

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Amended School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 23, 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

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Assistant Superintendent Brian Tarr
CFO Tom Markham
Principal Gregg Bach
Principal Ellen Sibley

Also Present

Dorothy Presser, President of MASC
Joseph Buckley

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Pope stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – Chairman Pope reported that, as a result of the public hearing that was held last night, the West Parish feasibility study is moving forward and the building committee will now be able to engage an owner’s project manager. The bonding for Newell Stadium was also approved last night, which ensures that construction will begin late this summer and will hopefully be completed in the fall of 2013. Finally, the O’Maley Middle School teachers voted in favor of the innovation school.

V. RECOGNITIONS – Mrs. Gilman reported that she attended the ceremony at the Unitarian Church on Sunday to recognize volunteers in the community, and Dr. Safier recognized Michaela O’Connor, who received a citizenship award, and student supervisor John Nicastro. Dr. Safier noted that of the ten recipients of the awards, two are affiliated with the GPSD. Mrs. Gilman also recognized Bob Quinn from Cape Ann TV, who also received an award.

Mr. Gross recognized the outstanding performance of “Little Shop of Horrors” at the high school.

Chairman Pope thanked the Gloucester Education Foundation for their support of the recent Arts Festival and noted that tomorrow is “Dr. Goodwin Day” at the high school.

VI. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Sam Bevens and Eleanor Keller updated the School Committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: spring sports, senior cookout, finals, Senior Awards Night, Interact Club, and the assembly in honor of Dr. Goodwin at Newell Stadium. Ms. Keller thanked the committee for welcoming her and stated that she enjoyed her time in the Gloucester schools. The committee wished her success in the future.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Program Subcommittee of May 3, 2012
2. School Committee of May 9, 2012
3. Building and Finance Subcommittee of May 16, 2012

B. Schedule of Future Meetings

City Council Public Hearing – Tuesday, May 22, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

Agenda: MSBA/West Parish Loan Authorization

Personnel Subcommittee – Wednesday, May 23, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

Program Subcommittee – Wednesday, May 23, 2012 at 5:30 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

City Council Budget and Finance Committee – Friday, June 1, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

Program Subcommittee – Thursday, June 7, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

City Council Public Hearing – Tuesday, June 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

Agenda: FY13 City Budget

School Committee – Wednesday, June 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

Building and Finance Subcommittee – Wednesday, June 20, 2012 at 4:45 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

School Committee – Wednesday, June 27, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

NOTE: As in previous years, barring any unforeseen problems, there will be no Meetings of the School Committee scheduled in July, reconvening on August 22, 2012.

C. Approval of Grants

1. Gloucester Education Foundation in the amount of \$2,500.00 for advancing the Engineering Program. *Note: Varian will fund the remaining of the program’s cost in the amount of \$9,340.00.*
2. Build It, Plant It, Eat It: Gloucester Grows Grant from the North Shore Community Health Network in the amount of \$9,500.00

D. Acceptance of Gift

1. Ohiopyle Prints, Inc. in the amount of \$25.53 to the GHS Student Council.

Mrs. Gilman changed the time of the Program Subcommittee meeting scheduled for June 7, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Ms. Teixeira amended the minutes of the May 3rd Program Subcommittee meeting by stating that she was acting as an alternate member of the subcommittee and participated in deliberations for the first 33 minutes of the meeting until Mr. Garberg arrived.

Mrs. Gilman removed Item A3 from the Approval of Minutes, and Kathy Clancy removed the note at the end of the Schedule of Future Meetings.

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

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

Chairman Pope indicated that City Clerk Linda Lowe suggested a couple of changes to the School Committee agendas, which he will share with the committee at a later date.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT/DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

A. Presentation of School Improvements Plans – Dr. Safier stated that the School Improvement Plans (SIPs) are a manifestation of the collective work that has been done in connection with the District Improvement Plan.

1. Beeman Memorial Elementary School – Principal Ellen Sibley presented the Beeman Memorial School SIP and stated that the goals reflect the closely aligned work that was done in the elementary schools in reading and math, as well as some individual school goals. She noted that the teachers are looking forward to having a lot of cross grade level collaboration in the elementary schools. Mr. Garberg expressed concern about the use of the student growth percentile as a goal and indicated that he thought it was a problematic measure.

Mrs. Sibley indicated that in the final data meetings, teachers talked about what went well in the BSRI program and things they would like to change. There was a discussion about data meetings and collaborating with the other elementary schools.

Principal Gregg Bach reported on common writing rubrics and stated that he is excited about having a common plan across the district and that the district has demonstrated a willingness to support more common planning time and enrichment time. Dr. Safier stated that he has been in contact with the GEF and that they are willing to review a proposal to support an increase in enrichment time.

2. East Gloucester Elementary School – Mr. Bach presented the East Gloucester Elementary School SIP and noted that the implementation of the Reading Street program impacted last year’s goals because it was a huge undertaking.

Mrs. Gilman suggested adding a consistent goal of obtaining parent/guardian email addresses in all of the elementary schools. Mr. Bach indicated that at East Gloucester School’s open house in the fall, computers will be set up in the hallway so that parents can input their email addresses directly, with the possibility of a door prize as an incentive.

The subcommittee discussed the following:

- Whether principals have the resources they need to accomplish their goals – Mr. Bach indicated that holding firm to a level service budget and adding BSRI to all five schools is important.
- Parent satisfaction surveys coordinated across the schools

Dr. Safier recommended that the School Committee approve the School Improvement Plans for Beeman Memorial and East Gloucester Elementary Schools.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to accept the School Improvement Plans for Beeman Memorial and East Gloucester Elementary Schools.

Mrs. Sibley and Mr. Bach left the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

B. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Safier first thanked all of the elementary school principals for their extraordinary amount of work and coordination since he came on board. He then updated the School Committee on the following matters:

1. Extension of the District Improvement Plan: Vision, Theory of Action, Strategic Objectives, and Strategic Initiatives – Dr. Safier noted that he will work with the leadership team (principals, assistant superintendents, and special education director) on the vision for the district.
2. Upcoming Search Committees
3. Update on Preschool to Pathways

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of May 16, 2012 – Chairperson Clancy reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its meeting on May 16, 2012:

- FY13 Budget – Mr. Markham indicated that a cut of \$1,135,597 is required to meet the Mayor's budget figure and provided a report of proposed cuts that were discussed during the B&F subcommittee meeting.
- Gift to top 5% of graduating seniors – The subcommittee decided on a Cross pen and pencil set.

Kathy Clancy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gross, to reduce the FY13 budget by \$249,700 due to ten known/expected retirements. Dr. Safier requested that the School Committee also consider taking action on the third payment of the elementary literacy curriculum, and the motion was amended as follows:

Amended Motion:

After discussion and a review of the End-of-Year Projection Report, on a motion by Chairman Pope, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to reduce the FY13 budget by \$249,700.00 due to ten known/expected retirements and to cover the third payment of the elementary literacy curriculum in the amount of \$52,262.00 from available end-of-year balances.

After discussion and review of the newly known and projected expenditures beyond the FY12 budget, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Chairman Pope, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to transfer \$23,961.00 from the appropriate accounts to pay the following newly known and projected expenditures beyond the FY12 budget from available end-of-year balances:

Elementary band program, \$6,364.00
Extracurricular positions at O'Maley, \$4,685.00
Extracurricular positions at GHS, \$12,912.00

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to release the \$75,000 School Committee Contingency to pay the following newly known and projected expenditures beyond the FY12 budget:

Speech pathologists/therapists, \$43,412.00
Library & computer room renovation at Veterans, \$10,239.00
GAEP & nurses contract adjustments, \$5,793.00
GTA Track & Step movement, \$15,556.00

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

C. Program Subcommittee Meeting of May 23, 2012 – Chairperson Gilman reported that the Program Subcommittee approved the first reading of the Elementary School Attendance Policy at its meeting on May 23, 2012. However, she prefers to wait until the next meeting to do the first reading as a full committee so that all of the members have a chance to see the revised draft of the policy. She reported that the subcommittee decided not to hold a public hearing on the policy.

X. PUBLIC HEARING ON NEW STATE-MANDATED EDUCATOR PERFORMANCE STANDARDS – No one present.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

- B. Personnel Subcommittee Meeting of May 23, 2012** – Chairperson Teixeira reported that the Personnel Subcommittee discussed the Standards and Indicators of Effective Teaching Practice at its meeting on May 23, 2012.

After discussion and review of the standards by Dr. Safier, on a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was

VOTED: 5 in favor, 1 present (Chairman Pope) to establish the Standards and Indicators of Effective Teaching Practice as set forth in 603 CMR 35.03 as the performance standards for the Gloucester Public School District. Those standards include:

1. Curriculum, Planning and Assessment standard,
2. Teaching All Students standard,
3. Family and Community Engagement standard, and
4. Professional Culture standard.

XI. ACTION

- A. Review and Approval of District Improvement Plan** – Chairman Pope stated that this item will be discussed at the governance workshop tomorrow night and requested that it be tabled until the next School Committee meeting.
- B. School Improvement Plans** – See Item VIII.A.
- C. Recommendations Made by the Building & Finance Subcommittee at its Meeting of May 16, 2012** – See Item IX.A.
- D. Recommendations Made by the Program Subcommittee at its Meeting of May 23, 2012** – Tabled until next meeting. See Item IX.B.
- E. Performance Standards of Evaluation** – See Item IX. B.
- F. O’Maley Innovation Plan Distribution and Request for Public Hearing** – Mrs. Gilman and Dr. Safier reviewed the background of the innovation plan for the O’Maley Middle School. All of the information regarding the plan will be posted on the website. The deadline for eligibility for the implementation grant of up to \$50,000 is June 29th. Therefore, a public hearing on the innovation plan will be held at the June 13th School Committee meeting. Chairman Pope instructed the administration to advertise the public hearing.

XII. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS

- A. FAQs** – Kathy Clancy provided and the committee discussed additions to the FAQs on West Parish and Fuller School. Some revisions were made and, without objection, Chairman Pope directed Mr. Garberg to include these FAQs on the website.
- B. MASC Request** – Mrs. Gilman stated that MASC is looking for recommendations on the referendums that are up for consideration at the November meeting. She suggested that this matter be referred to Program Subcommittee.
- C. Special School Committee Meeting** – Chairman Pope recommended that a meeting be held to prepare for the budget presentation to the City Council B&F Standing Committee on June 1st. After discussion, a special School Committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 30, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Superintendent’s conference room.
- D. Ad Hoc Policy Manual Subcommittee Meeting** – Ms. Teixeira reminded the committee that there is a policy manual subcommittee meeting scheduled for June 4th at 5:00 p.m. to finish Section B and start Sections C and D (administration and finances). Ms. Teixeira asked if any other members were planning to participate in that meeting.
- E. Summer Schedule** – Kathy Clancy requested that a tentative School Committee meeting be scheduled for sometime in July to address any ongoing matters. Chairman Pope asked the members to send him their summer vacation plans.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

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

To enter into Executive Session at 10:00 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining with AFSCME A, AFSCME B, the nurses, and the Gloucester Teachers Association and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of adjournment only. Chairman Pope stated for the record that he will leave the Executive Session meeting when the GTA contract is discussed.

XIV. FYI

- A. Letter from DESE – Approved Gloucester Technology Plan through June 30, 2013**
- B. Amended School Committee Minutes of April 25, 2012**

XV. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of May 23, 2012 at 10:59 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*