

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 8, 2011

City Hall – Kyrouz Auditorium

7:00 p.m.

Members

Val Gilman, Chairperson
Melissa Teixeira, Vice Chairperson
Kathleen Clancy, Secretary
Roger Garberg (7:15 p.m. arrival)
Michelle Sweet
Tony Gross
Mayor Carolyn Kirk

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Assistant Superintendent Brian Tarr
CFO Tom Markham

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 televising the meeting.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – None

V. RECOGNITIONS

Chairperson Gilman recognized GHS baseball coach Joe Orlando for his 100th win. She also recognized Maria Puglisi for her work recording the minutes of the School Committee.

VI. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – None present.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. School Committee Governance Meeting of May 21, 2011
2. School Committee Meeting of May 25, 2011
3. School Committee Executive Session Meeting of May 25, 2011 – **Confidential**

B. Schedule of Future Meetings

Special School Committee – Monday, June 13, 2011 at 4:45 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

Building & Finance Subcommittee – Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at 4:45 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

Personnel Subcommittee – Thursday, June 16, 2011 at 4:45 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

Program Subcommittee – Friday, June 17, 2011 at 9:45 a.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

School Committee – Wednesday, June 22, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

C. Acceptance of Gift

To accept a check from Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards Program to the GHS Student Council in the amount of \$56.73.

Ms. Teixeira removed the Personnel Subcommittee Meeting of June 16th from the Schedule of Future Meetings, Mrs. Sweet removed the Program Subcommittee Meeting of June 17th from the Schedule of Future Meetings, and Mr. Gross removed the Special School Committee Meeting of Monday, June 13th from the Schedule of Future Meetings.

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

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

Chairperson Gilman reminded the committee that they are going to try not to have any meetings in July and reconvene on August 24, 2011, unless something comes up.

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

XI. ACTION

C. Request for an Extraordinary Reimbursement – Mr. Markham reviewed his memorandum to the School Committee regarding John Madama’s purchase of classroom supplies and materials outside of the required procedures and requested that Mr. Madama be reimbursed for these purchases.

Mr. Garberg joined the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor 1 abstained (Mr. Garberg), to approve the extraordinary reimbursement in the amount of \$819.64 for purchases made by John Madama between April 19, 2011 and May 17, 2011.

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

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

Chairperson Gilman – yes
Ms. Teixeira – yes
Kathy Clancy – yes
Mrs. Sweet – yes
Mr. Garberg – yes
Mr. Gross – yes
Mayor Kirk – yes

To enter into Executive Session at 7:18 p.m. for the purpose of discussing negotiations with union personnel and a discussion on the Public Employees Committee.

Note: The School Committee returned to regular session at 7:35 p.m.

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

VIII. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Safier updated the School Committee on the following matters:

- Building use fees
- Issues discussed in the meeting between the DPW and the School Department, including major facility issues, graduation, privatization of custodial work, emergency generator maintenance, and loan authorization for the Talbot Rink and Nate Ross Field. Ms. Teixeira requested that Dr. Safier get more details on the custodial work supervisors, and Mayor Kirk reviewed the loan authorization details.
- Coordinated Program Review findings and responses due on June 22, 2011

- Responses to surveys on the financial impact of charter schools and extracurricular activities
- Meeting with Elaine Webb regarding opportunities for Varian to become involved with the district. Chairperson Gilman requested that Kathy Clancy send a thank you note to Ms. Webb.
- Meeting with Apple Computers representative and Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante regarding use of iPads. Kathy Clancy expressed her gratitude to Rep. Ferrante for using her connections to help our schools.
- High school meeting on accreditation issues, including recommendations made by the two-year progress report
- Entry plan

Chairperson Gilman thanked Dr. Safier for his report.

- B. FY 2011 End-of-Year Projection Report** – Tom Markham reviewed Report #5 as of May 31, 2011, which was presented to the B&F Subcommittee last week. Mayor Kirk stated that the report is misleading because the committee’s actions taken at the last meeting are not reflected in the report (expenditures for elementary reading materials and School Committee policy manual). Ms. Teixeira shared the Mayor’s concern. Dr. Safier reassured the committee that these expenditures will be taking place very shortly. Chairperson Gilman requested that Mr. Markham revise the report to reflect the School Committee’s actions.

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

XI. ACTION

- D. Approval to Expend FY 2011 Funds on Outstanding Grant Deficits** – On a motion by Chairperson Gilman, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to approve the payment out of FY11 funds the following invoices and grant deficits:

- FY10 EAB Elevator Co. invoice in the amount of \$1,520
- FY10 Gloucester Police Department invoice in the amount of \$1,280
- 2004 Title II Improving Education grant deficit in the amount of \$4,203
- 2004 Comprehensive School Reform grant deficit in the amount of \$153
- 2005 Perkins Voc Ed grant deficit in the amount of \$7,120

- 2005 Safe & Drug Free Schools grant deficit in the amount of \$727
- 1999 Emergency Student Access grant deficit in the amount of \$685

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

VIII. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES (Continued)

- D. Joint Resolution Offered by City Administration and City Council Budget and Finance** – Mayor Kirk thanked the School Committee members for staying until the end of the City Council public hearing on May 31st. She then reviewed the format and terms of the Joint Resolution offered by the Administration and the City Council Budget and Finance Sub-Committee. There was a discussion about the School Committee funding a line item for payment of employees’ health insurance deductibles.

Mayor Kirk reviewed the Joint Resolution Budget Summary, which includes recommendations for closing the gap in the School Department budget. Ms. Teixeira expressed concern with the statement that “every effort will be made” to use free cash to fund school contracts, because nine contracts are up for negotiation again next year. In response, Mayor Kirk provided a firm commitment that the obligation to fund contracts will be made to the City Council. Ms. Teixeira also expressed concern about restoring the stabilization fund before funding contracts. Mayor Kirk stated that there is flexibility in restoring the stabilization fund. Kathy Clancy stated that since the School Department has more employees than the city, the City Council should focus on ratios rather than dollar figures.

Mayor Kirk indicated that six city councilors have signed the Joint Resolution. After discussion, all members of the School Committee signed it, as well. Mayor Kirk thanked the committee for supporting the resolution.

- C. FY 2012 Budget Update** – Dr. Safier reviewed the FY12 Summary of Deficit Balances, which reflects a revised budget gap of \$385,776 above level funding due to the loss of Title I funding, the requirement to employ an ELL instructor, possible additional special ed requirements, and prevention of the loss of STEM staff at the Birdseye-Hammond Lab. A discussion was held on the use of free cash for the second payment of the Pearson reading materials.

IX. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Building and Finance Sub-Committee Report of May 18, 2011 and June 1, 2011** – Chairperson Clancy indicated that she reported on the May 18th subcommittee meeting at the May 25th School Committee meeting. She reported that the June 1st Building and Finance Subcommittee meeting was primarily for year-end process with the city auditor, Kenny Costa.

B. Program Sub-Committee Report of May 13, 2011 – Chairman Garberg reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed the following matters:

- Meeting with GEF – The subcommittee decided to request that the GEF make a presentation to the full School Committee at its next meeting. Ms. Teixeira stressed the importance of focusing on budget matters at the next meeting and cautioned the committee on adding other matters to the agenda. However, the School Committee agreed that it was important to receive this information from the GEF at the next meeting and agreed to limit their presentation to half an hour. Chairperson Gilman stated that she will request a report from the GEF for the committee’s review prior to the presentation.
- Presentation from Ellen Sibley regarding the BSRI initiative
- Review of community satisfaction survey results
- School choice advertising and promotion
- After School Policy – The subcommittee considered an amended version of the policy to clarify that all students enrolled in the district are eligible for the district’s after school programs. The revision extends the participation requirements of the MIAA regulations to middle school athletics and makes clear that people who choose to leave the district are choosing not to participate in district programming.

Chairman Garberg stated that, after discussion, the subcommittee voted to recommend to the full School Committee that the following language be substituted for the “Participation” section of the After School Policy:

“After-school programs shall be open to all students at the appropriate grade level who are enrolled in the Gloucester Public School District. For a student to practice with or represent a Gloucester Public School in athletic competition, the student must be duly enrolled in that school. After-school programs shall be open to students not enrolled in the district where required by state law. Participation in both middle and high school interscholastic athletics shall be in accordance with the regulations and recommendations of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association. Any non-Gloucester Public School District student participating in any after-school activity at the middle school level as of the date of adoption of this policy may continue to participate in that activity until they graduate from eighth grade. In light of the longstanding relationship between St. Ann’s School and the Gloucester Public Schools in the Mad Hot Ball activity, St. Ann’s School students are eligible to participate in that activity. In the case of students attending schools outside of the Gloucester Public School District, written proof of parental approval must be provided for their participation in any after school activity.

In order to train or compete or participate, students must be in good standing academically and socially, attend school on the day in question, and have paid any applicable participation fees.”

There was a discussion of whether the MIAA has jurisdiction over middle schools. Mr. Gross believes that the language in the revised policy with respect to this issue is confusing. Chairperson Gilman stated that the policy is very clear on what the requirements are.

Mr. Gross and Ms. Teixeira expressed concern with the exemption relating to one private school in Gloucester. Kathy Clancy stated that the exemption relates to a one-day event, the Mad Hot Ball, and that St. Ann’s participation has no effect on the district. Ms. Teixeira stated that she would like the event open to other schools, as well, so long as there is no effect on the district. Kathy Clancy pointed out that there is a space limitation because of the number of students participating in the event.

Mayor Kirk suggested looking at some other options, such as paying to participate, and stated that she will not be supporting the motion tonight. Mr. Gross believes that the GPS should be able to keep their marketing edge and stated that he, therefore, would not support the idea of “pay to play.” Kathy Clancy questioned how we would put a price tag on the value of our programs.

Ms. Teixeira expressed concern about discriminating against children and stated that it is the parents who choose which schools their children attend. Kathy Clancy stressed that when parents make a choice, it is a package choice and their children get what that school offers.

Chairperson Gilman stated that she will be supporting the motion because she is sensitive to the issue of Gloucester middle school students not getting adequate ice time if out-of-district students are recruited to play on the O’Maley hockey team. She cited an example shared by an O’Maley parent who gave an example of one student getting a few seconds of playing time while another player attending a school out of our city was being recruited to play on our team. She stated that there was enough competition at the varsity level and that at the middle school level, our teams should be for our students who attend O’Maley. She also stated that our partners and non-profits have worked very hard to create programs for our district’s students and we are continuing to compete for resources.

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

VOTED: 4 in favor 3 opposed (Ms. Teixeira, Mr. Gross, and Mayor Kirk) to approve the first reading of Policy File IHC entitled “After School Activities,” as recommended by the Program Subcommittee at its meeting of May 13, 2011.

Chairperson Gilman stated that the Program Subcommittee will take all of the above comments into consideration and prepare a second reading of the policy.

X. DISCUSSION

Chairperson Gilman reviewed the action items from the Governance Workshop held on May 21, 2011.

XI. ACTION

A. Ratification of Contracts with the following Bargaining Units

1. GAEP – After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mrs. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to approve the contract between the Gloucester Association of Educational Paraprofessionals and the Gloucester School Committee. This contract will be in effect through June 30, 2011.

2. GTA – After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Chairperson Gilman, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to approve the contract between the Gloucester Teachers Association and the Gloucester School Committee. This contract will be in effect through August 31, 2011.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to approve the contract between AFSCME Clerical Unit B and the Gloucester School Committee. This contract will be in effect through June 30, 2011.

4. Noon Supervisors – After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mrs. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to approve the contract between the Noon Supervisors and the Gloucester School Committee. This contract will be in effect through October 31, 2011.

5. Transportation – After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mrs. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to approve the contract between the Teamsters Local Union #42 and the Gloucester School Committee. This contract will be in effect through June 30, 2011.

6. Crossing Guards – After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mrs. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to approve the contract between the Crossing Guards & Bus Monitors and the Gloucester School Committee. This contract will be in effect through January 19, 2011.

Mayor Kirk commended Ms. Teixeira for leading the School Committee through the process of contract negotiations. Ms. Teixeira reminded the committee that nine contracts need to be negotiated next year. She also expressed appreciation to the staff for focusing on the needs of the district.

- B. Review of Memorandum of Understanding** – Kathy Clancy stated that she, Mr. Garberg and Ms. Teixeira are the members of the ad hoc subcommittee to review the MOU. They will schedule a meeting in mid-July to come up with some recommendations. Dr. Safier agreed to that timetable and stated that he should be on the ad hoc committee, as well. He will think about whether anyone else should be on the subcommittee.

- E. After School Activities Policy File IHC** – See IX.B.

XII. OTHER COMMUNICATION

- A. For Your Information**

1. Letter from Chairperson Gilman to the GDT Editor
2. Press Release from Superintendent Safier (6/2/11)
3. Superintendent Safier's Draft Entry Plan (May 2011)

Chairperson Gilman reminded the public that School Committee agendas and packets are posted online the morning of the meetings.

- B. Further Discussion**

1. The Special School Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, June 13, 2011 has been changed to 7:00 p.m.
2. The Personnel Subcommittee meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 16, 2011 has been cancelled.

3. The Program Subcommittee meeting scheduled for Friday, June 17, 2011 has been rescheduled to Friday, June 24, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.
4. Chairperson Gilman reminded the committee of upcoming district events, including the GHS Grand Promenade, Senior Awards Night, graduation, O'Maley Academic Recognitions and closing ceremony, and the last day of school.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of May 11, 2011 at 9:55 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*