

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 10, 2013
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

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and welcomed the Cape Ann TV audience.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Pope and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – Carole McNair has a daughter at GHS and asked the School Committee to consider eliminating class dues, which total \$100 per student over four years at the high school. She noted that the money is used for social events, a class gift, flowers for the school secretary, and breakfast at graduation practice. She stated that students who received free or reduced lunch are also expected to pay class dues, and if class dues are not paid, seniors cannot graduate in a cap and gown. She believes it is unfair for students who do not attend social events to have to subsidize them and suggested that the students do fundraising to pay for those events, etc.

Matthew Sky Tallgrass expressed concern with the oversight and negligence of the West Parish after school program, stating that he believes that the actions of the superintendent and the principal were unprofessional. Chairman Pope stated that the School Committee does not generally deal with these kinds of matters but that the committee will discuss it and let him know if any action is taken.

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – None

V. RECOGNITIONS – Dr. Safier reminded the public of the educational forum taking place on May 1, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Cruiseport, the theme of which is technology, access and empowerment for the 20th century. Mrs. Gilman recognized a large group of O’Maley Innovation School students for helping to prepare a dinner at the Open Door last week as part of the SAILS program. Chairman Pope reminded the audience that Beeman School is presenting “Oliver” tomorrow night and that some of the performers will do a presentation at

the School Committee's next meeting. Mr. Garberg noted that East Gloucester School is having a square dance tomorrow.

VI. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – None present

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. School Committee of March 27, 2013
2. School Committee Executive Session of March 27, 2013

B. Approval of Field Trip – To approve an out-of-state field trip request from GHS teacher, Ann Grasseti, to attend the National DECA Conference in Anaheim, California from Tuesday, April 23, 2013 to Sunday, April 28, 2013.

C. Acceptance of Grants

1. Massachusetts DESE Grants:
 - a. Academic Support Services Allocation Grant – \$12,521.00
 - b. District and School Assistance Grant – \$12,659.00
 - c. District and School Assistance Grant – \$6,819.00
 - d. Special Education Grant – \$3,500.00
2. Gloucester Education Foundation Grant – 12 Redcat systems for installation in Grade 2 classrooms – \$13,048.00

Kathy Clancy removed Item C.2 and Ms. Teixeira removed Item A.2 from the Consent Agenda.

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

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

Kathy Clancy reminded the committee that this is the third year in the process of getting the Redcat sound systems in classrooms and expressed appreciation to the GEF for the grant. The GEF, particularly Maggie and Joe Rosa, feel strongly that these sound systems benefit all children since they project sound from different places in the room.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Gloucester Education Foundation grant in the amount of \$13,048.00 for 12 Redcat systems for installation in Grade 2 classrooms.

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – None

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Program Subcommittee of April 4, 2013** – Chairperson Gilman reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed SMART goals and the School Committee annual calendar at its meeting on April 4, 2013. The subcommittee will be reviewing the feedback received during the recent governance workshop at its next meeting.
- B. Building & Finance Subcommittee of April 10, 2013** – Chairperson Clancy reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed funding for the study of the remaining elementary schools at its meeting on April 10, 2012.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to instruct the CFO to allocate \$60,000.00 to be matched by the City to fund a Request for Proposals for the review of conditions of the Beeman Memorial, East Gloucester, Plum Cove, and Veterans’ Memorial Elementary Schools for the purpose of formulating a long-term facilities/education plan, recognizing that the Fuller building is already included in the West Parish MSBA feasibility study.

X. ACTION

- A. FY14 Operating Budget** – Dr. Safier requested that the School Committee approve the proposed budget in the amount of \$37,706,353 so that it can be passed along to the Mayor.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote
Mrs. Gilman – yes
Mr. Gross – yes
Chairman Pope – yes
Ms. Teixeira – yes
Kathy Clancy – yes
Mr. Garberg – yes

To approve the FY14 Operating Budget for submission to the Mayor and the City Council in the amount of \$37,706,353.

Kathy Clancy noted that a change in the cost of health insurance is out of the School Committee’s control and that the committee may need to make another motion to adjust the budget. Ms. Teixeira assured the committee that the health insurance figure will change to the committee’s benefit.

Chairman Pope noted that the School Committee and the City are in the process of putting out an RFP for space to house the transportation department, the preschool, and the administration offices. He would like to include a note with the budget stating the costs of leasing that space is not included in the budget and that the School Department will be able to ask for more money if that comes to fruition.

B. Request for Proposals – Review Conditions of Beeman Memorial, East Gloucester, Plum Cove, and Veterans’ Memorial Elementary Schools – See Item IX.B.

C. District Participation in School Choice for 2013/2014 – After discussion, on a motion by Mrs. Gilman, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the district’s participation in the inter-district school choice program under M.G.L. Chapter 76, Section 12B.

Dr. Safier noted that the district will be advertising fairly soon about opportunities for school choice. He thanked Mrs. Gilman for helping to craft the advertisement.

D. District Improvement Plan – Since there are no timing issues related to approval of the District Improvement Plan, this matter was tabled. It will be discussed in the next Program Subcommittee meeting.

E. School Committee Annual Meeting Agenda – Tabled and referred back to Program Subcommittee.

F. Draft School Committee SMART Goal Worksheet – Tabled and referred back to Program Subcommittee.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS

A. MSBA Update – Dr. Safier reported that a second tour of the Avery Elementary School in Dedham was conducted last week, including attendance by some city councilors. He indicated that the building committee met and discussed the kickoff meeting at West Parish on March 11th, and Dore & Whittier made some brief reflections about the existing building conditions at both West Parish and Fuller. Dr. Safier emphasized that the feasibility study includes a complete analysis of the existing building conditions at both the current West Parish School and the Fuller building, and the designer will be reporting on that in the near future. He reminded the committee that the first stage of the feasibility study is to have the designer identify three possible alternatives, which could be repairs, renovation, or a brand new building. In addition to the existing building conditions, educational programming has been discussed (i.e. numbers and sizes of classrooms, special education common areas, etc.).

Dr. Safier noted the following upcoming dates:

- May 7th – OPM and designer will attend School Committee meeting and introduce themselves
- May 13th – Designer will submit preliminary preferred schematic plan to MSBA
- May 14th – OPM and designer will meet with West Parish PTO
- May 21st – Designer will meet with City Council

Dr. Safier reported that the final result of the feasibility study will go before MSBA for approval on November 20, 2013, and if approved, the loan authorization process through the city will begin.

Mr. Garberg and Mrs. Gilman reported on their experience touring the Avery School while class was in session. Mr. Garberg stated that he was impressed by the stunning cafeteria/auditorium and the number of very effective but inexpensive details that the designer included to add to the life of the building. Mrs. Gilman was impressed with the technology room, spacious corridors, natural light, and cost effectiveness of the building. She was also very impressed with the relationship between the designer and the principal. Dr. Safier noted that the building includes a full-size 6,000 square foot gymnasium which benefits the entire community and which is fully reimbursable by MSBA.

Dr. Safier indicated that the district is seeking to amend the enrollment projection (currently 355) due to the influx of charter school students. The March 1st figure was 368. In addition, there is a substantially separate program where students are shuttled between West Parish and Veterans. Part of the planning would incorporate those students throughout their K-5 education, which would add approximately 10 students. He indicated that the district is in the process of amending the enrollment projection to 380 students.

Finally, Chairman Pope reported that the building committee decided to proceed with the construction manager at risk process at its meeting yesterday, which results in an additional 1% reimbursement from MSBA.

B. FYI – Approved Amended School Committee Minutes of March 13, 2013

- C. Student Lunch Accounts** – Mr. Garberg reported that he has been having some discussions concerning the outstanding lunch fees and asked Dr. Safier to explain what has changed in the operation of the Food Service Department in the last couple of years which seems to have raised the current issue of outstanding lunch fees. He noted that some parents feel that there have been fewer communications about how to pay, etc. Dr. Safier stated that he would ask Mr. Baumhauer and Mr. Padulsky to give some details about this at the next meeting. He stated that there is close to \$58,000 of outstanding fees, and he knows Mr. Padulsky can document quite well the efforts undertaken, including letters and phone calls, to attempt to collect outstanding fees. Dr. Safier feels that it is the parents' responsibility to either pay for their children's lunches or to send their children to school with a lunch from home. Chairman Pope noted that this has always been a problem and that the Food Service

Department now has a way to keep track of the arrearages. Kathy Clancy suggested sending out a reminder about the “E-Funds for Schools” program.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

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

To enter into Executive Session after a five-minute recess to discuss collective bargaining and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of adjournment only.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of April 10, 2013 at 8:45 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*