

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Beeman Memorial Elementary School Gymnasium

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
Gregg Bach, Assistant Superintendent
Hans Baumhauer, Dir. of Finance
and Operations

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:02 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** – None
- V. PERFORMANCE/RECOGNITIONS**
- A. Cast Members from Beeman’s Production of “Oliver”** – Students performed several scenes/songs from the play.
- (A five-minute recess was taken at this time.)*
- B. GHS Girls Varsity Soccer Team** – Chairman Pope recognized soccer coach Allison Walsh and students Kali Cook, Bianca Giacalone, Caroline Greeke, Melody Orrel, and Elle Wierbicky, who traveled to Newtown, Connecticut to host a soccer clinic for youth soccer players.
- C. Other Recognitions** – Chairman Pope recognized Recording Secretary, Maria Puglisi, for recording all of the committee’s meetings and presented her with a beautiful bouquet of flowers.
- VI. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – None present
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of Minutes

1. School Committee and Executive Session (Confidential) of April 10, 2013
2. School Committee Governance Workshop of April 8, 2013
3. School Committee Public Hearing on the FY14 Proposed Budget of April 3, 2013
4. School Committee Executive Session of March 27, 2013 (Confidential)
5. Program Subcommittee of April 4, 2013
6. Building & Finance Subcommittee of April 10, 2013

B. Approval of Field Trip – To approve an out-of-state field trip request to Canobie Lake, Salem, New Hampshire on May 23, 2013

C. Acceptance of Scholarship – To accept the D. Scott Noble Scholarship, two scholarships in the amount of \$2,000.00 each.

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

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

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) – Nurse Leader Cindy Juncker reported that the Department of Public Health has invited Gloucester to participate in the SBIRT model with respect to prevention of substance abuse and reinforcement of healthy behaviors. She explained the purpose of the program and reviewed the action plan. Joan Whitney from the Healthy Gloucester Collaborative (HGC) reported that this evidence-based integrated model has been studied for many years and reviewed its implementation in the community.

Ms. Juncker indicated that this screening would be part of all seventh and tenth graders’ annual mandated screenings in the future. She reviewed the screening process, including the data collection form, and what is done with the data. Dr. Safier stated that the School Department is prepared to go forward with this model as one of the pilot districts in the state, and the following matters were discussed:

- Parent education and notification/opting out
- Confidentiality – no documentation of results are kept in school records
- Communication with parents regarding results
- Training for nurses and guidance counselors

B. Race to the Top Update – Mr. Bach updated the committee on the Race to the Top project and where the district currently stands. He reported that he filed an amendment two weeks ago to shift some of the funds from the current year into next year. He reviewed each of the categories and the amount allocated to each.

C. Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Safier updated the committee on the following matters:

1. House Ways and Means Committee FY14 Recommendation

2. Security Update
3. High School Statement of Interest – Dr. Safier stated that a determination from MSBA as to whether they will support the SOI can be expected in the fall. If they do not support the SOI, he recommended that the DPW and School Department move forward with addressing the pressing issues at the high school.
4. Repairs to High School Gymnasium Roof and Library Roof
5. Principal and Math Coordinator Updates – Dr. Safier reported that final interviews for the Veterans principal position are tentatively scheduled for May 6th.
6. Education Forum – Mrs. Gilman requested that the invitation to this event be posted on the district website.

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

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

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – None

X. ACTION

- A. AFSCME Clerical Unit A** – Ms. Teixeira reported that this group has ratified the terms of their contract, which she briefly reviewed.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

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

To approve a contract agreement between AFSCME Local 687 Clerical Unit A and the Gloucester School Committee from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014.

- B. AFSCME Clerical Unit B** – Ms. Teixeira reported that this group also ratified the terms of their contract.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

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

To approve a contract agreement between AFSCME Local 687 Clerical Unit B and the Gloucester School Committee from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS

- A. MSBA Update** – Dr. Safier reported that the building committee has been meeting regularly and is in the process of developing an education program narrative with Dore & Whittier which justifies the space requirements. Over the last two weeks, the designer has been reviewing the existing building conditions of both West Parish and the Fuller building. At tomorrow's building committee meeting, the designer will report on the health, safety and welfare of the buildings, code compliance, handicapped accessibility, energy efficiency, the presence or absence of hazardous materials, maintenance or lifecycle cost of operations, functional use of the buildings, and the ability to meet educational program needs. Kathy Clancy reminded the public that the building committee meetings are open meetings and everyone is welcome to attend.

Dr. Safier reported that a request is being made to the MSBA for a change of enrollment from 355 to 380 or more due to the fact that their enrollment projection was determined before the influx of students from the charter school in January. In addition, one of the substantially separate programs that is currently at West Parish for a year (kindergarten) and then transfers to Veterans will be relocated to West Parish.

Dr. Safier reviewed the talking points that the building committee, the OPM and the designer have been working on with respect to the project, including a chronology of events, and noted the following upcoming dates:

- May 13th – Designer will submit preliminary design to MSBA
- May 14th – OPM and designer will attend West Parish PTO meeting
- May 21st – Designer will meet with City Council
- June 3rd – Preferred schematic design is voted on for endorsement by MSBA
- November 20th – MSBA will vote to approve the schematic design, after which a public hearing will be held and City Council will be called upon to vote on the project.

Dr. Safier identified the following items that will be taken into consideration and addressed by the project:

- Obsolete building and systems within it
- Total lack of energy efficiency (boilers, lighting, etc.)
- Educational program deficiencies
- Essential code upgrade requirements (sprinklers, seismic stability, handicapped accessibility, and energy code requirements)
- Health and safety issues, particularly transportation
- No dedicated rooms for performing arts/music, occupational therapy, and speech/language services
- Limited conference rooms and science rooms
- Inadequate facilities for special education, library/media center, and indoor physical education
- Cafeteria serves six lunches to accommodate all students, which is exceptionally disruptive to the school schedule. MSBA will only reimburse if there are 2-3 lunches served.
- Overcrowded building – 40,000 square feet for 370 students and approximately 50 staff (one-third smaller than current MSBA educational space requirements). New building would be 62,000-65,000 square feet.

On the positive side, Dr. Safier noted that the project will provide an increased opportunity for community use of the facility, as well as a dramatic upgrade to athletic fields on the site for use by residents, with 48.27% reimbursement and no need for an override. He stated that if a new school is the preferred alternative, the designer is confident that it can be built behind the existing school and the students would remain there. The new building would likely be a multistory configuration.

Lastly, Dr. Safier reported that OPM Kevin Buckley will be on “Superintendent’s Corner” next week, and Chairman Pope indicated that the School Committee will have a presentation from the OPM and the design team, Dore & Whittier, on May 8th.

B. FYI – New 504 Accommodation Plan

C. Reminder – GHS National Honor Society Induction Ceremony at GHS Auditorium on Thursday, April 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

D. Superintendent’s Goals – Mrs. Gilman requested that Dr. Safier’s goals be posted on the administration website.

E. Naming of O’Maley Auditorium in Memory of Al Swekla – Mrs. Gilman reminded the committee that this event is taking place on June 13th.

F. Renaming of O’Maley Innovation Middle School – Mrs. Gilman reported that Principal Lucey believes this event should be held during the day for the students and requested that Dr. Safier let Ms. Lucey know that the committee would like the event to take place before the end of the school year. Dr. Safier reported that Mr. Baumhauer is pricing out new carpet for the auditorium for this event.

G. Review of Proposals for Space for Preschool, Administration, and Transportation Department – Chairman Pope referred this matter to the Building & Finance Subcommittee.

H. School Budget Presentation to City Council B&F Committee – Chairman Pope reported that the City Council Budget & Finance Committee would like to review the School Department Budget on May 13th at 5:30 p.m. He referred this matter to the Building & Finance Subcommittee.

I. Proposals for Study of Elementary Schools – Chairman Pope asked Mayor Kirk who would be responsible for reviewing these proposals. Mayor Kirk indicated that Donna Compton, Jim Hafey and someone from the School Department should review the proposals.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

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

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

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of April 24, 2013 at 9:43 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*