

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Amended School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 25, 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 (7:48 p.m.)
Mayor Carolyn Kirk

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
CFO Tom Markham
Principal Tammy Morgan (7:06 p.m.)
Principal Gregg Bach (7:35 p.m.)

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 suggested that all of the members meet with their respective City Council liaisons to discuss the budget and the West Parish building project.

V. RECOGNITIONS – Mrs. Gilman reminded the committee and the public that the annual Mad Hot Ball will be held on May 6th at the GHS field house. She also recognized Emma Zajac, a junior at GHS, who won the graphic design class contest for the Arts Festival poster. Finally, she reminded the committee and the public that the Arts Festival will be held on Saturday, May 12th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., starting at City Hall.

Dr. Safier recognized Katy Geraghty for winning the “American Idol Experience” at Disney Hollywood Studios Park in Florida and indicated that she now has an opportunity to receive a full audition for American Idol.

Dr. Safier also recognized Mr. O’Connor of the Junior ROTC program for receiving the Jean Weil Foundation Scholarship. He will be participating in a personal interview scheduled during competitions at the National High School Drill Team Championships.

Kathy Clancy recognized the powerful one-woman performance of “The Yellow Dress” sponsored by the GEF which was put on for the sophomores and seniors at GHS.

VI. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Kevin Rogers updated the School Committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: “The Yellow Dress,” Spring Fling, and the Relay for Life fundraiser.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. School Committee Public Hearing on FY13 School Budget of April 4, 2012
2. Program Subcommittee Meeting of April 5, 2012
3. School Committee Governance Workshop of April 10, 2012

B. Schedule of Future Meetings

State of the Schools Presentation – Monday, April 30, 2012

Location: 6:15-7:00 p.m. Pre-Presentation & Refreshments (O’Maley Commons)
7:00-8:30 p.m. State of the Schools Presentation (O’Maley Auditorium)

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

City Council O&A – Monday, May 14, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Location: City Council Conference Room – 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

School Committee Governance Workshop – Thursday, May 24, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

C. Out-of-State Field Trip Request

1. To approve a field trip request to Canobie Lake, New Hampshire on Thursday, May 24, 2012
2. To approve a field trip request to Salt Lake City, Utah for National DECA Competition from Sunday, April 29, 2012 to Wednesday, May 2, 2012

D. Acceptance of Grants

1. GEF School Yard Gardens – \$2,500.00
2. GEF O’Maley Arts/Science Residency in Paper – \$1,400.60
3. GEF Gloucester High School Students to watch the “Yellow Dress” performance – \$1,200.00
4. DESE Academic Support Services Allocation Program (Summer) – \$14,834.00

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

VOTED: 6 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. MSBA West Parish Update – Dr. Safier reported on the components of the feasibility study that will take place upon approval of the loan authorization by the City Council and stated that at the conclusion of the feasibility study, the project will be ready to go into the construction phase.
2. Presentation on New Evaluation System – Mayor Kirk expressed the view that it is irresponsible for the DESE to mandate this monumental new evaluation system into law as basically a manual system and stated that she is greatly concerned that the system is not highly sophisticated in terms of its automation. Dr. Safier elaborated on evidence of student growth in subjects such as Social Studies, P.E., music and art and discussed the effect of the new system on the budget.

Mr. Gross joined the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

3. Evaluation and Performance Standards Adoption – Dr. Safier reviewed M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 38 regarding performance standards for teachers and requested that the School Committee establish performance standards for the evaluation of teachers that include all of the principles set forth in 603 CMR 35. Dr. Safier recommended that the Standards and Indicators of Effective Teaching Practice set forth in 603 CMR 35.03 be referred to the Personnel Subcommittee for a recommendation. Chairman Pope indicated that he will be recusing himself from that meeting and requested that the first alternate attend the meeting in his place.

The School Committee is also required to hold a public hearing on the performance standards, which Dr. Safier requested take place at the May 9th School Committee meeting.

After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mrs. Gilman, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to have a public hearing to accept public comment on the Standards and Indicators of Effective Teaching Practice set forth in 603 CMR 35.03, which are required to be established by the School Committee in connection with the new evaluation system.

Ms. Teixeira indicated that in addition to setting the standards, the evaluation process must also be negotiated. Mrs. Gilman requested that the standards be posted on the website.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Building and Finance Subcommittee Meeting of April 23, 2012 – Chairperson Clancy reported that the Building and Finance Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its meeting on April 23, 2012:

- Storage of Alcohol at Fuller School – After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, that the storage of alcohol at Fuller School by Cape Ann Symphony be approved pending answers to questions regarding legality, indemnification and security.

- FY 2013 Budget
- Capital Plan – Mr. Markham reviewed the revised five-year capital plan for FY13 to FY17 and the changes made to the plan at the request of the city.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, that the revised Five-Year Capital Plan for FY13 – FY17 be approved with the following changes: New School Construction cost of \$41,500,000 as opposed to \$37,500,000 and shifting the dates over one year on the final page of the plan.

Mayor Kirk thanked the B&F Subcommittee, Dr. Safier and Mr. Markham for taking another hard look at the capital plan, and Mrs. Gilman reminded the committee that some of the other school buildings will require some capital going forward to keep them current and state-of-the-art for our students. Kathy Clancy indicated that those items will be included on the DPW capital plan and will be addressed as time and money allow.

X. ACTION

- A. First Reading of Revised Elementary Attendance Policy** – Since the Program Subcommittee has not yet reviewed or voted on a first reading of the policy, this matter was tabled. Mrs. Gilman encouraged teachers to give any feedback they have to the principals.
- B. FY 2013 to FY 2016 Capital Plan Review** – See Item IX.A.
- C. FY 2013 Proposed Level Service/Critical Needs Budget** – Chairman Pope indicated that the budget voted by the School Committee on March 14, 2012 and presented at the public hearing on April 4, 2012 will be the budget presented to the Mayor.

Mr. Bach and Ms. Morgan left the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS

- A. MASC Bulletin** – Kathy Clancy stated that there is an article in the MASC Bulletin reporting on the Day on the Hill. She discussed the Stand for Children ballot initiative which was mentioned by Senator Katherine Clark.
- B. Survey Responses** – Dr. Safier indicated that between 200-300 responses to the survey have been received to date and that he will send out another message about the survey next week. Mrs. Gilman stated that she would prepare a “My View” column about the survey and also send an email to our community partners for distribution to their membership with a reminder about the May 4th deadline. Mr. Garberg noted that email is critical in getting responses to the survey, and Mrs. Gilman offered to send the information to each of the members for transmittal to their respective school liaisons.
- C. East Gloucester School Traffic** – Kathy Clancy indicated that Chapel Street has been made one way and that cars are not allowed on Davis Street Extension, except for staff and buses.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

XIII. FYI – None

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mayor Kirk, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of April 25, 2012 at 8:30 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*