

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 14, 2014

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Melissa Teixeira, Vice Chairperson
Kathy Clancy, Secretary
Tony Gross
Michelle Sweet
Jack O'Maley

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Assistant Superintendent
Phil Padulsky, Food Services Director
Cindy Juncker, Nurse Leader
Debra Lucey, O'Maley Principal

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – None.

V. RECOGNITIONS – Kathy Clancy recognized the district for its arts festival last weekend, which was very well attended. Dr. Safier recognized the high school students for their performance of "Crazy for You."

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – Chairman Pope read the rules regarding oral communications. Jean Antrim, a professional flutist and teacher, and three members of the flute choir performed several songs. Ms. Antrim stated that she would like to have a full music program reinstated at the high school, including a concert band. She indicated that many students have left the district for other schools that have music programs. She noted that she met with members of the Gloucester Education Foundation today, who were very supportive of her efforts and discussed what they would be able to contribute. Finally, Ms. Antrim reported that nine flutists will be playing at Giuseppe's on May 19th at 5:30 p.m.

VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – None present.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Building & Finance Subcommittee and Executive Session of April 16, 2014
2. School Committee of April 30, 2014

3. Program Subcommittee of May 1, 2014
4. Personnel Subcommittee of May 5, 2014

B. Approval of Warrants – Cover Sheets

C. Approval of Transfers

Chairman Pope removed Item C since there are no transfers to approve.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- A. Modifications to School Lunch – GHS** – Cindy Juncker reported on the recent GHS lunch survey. She indicated that the Wellness Committee reviewed the results of the survey and made three highly visible changes that the students could see as a result of the survey to show that their opinions matter. Those changes include taste testing of new items, displaying of nutritional values, and making students aware of the changes through daily announcements.

Ms. Juncker reported that only about 40% of students at GHS participate in school lunch. She stated that Mr. Padulsky has agreed to increase the amount of scratch cooking done in the cafeterias. She also indicated that Principal Anderson reported a significant amount of food waste at GHS. Ms. Juncker suggested involving the Environmental Club and starting a zero waste sharing bin. Fruits and vegetables could also be composted. Finally, she stated that she spoke with the Culinary Arts teacher about having his students partner with the cafeteria workers to make one meal a month.

Mr. Padulsky showed the committee pictures of a taste testing at the high school and stated that there will be smoothie taste testing at West Parish and Plum Cove next week. He would also like to include local fish in school lunches and reported that the high school will be taste testing fishburgers and fish stew on Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. Finally, Mr. Padulsky would like to add more local produce to school lunches and stated that he will contact Seaview Farm and Marshall’s to see what they can provide. Kathy Clancy suggested that Mr. Padulsky visit other districts to see how other cafeterias are set up.

(Mr. Padulsky and Ms. Juncker left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.)

- B. O’Maley Innovation Middle School – School Improvement Plan (SIP)** – Principal Debra Lucey reviewed the O’Maley Innovation Middle School SIP, stating that it is based on their innovation plan and the district’s goals. Specifically, she discussed issues, challenges and needs, student achievement, student attendance and accountability, technology, goals, and the reaction of students and teachers to the recent PARCC field test.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to accept the O'Maley Innovation Middle School School Improvement Plan.

- C. Update on the 1:1 Technology Initiative** – Mr. Bach updated the committee on 1:1 technology planning at the middle and high schools. The committee discussed the terms of an agreement between the district and students/parents, insurance, and what will happen in circumstances where students have their own devices. Mr. Bach stated that since the district does not have the IT staff that would be necessary to support several different types of devices, all students will be using the same device in school but will be able to use their own device at home.

(Ms. Lucey left the meeting at 8:16 p.m.)

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

1. Kindergarten Registration – Dr. Safier stated that the deadline for recommendations for requests for school choice is May 15th. There was a discussion about the high number of kindergarten students registered at Beeman and whether some of those students could go to Plum Cove instead. Dr. Safier indicated that it is too early to make that decision.
2. GTA Language Proposal
3. DESE Review of Existing Computer Science Standards
4. Guidance on Title IX – Dr. Safier expects to have language to incorporate into student handbooks that address the issues of teen dating and teen violence. He also recommended that the School Committee review its harassment policy, File ACDB, to see if it needs to be updated.
5. Career and Technical Education: Recent Research
6. PARCC v. MCAS in 2015
7. Undersecretary USDA Visit
8. Academic Recognition Night

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Superintendent's Report.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Program Subcommittee Meeting of May 1, 2014** – Chairperson Sweet reported that the subcommittee reviewed and revised the Athletic and Cheerleading Booster Organizations policy at its meeting on May 1, 2014. She made a motion, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, to approve the revised Booster Organizations policy, File KJAA, as presented. Kathy Clancy recommended that all references to Gloucester High School be changed to Gloucester Public Schools.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to amend the Booster Organizations policy, File KJAA, by replacing all references to Gloucester High School with Gloucester Public Schools.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Booster Organizations policy, File KJAA, as amended.

- B. Personnel Subcommittee Meeting of May 5, 2014** – Chairperson Teixeira reported that the subcommittee reviewed the Human Resource Director’s job description at its meeting on May 5, 2014.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Director of Human Resources job description as amended.

There was a discussion about the Human Resource Director’s involvement in health insurance matters.

Chairperson Teixeira reported that the subcommittee also discussed the following matters:

- Criminal Offender Record Information Checks policy
- Draft fingerprint policy language from DESE – Dr. Safier is in the process of modifying the model language.
- Family Medical Leave Act policy
- Quarterly audit of Executive Session minutes
- Job description of Drama/Musical Theater Teaching Position

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the job description of the Drama/Musical Theater Teacher as presented.

Finally, Chairperson Teixeira reported that the subcommittee discussed the School Committee Self-Evaluation.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to refer the School Committee Self-Evaluation to the School Committee Governance Workshop.

X. ACTION

- A. Approval of Revised Booster Organizations Policy, File KJAA – See Item IX.A.**
- B. Approval of Human Resource Director’s Job Description – See Item IX.B.**
- C. Approval of Drama/Musical Theater Teacher Job Description – See Item IX.B.**
- D. Acceptance of O’Maley Innovation Middle School School Improvement Plan – See Item VIII.B.**

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. MSBA Project Update – Dr. Safier updated the committee on the following matters with respect to the West Parish project:**
 - School Building Committee meeting tomorrow at 12:00 p.m. – Updates on St. Ann’s, modular setup at Beeman, and moving company procurement; review of West Parish interior design
 - Submittal of 100% design development drawings to MSBA
 - Discussion of layouts and room numbers at St. Ann’s
 - Request for signage around St. Ann’s
 - Parking areas for St. Ann’s/walkway across Burnham’s Field
- B. Letter to Representatives – Kathy Clancy requested the committee’s agreement to send letters to Senator Tarr and Representative Ferrante to encourage their support of innovation school funding as a line item in the state budget. All committee members agreed.**
- C. Teacher Certification – Dr. Safier reported that 10-12 teachers still have not renewed their certification. He stated that teachers were notified about this in February and that another notification will go out soon.**

D. Graduation – Chairman Pope reported that graduation will take place in the GHS Fieldhouse and not Newell Stadium.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of May 14, 2014 at 8:59 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*