior ROTC Program to compete in the National High School Drill Team Championship in Daytona Beach, Florida from Wednesday, May 2, 2012 to Monday, May 7, 2012.

**E. Acceptance of Scholarship**

To accept the Jean and Joseph Palazola Memorial Athletic Scholarship in the amount of \$750.00.

Kathy Clancy removed the Building & Finance Subcommittee meeting scheduled for April 18, 2012 from the Schedule of Future Meetings.

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

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

## **VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT/DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES**

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

1. Preschool/Pathways Update – Dr. Safier noted that representatives from the GPSD and Pathways will be meeting soon to discuss the means for financing the construction of the preschool space and the cost of tenancy under those circumstances. He will update the committee when he has that information.
2. Public Hearing on the Proposed FY13 Budget
3. State of the Schools – Dr. Safier indicated that the Docksiders will be performing prior to the forum. The Program Subcommittee will discuss at its next meeting the matter of having GPSD partners set up booths in the common area for a half hour before the forum.
4. School Improvement Plans and District Improvement Plan – Dr. Safier noted that the deadline for the SIPs is April 13, 2012, which provides an opportunity for them to be reviewed in preparation for the “State of the Schools.”
5. PARCC Technology Readiness Tool
6. May 3 Workshop on Evaluation
7. High School Principal Position – Dr. Safier stated that a search committee will be established shortly. In response to a question by Eleanor Keller, Dr. Safier indicated that students will be included in the search committee and interview process.

## **IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of March 21, 2012** – Chairperson Clancy reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its meeting on March 21, 2012:

- Schedule 19
- Facilities Agreement with City

- West Parish School Building Project
- Magnolia School House

After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Chairman Pope, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 7 in favor zero opposed, to declare the Magnolia School House property surplus and to return it to the city for disposition.

- B. Joint Building & Finance and Program Subcommittee Meeting of March 26, 2012** – Mrs. Gilman reported that the subcommittees discussed a proposal presented by Ed Shoucair of the GEF to consider hiring a district-wide K-12 art coordinator. The matter was deferred to Dr. Safier in light of the budget implications of the proposal.
- C. Special Program Subcommittee Meeting of March 28, 2012** – Chairperson Gilman reported that the Program Subcommittee worked on Frequently Asked Questions and Answers at its meeting on March 28, 2012, in anticipation of questions that the community will be asking. The subcommittee recommends that the FAQs be divided into two sections – one with respect to the future of Fuller School and the other with respect to the West Parish School MSBA process. The subcommittee hopes to have a working draft to review at next week’s subcommittee meeting.
- D. Program Subcommittee Meeting of March 8, 2012** – Chairperson Gilman reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its meeting on March 8, 2012:
- FY2012/2013 District Improvement Plan Draft
  - Consideration of Annual Timetable for Program Subcommittee Topics in Support of District Improvement Plan

Chairperson Gilman noted that Mr. Gross suggested that all three subcommittees look at the policy regarding the responsibilities of their respective subcommittees and use each subcommittee meeting as an opportunity to review those responsibilities. Accordingly, this matter was referred to the Personnel and Building and Finance Subcommittees to review the existing policies regarding duties of the subcommittee.

## **X. ACTION**

- A. School Committee Rules and Procedures 2012** – Mr. Gross indicated a legal opinion has been received on this matter and that he would like to reconvene the ad hoc subcommittee to review that opinion, incorporate the responses, and then bring it back to the full committee.
- B. Magnolia School House** – See Agenda Item IX.A.

**XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Public Hearing on the FY13 Budget** – Mrs. Gilman suggested that when the principals make their “all calls” regarding the half day on Friday, that they recommend that people attend the public hearing. Chairman Pope reminded the audience that the public hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 4, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the O’Maley School auditorium.
- B. City Webinar** – Mayor Kirk reported on the City’s first webinar yesterday and suggested it as another channel to provide outreach to the community and for people who may not be able to get out to events, such as the “State of the Schools.”
- C. Cape Ann Symphony Request** – Chairman Pope reported that there has been a request from the Cape Ann Symphony regarding the storage of alcohol at Fuller School. He referred the matter to the Building & Finance Subcommittee.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mrs. Gilman, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** By Roll Call Vote

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

To enter into Executive Session at 8:03 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining, specifically the nurses’ contract, and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of adjournment only.

**XIII. FYI**

- A. Thank You Letter to GFAA Auction Committee and Volunteers**

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mrs. Gilman, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 7 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of March 28, 2012 at 8:42 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi, Recording Secretary*