

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 27, 2011
City Hall – Kyrouz Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

Members

Val Gilman, Chairperson
Kathleen Clancy, Secretary
Roger Garberg
Tony Gross
Mayor Carolyn Kirk

Administration Present

Interim Superintendent Dr. Joseph Connelly
Assistant Superintendent Brian Tarr
Assistant Superintendent Shayne Trubisz
New Superintendent Dr. Richard Safier
CFO Tom Markham
Tammy Morgan, Plum Cove Principal
Jean Perry, West Parish Principal
Gregg Bach, East Gloucester Principal
Ellen Sibley, Beeman Principal

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gilman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chairperson Gilman stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools and thanked Cape Ann TV for being at the meeting. She also recognized CFO Tom Markham, Plum Cove Principal Tammy Morgan, West Parish Principal Jean Perry, Assistant Superintendent Shayne Trubisz, new superintendent Dr. Richard Safier, and members of the faculty.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – Chairperson Gilman stated that tonight, the School Committee is proudly wearing red M.A.D.D. ribbons in support of awareness of the importance of our kids not drinking and driving on prom night. Student Advisory Council member Lauren Palazola stated that the students have had several seminars about drinking and driving and signed a pledge not to let any of their friends drink and drive.

V. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Lauren Palazola updated the School Committee on events at Gloucester High School, including the senior banquet, the sophomore Spring Fling, ongoing fundraisers, and two seniors who are going to Orlando, Florida to compete in the DECA competition. Chairperson Gilman thanked Ms. Palazola for her report.

Note: Chairperson Gilman recognized East Gloucester Principal Gregg Bach and Beeman Memorial Principal Ellen Sibley.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. School Committee Meeting of April 13, 2011
2. Joint City Council Budget & Finance Committee and School Committee Building & Finance Sub-Committee of February 17, 2011

B. Schedule of Future Meetings

Program Subcommittee – Friday, May 6, 2011 at 9:45 a.m.

Location: Superintendent's Conference Room

Agenda: To be announced

School Committee – Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

Agenda: To be announced

City Council Budget & Finance Committee – Thursday, May 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

Agenda: Review of School Department Budget

Building & Finance Sub-Committee – Wednesday, May 18, 2011 at 4:45 p.m.

Location: Superintendent's Conference Room

Agenda: To be announced

School Committee – Wednesday, May 25, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

Agenda: To be announced

C. Acceptance of Scholarship

To accept the Sheila Soini Normansell Scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 annually.

D. Acceptance of Gift

To accept a donation from Varian Semiconductor Equipment in the amount of \$1,000 to Plum Cove Elementary School.

Chairperson Gilman removed Item A from the Consent Agenda, and Mr. Garberg removed Item C for further discussion.

On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to approve Items B and D of the Consent Agenda as noted above.

VII. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- A. MCAS Summary Review** – Dr. Trubisz reviewed a slide presentation on MCAS Summary Review, including ELA analysis, literacy strengths and challenges, systemic efforts in literacy, comprehension strategies by grade level, K-5 writing continuum, grade 5 writing handbook, math analysis, and systemic efforts in math. Dr. Connelly reminded the School Committee that this report was developed by the entire team of administrators. Chairperson Gilman thanked Dr. Trubisz for her report.

Note: City Councilor Paul McGeary joined the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Chairperson Gilman recognized Mr. McGeary and Assistant Superintendent Brian Tarr.

B. Review of School Improvement Plans for 2011/2012

1. Plum Cove Elementary School – Principal Tammy Morgan reviewed a slide presentation on the Plum Cove SIP, including their mission and vision statement, history, 2010-2011 school council members, summary of 2010 strengths, summary of 2010/2011 challenges, continuing efforts, and new initiatives. Multiage first and second grade teacher Dianne Quigley and Principal Morgan reviewed the computer program “Study Island.” Chairperson Gilman suggested tracking the benefits of this program with respect to MCAS results in third graders. She thanked Principal Morgan for her presentation.
2. West Parish Elementary School – Principal Jean Perry reviewed a slide presentation on the West Parish SIP, including site council members, their vision, accomplishments from 2010-2011, and goals for 2011-2012. She also explained a new program called “How Full Is Your Bucket,” which teaches children to be kind to each other. Mr. Garberg stated that he is impressed with the MCAS numbers. Chairperson Gilman thanked Mrs. Perry for her presentation.

Note: Gregg Bach left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

- C. Superintendent’s Report** – Interim Superintendent Dr. Connelly updated the School Committee on the following matters:

- 2011/2012 School Calendar
- FY2012 Budget Meeting Dates from Mayor Kirk's Office – Mayor Kirk clarified that the budget schedule is not put together by the Mayor's Office but is controlled by the City Council.
- MSBA Green Repair Roof Replacement Project Update
- DESE Year-End Report Preparations
- 2012 School Budget, Draft 3 – To be inserted in budget book
- GCACS Official Enrollment Numbers for 2010/2011 School Year – Dr. Connelly stated that Chairperson Gilman learned that Gloucester charter school students who did not come from the Gloucester Public Schools will continue to be fully funded by the state for a second year. Therefore, the impact for the FY12 budget would be \$596,190. Dr. Connelly thanked Chairperson Gilman for investigating this issue.

There was a discussion about the schedule of reimbursement for home-schooled and school choice students. Chairperson Gilman stated that, according to a document posted on the charter school's website, they are requesting that their budget next year be based on 165 students rather than 202 students.

A discussion was held on the reputation of O'Maley Middle School. Dr. Connelly indicated that he has heard only positive comments about the school since he has been in Gloucester.

Chairperson Gilman thanked Dr. Connelly for his report.

VIII. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

IX. DISCUSSION

- A. FY 2012 Budget Update – Final Budget Sent to Mayor Kirk on April 15, 2011 – Chairperson Gilman requested that Dr. Connelly have this budget update posted on the website.

Chairperson Gilman reported that the Municipal Employee Health Insurance Reform Resolution has been approved in the House of Representatives. She thanked Representative Ferrante for representing Gloucester's interests and getting the resolution passed in the House.

Chairperson Gilman also reported on her Stand for Children conference call with 20,000 members. She indicated that Stand for Children conducted a computerized poll while on the conference call and that the results indicated that for every two members that approved this resolution, only one member did not, or a 2:1 approval ratio in support.

- B. Suburban Coalition Meeting of April 26, 2011 (Possible Action) – Kathy Clancy reported to the School Committee on this meeting at the State House, including what the Suburban Coalition does, a presentation made by Noah Berger at the meeting, input requested by Representative Peisch, Chairperson of the Education Committee, on unfunded mandates, program fees, etc., and upcoming hearings. Chairperson Gilman suggested that the administration work on identifying our biggest concerns for unfunded mandates and bring those to the Building and Finance Subcommittee. She also thanked Kathy Clancy for acting as the School Committee’s legislative liaison.

Note: Dr. Trubisz left the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

- C. School Calendar – Slight Revision

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

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to revise the 2011-12 School Calendar to reflect the last day as June 13, 2012 and June 20, 2012 pending snow days.

X. ACTION – None

XI. OTHER COMMUNICATION

- A. For Your Information

1. Letter (4/13/11) from the Gloucester Education Foundation
2. City Council Budget Review Schedule

- B. Further Discussion

1. The School Committee agreed to postpone the approval of the April 13, 2011 minutes, as well as the minutes of the February 17, 2011 joint City Council B&F Committee and School Committee B&F Subcommittee until the May 11, 2011 meeting in order to give them ample time to read the contents of the minutes.
2. Acceptance of the Sheila Soini Normansell Scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 annually.

On a motion by Mr. Garberg, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Sheila Soini Normansell Scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 annually.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

Chairperson Gilman – yes

Kathy Clancy – yes

Mr. Garberg – yes

Mr. Gross – yes

Mayor Kirk – yes

To enter into Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. for the purpose of discussing negotiations with union and non-union personnel and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of adjournment only.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Chairperson Gilman, seconded by Mr. Garberg, it was unanimously

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of April 27, 2011 at 9:45 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*