

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, May 8, 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  
Mayor Carolyn Kirk (7:15 p.m.)

**Administration Present**

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

**Others Present**

City Councilor Sefatia Romeo-Theken  
City Councilor Bruce Tobey  
City Councilor Paul McGeary  
City Councilor Greg Verga

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

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- 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

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

- VI. **STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Ariana Puopolo and Melody Orrell introduced themselves and updated the School Committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: spring sports, ROTC competition in Florida, DECA trip to California for the International Career Development Conference, AP testing, first annual spring spirit week and pep rally, National Grand Champs cheerleaders, Student Council elections, Northeast Regional Student Advisory Council meeting, academic recognition night, and senior events (banquet, prom, scholarship award night and graduation).
- V. **RECOGNITIONS**
  - A. **O’Maley Innovation Middle School Presentation on “Discovery Projects”** – Ms. Dannaher, a 7th grade ELA teacher, introduced two groups of students to demonstrate a project on the discovery of figurative language and symbolism. Jared Gilman, Evan Leaf, Haille Glaser, Sara Orlando and Taylor Abbott presented two slide shows illustrating examples of symbolism in pictures and videos.

- B. Other Recognitions** – Mrs. Gilman recognized Mark Horgan, a GHS senior, for placing third in the country in the Moose Youth Awareness Program national championship and receiving a \$5,000 scholarship. She also recognized Maggie Rosa and Christine Lundberg for receiving awards at the Wellspring luncheon last week.

Kathy Clancy recognized all of the 5th grade students who participated in the Mad Hot Ball on Sunday. She also noted that the district-wide arts festival will be held on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at various downtown venues, including City Hall.

## **VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **A. Approval of Minutes**

1. School Committee of April 24, 2013
2. Executive Session School Committee of April 24, 2013 (Confidential)
3. West Parish Ad Hoc Communications Committee of April 8, 2013

- B. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip** – Annual Grade 5 Nature’s Classroom to Camp Cody, Freedom, New Hampshire from Tuesday, May 28, 2013 to Friday, May 31, 2013

On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Kathy Clancy, 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. West Parish MSBA Project** –Brad Dore of Dore & Whittier introduced himself and the other design team leaders, Michelle Rogers and Jason Boone, and gave a brief history of the firm. He indicated that the educational program will drive the design of the West Parish building, and he gave an overview of the study process, which includes assessment of both the West Parish and Fuller buildings.

Ms. Rogers reviewed how the buildings are assessed and showed pictures of damage, inaccessability, and hazardous situations at both buildings. Mr. Boone reviewed the functional use and space challenges at both of the buildings, showing that many of the classrooms are undersized and some at Fuller are windowless. He also pointed out the need to clearly separate public and private functions in a school building and presented a diagram illustrating that concept. Finally, Mr. Dore reviewed the site limitations at West Parish (topography, soil conditions, etc.) and reported that students may need to be relocated if that is the preferred site.

There was a discussion about the need to renovate the entire Fuller building due to code requirements even if only a portion of the building would be used as a school. Mr. Dore believes that at this stage of the process, it would be difficult to make an argument that renovating Fuller would be educationally as good as a new building and as cost effective as a new building.

**B. Superintendent's Report** – Dr. Safier updated the committee on the following matters:

1. Class Dues – Dr. Safier stated that class dues play a fundamental role in GHS activities and should remain in place.
2. Closing of St. Ann's School – Dr. Safier will be able to update the principals by the end of the week on the number of students that have registered from St. Ann's.
3. Update on Veterans' Elementary School Principalship – Dr. Safier reported that Matthew Fusco has accepted this position.
4. K-8 Math Coordinator – Dr. Safier indicated that he is hoping to hold onto the additional math coach position, which will give the district three math coaches.
5. Visit to District by Secretary of Education
6. Kindergarten Registration
7. Academic Recognition Night

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**

- A. Program Subcommittee of May 6, 2013** – Vice Chairperson Garberg reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed the proposal to change the notification date for kindergarten choice requests at its meeting on May 6, 2013. (See Item X.A below.)

**X. ACTION**

- A. Proposed Change of Notification Date for Kindergarten Choice Requests** – Mr. Garberg indicated that this proposed change applies to Sections 5.3 and 5.18 of the Admission of Students to Elementary Schools Policy, File JF. Chairman Pope reviewed the changes to Section 5.3, and Mr. Garberg reviewed the change to Section 5.18 of the policy.

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

**VOTED:** By Roll Call Vote

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

To suspend the Rules of Procedure regarding the first and second reading of a policy.

Mr. Bach explained the need for the changes to the Admission of Students to Elementary Schools policy.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor zero opposed, to amend the Admission of Students to Elementary Schools Policy, File JF, reflecting the changes to Sections 5.3 and 5.18.

**B. Teamsters Local #42 Cafeteria Workers** – Ms. Teixeira reviewed the tentative agreements reached with the cafeteria workers.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor zero opposed, to approve a contractual agreement between Teamsters Local #42 Cafeteria Workers and the Gloucester School Committee from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014.

**C. Teamsters Local #42 Transportation Workers** – Ms. Teixeira reviewed the tentative agreements reached with the transportation workers.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor zero opposed, to approve a contractual agreement between Teamsters Local #42 Transportation Workers and the Gloucester School Committee from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014.

## **XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS**

**A. MSBA Update** – See Item VIII.A.

- B. Lobbying Strategy for \$1.4 Million Innovation School Senate Budget Recommendation** – Mrs. Gilman reported that she received a call from Bridget Rodriguez of DESE, who provided oversight on the O’Maley Innovation Middle School process, informing Mrs. Gilman that the \$1.4 million innovation school line item had been removed from the House budget and requesting that Mrs. Gilman do some lobbying on this matter. Mrs. Gilman stated that she has contacted Senator Clark and that Kathy Clancy spoke to Senator Tarr. Mrs. Gilman also sent emails to all of the members of the Senate Joint Commission on Education and to Boston Mayor Tom Menino and reached out to Tracy Novack of the Worcester School Committee. Mrs. Gilman requested the committee’s agreement to request Senator Tarr’s support of this line item.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor zero opposed, to seek the support of Senator Tarr for the Innovation School Senate Budget line item in the amount of \$1.4 million.

- C. Superintendent’s Mid-Year Evaluation** – Chairman Pope indicated that the mid-year evaluation is scheduled for June and that the superintendent has requested that it be moved to August since there is a lot of planning and work that will be taking place in June and July. There was a discussion about whether this would be a permanent change. The matter was referred to the Personnel Subcommittee.
- D. FYI – Letter from Senator Tarr (4/24/13)**
- E. Policy Manual** – Kathy Clancy inquired about the status of the GPSD Policy Manual. Ms. Teixeira indicated that there are two sections left to review and that the Ad Hoc Policy Manual Subcommittee will be meeting by the end of May to do that. After that meeting, Mike Gilbert will make all of the changes to the policy manual and it will then come to the full committee for approval.
- F. Gift to Top 5% of Graduating Class** – It was the consensus of the committee to present the top 5% of the graduating class with Cross pens, preferably in school colors.
- G. Approval of School Handbooks** – Chairman Pope indicated that the approval of the handbooks by the School Committee should take place in June. Dr. Safier noted that the handbooks are a legal document and that in order for the district to employ all aspects of the handbook, including discipline, we must ensure that every student has received a handbook. Dr. Safier reported that the principals are currently working on the handbooks and that they should be submitted by May 15th. They will also be reviewed by the attorneys.
- H. Educational Forum Thank You Notes** – Mrs. Gilman requested the School Committee’s consent to send thank you notes to the GEF, the Culinary Arts Department, Comcast, and Sherry DeLorenzo from Cruiseport.

**I. Recognition of Al Swekla** – Chairman Pope reported that the O’Maley Auditorium has already been named in memory of J. Stanley Thompson. He suggested naming the O’Maley Commons or library in memory of Al Swekla and indicated that he will do some research to see if those areas have already been named in memory of someone else. He stated that this decision needs to be made soon since there is a ceremony planned for June 13th. Mrs. Gilman suggested getting a placque for the auditorium with Mr. Thompson’s name on it.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mrs. Gilman, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** By Roll Call Vote

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

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

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT** – On a motion by Chairman Pope, seconded by Mrs. Gilman, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 7 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of May 8, 2013 at 10:08 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*