

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 12, 2012

School Committee Chambers – District Office

7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Val Gilman, Vice Chairperson
Kathy Clancy, Secretary (7:13 p.m.)
Melissa Teixeira (9:16 p.m.)
Roger Garberg
Tony Gross

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Dr. Shayne Trubisz, Assistant Superintendent
Assistant Superintendent Brian Tarr
Ann-Marie Jordan, Student Health Director (7:39 p.m.)
Principal Gregg Bach

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 noted that a number of the School Committee members are not present because of the rescheduling of the meeting from last night. He stated that Kathy Clancy and Melissa Teixeira will be joining the meeting later but that there is a presently a quorum.

V. RECOGNITIONS – Dr. Safier recommended that Gregg Bach be appointed as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. He reviewed Mr. Bach’s educational background, positions in the district and elsewhere, comments made by his coworkers, and his qualifications for the position.

Kathy Clancy joined the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

After discussion, on a motion by Mrs. Gilman, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to appoint Gregg Bach as Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning effective July 1, 2012, as recommended by Superintendent Safier.

Mr. Bach thanked the committee for the appointment and stated that he is happy to be staying in Gloucester. He praised the School Committee and thanked Dr. Trubisz for her guidance.

Mr. Gross recognized two outstanding performances, “The Wizard of Oz” at Beeman School and “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” at East Gloucester School.

VI. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Erin Jermyn introduced herself and updated the School Committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: talent show, pizza taste-off, “Rocking for Rosa,” “Little Shop of Horrors,” ROTC trip to Daytona Beach, NHS induction ceremony, and DECA Internationals in Utah.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of March 21, 2012
2. Joint Building & Finance and Program Subcommittee Meeting of March 26, 2012
3. Special School Committee Meeting of March 27, 2012
4. Special Program Subcommittee Meeting of March 28, 2012
5. School Committee Meeting of March 28, 2012
6. School Committee Executive Session Meeting of March 28, 2012 –
Confidential
7. Personnel Subcommittee Meeting of April 2, 2012
8. Special Program Subcommittee Meeting of April 4, 2012
9. School Committee Public Hearing on FY13 School Budget of April 4, 2012
10. Program Subcommittee Meeting of April 5, 2012
11. School Committee Governance Workshop of April 20, 2012

B. Schedule of Future Meetings

Building & Finance Subcommittee – Monday, April 23, 2012 at 4:45 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

Special Program Subcommittee – Monday, April 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

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

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

Program Subcommittee – Thursday, May 3, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

School Committee – Wednesday, May 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

Building & Finance Subcommittee – Wednesday, May 16, 2012 at 4:45 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

School Committee – Wednesday, May 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

C. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip Request

To approve the Annual Grade 5 Nature’s Classroom Week field trip request to Camp Cody in Freedom, New Hampshire from Tuesday, May 29, 2012 to Friday, June 1, 2012.

Mr. Garberg removed Item A5, Kathy Clancy removed Item A11, and Mrs. Gilman removed Item A10 from the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Gilman also removed the Special Program Subcommittee meeting scheduled for Monday, April 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. from the Schedule of Future Meetings.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

Mr. Garberg amended the minutes of the March 28, 2012 School Committee meeting by changing the name “Michael DelVecchio” to “Martin DelVecchio” in Item V.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2012 School Committee meeting as amended above.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT/DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

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

B. Introduction to Common Core Standards – Dr. Trubisz reviewed the Common Core action planning in progress for 2012-2013 and presented a slide show on the 2011 Mass. Curriculum Frameworks for ELA and Math from the DESE. The committee discussed team goals, student research reports, standards-based report cards, and MCAS testing.

A. Summary of Findings: Gloucester Student Health Survey – Ann-Marie Jordan presented a slide show on a 2011 student health survey conducted by the Healthy Gloucester Collaborative and SSRE (a research company) at the middle school and high school, including how the survey was conducted, the questions that were asked, and the findings of the survey. A discussion was held on cross-tabulation of results, and Kathy Clancy suggested that the Youth Initiative Task Force reconvene to discuss the findings.

Mr. Garberg referred this matter to the Program Subcommittee for further discussion. Ms. Jordan recommended that the subcommittee also look at the programs and strategies that have already been implemented in the schools that address those specific issues. Mrs. Gilman suggested that the subcommittee focus on its areas of responsibility (i.e. providing oversight on the health education curriculum, how parents are made aware of the curriculum, and how many parents are opting out of it) rather than focusing on the raw data itself. Mr. Garberg stated that he would be willing to analyze the data himself.

Dr. Trubisz and Mr. Bach left the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

C. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Safier updated the School Committee on the following matters:

1. Schools for the 21st Century – Curriculum is connected to the local, state, national, and global community, and students are called upon to collaborate with people around the world on various projects using multimedia tools in a safe, healthy, comfortable, environmentally responsive, and cost effective environment.
2. K12 Insight Survey: Fuller School
3. State of the Schools – Mrs. Gilman requested that Dr. Safier consider incorporating the highlights in each of the schools from his budget presentation in his State of the Schools address. Dr. Safier indicated that each principal will talk about highlights in their school.
4. Preschool to Pathways – Dr. Safier noted that the School Department is still waiting for detailed information from Pathways. As soon as those numbers are received, he will ask to have the matter referred to the Building and Finance Subcommittee. Mr. Markham indicated that he received some numbers from Pathways this afternoon and that this matter should be discussed at the April 23rd B&F Subcommittee meeting.
5. East Gloucester Principal Search

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- B. Special Program Subcommittee Meeting of April 4, 2012** – Chairperson Gilman reported on two factual changes that were made to the Frequently Asked Questions and Answers and indicated that the Program Subcommittee approved the FAQs at its meeting on April 4, 2012. Mr. Garberg will be posting the FAQs on the website tomorrow morning.

- C. Program Subcommittee Meeting of April 5, 2012** – Chairperson Gilman reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed community outreach on the Fuller School and West Parish MSBA survey at its meeting on April 5, 2012. She stated that she will use Dr. Safier’s letter to parents and guardians as a template for an email to be sent to GPSD community partners for distribution to their membership.
- A. Personnel Subcommittee Meeting of April 2, 2012** – In Chairperson Teixeira’s absence, Vice Chairperson Gross reported that the Personnel Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its meeting on April 2, 2012:

- Salary for High School Principal Position – Dr. Safier reported on the job description and how it reflects the Common Core Standards.

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Chairman Pope, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, that the salary range for the high school principal be set between \$100,000 and \$112,000.

Ms. Teixeira joined the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

- Superintendent Evaluation – After a lengthy discussion and review of the Public Meeting Law, on a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Chairman Pope, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, that the draft “Evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools: Standards and Indicators” as presented be used as the template for the evaluation of the superintendent for this year.

Mrs. Gilman stated that she supports the use of the evaluation form as a template for discussion but that she is not comfortable completing the form electronically and submitting it to a source to be compiled. She would rather discuss the topics to be evaluated in open meeting, which is what she believes Mike Gilbert recommended.

Chairperson Teixeira reported that the Personnel Subcommittee also discussed a Social Networking Policy at its meeting on April 2, 2012. There has been no determination made yet on such a policy.

X. ACTION

- A. First Reading of Revised Elementary Attendance Policy** – Tabled.
- B. GHS Principal Salary Range** – See Item IX.A.

- C. Superintendent’s Evaluation Template 2011/2012** – See Item IX.A.
- D. Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning** – See Item V.
- E. School Calendar 2012-2013** – Dr. Safier reviewed the calendar, noted the frontloading of some early release days for professional development on the new evaluation system, and stated that the GTA has reviewed and approved the calendar. There was a discussion of scheduling professional development days on Mondays and Fridays.

Ms. Teixeira requested that Dr. Safier educate the full committee on the new evaluation system. He stated that, with the permission of the committee, he will send an electronic version of the planning and implementation guide and model contract language to the members, which can be discussed at the next meeting. Dr. Safier briefly reviewed the evaluation process.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to accept the 2012-2013 School Calendar as presented by Superintendent Safier.

- F. Loan Authorization for West Parish School Feasibility Study** – Chairman Pope stated that the City Council voted to refer the Mayor’s request for a loan authorization for the West Parish School feasibility study to the Budget & Finance Committee next week.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to endorse the loan authorization for the West Parish School feasibility study.

Mrs. Gilman suggested that the School Committee members reach out to their respective city councilors to ensure that they are up-to-date on the FAQs.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS

- A. Capital Improvement Plan** – Dr. Safier indicated that the city has requested that the School Committee consider revising the Capital Improvement Plan to make it contemporary with respect to West Parish School. He requested that this matter be referred to the Building & Finance Subcommittee. Ms. Teixeira suggested requesting a facilities report from Mike Hale on the condition of West Parish School. Dr. Safier indicated that Mr. Hale will be attending the B&F Subcommittee meeting on April 23rd and will request that information from him.

Chairman Pope thanked the CATV viewers for watching.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

XIII. FYI – None

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of April 12, 2012 at 9:56 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*