

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 15, 2012

GHS Library

7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Val Gilman, Vice Chairperson
Kathy Clancy, Secretary
Melissa Teixeira
Tony Gross
Roger Garberg (7:05 p.m.)
Mayor Carolyn Kirk (7:10 p.m.)

Administration Present

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

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

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

Dave Hodgkins appeared on behalf of the Cape Ann Tea Party and provided the committee with a copy of Public Law 108-447, Section 111 that was passed in 2004 and which designates September 17th as Constitution Day. He stated that it has come to the Tea Party's attention that the GPSD is not following federal law and, as such, federal funding may be withheld. The Tea Party feels this is very important for the schools as it provides each student with a sense of belonging to the greatest country in the world. They also feel that not enough instruction has been given to students on the founding and development of this great nation.

Mr. Hodgkins also provided a copy of Mass. General Laws Chapter 71, Section 69 regarding the proper display of the flag. He has heard from several teachers and students that this law is not followed daily or at all, and this must change. Some classrooms do not even have a flag. By law, the Pledge of Allegiance is supposed to be said every day in every classroom. It is being said maybe twice a week sometimes, sometimes not at all, and this should be addressed. Laws are enacted for a reason, and we are not setting a good example for our children if they are not followed. He gave the superintendent copies of these laws back in June but unfortunately has not been able to meet with him. This has been a problem for a long time, and the Tea Party would like to hear about what the School Committee will do to address it. Our children are not learning the things about our country that they should know.

Robert Parsons stated that when he heard about this he was shocked because this very same issue was brought to the School Committee over 25 years ago when he served on the committee. He does not know if the committee still receives the law book from MASC, but there are areas that address these issues. He realizes how much work the committee has to do and that it takes a lot of time, but he asked the committee to study the law book because it will open their eyes to some of the things that we miss. We really need to honor our flag and teach the students to honor our flag for all the veterans that died so we have this right to stand here tonight. And that would teach the students that people have fought and died for that very right, and we need to honor this flag.

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – None

V. RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Safier welcomed Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Gregg Bach, and Director of Finance and Operations, Hans Baumhauer.

Mrs. Gilman recognized Leslie Sellers and Jennifer Luzitano for another wonderful performing arts camp that they opened up at O’Maley Middle School. She noted there is a new camp this week which runs through the end of next week. She also recognized the new executive director of the GEF, Tina Raimo, and thanked her for coming to the meeting.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Building & Finance Subcommittee of June 20, 2012
2. Special School Committee of June 20, 2012
3. Executive Session of June 20, 2012 – **Confidential**
4. School Committee Governance Workshop of June 26, 2012
5. Building & Finance Subcommittee of June 27, 2012
6. School Committee of June 27, 2012
7. Executive Session of June 27, 2012 – **Confidential**
8. Special School Committee of July 9, 2012

B. Acceptance of GEF Grants

1. GHS Advisor Stipends, GHS Genome Gloucester, Elementary/Middle School Instrumental Music, Elementary Ballroom Dance, and Middle School After School Programs in the amount of \$58,531.00.
2. 2012 GHS Summer AP Prep Program (Chemistry) in the amount of \$800.00.

Kathy Clancy removed Items 4 and 6 from the Approval of Minutes, and Chairman Pope removed Item 1 from the Acceptance of GEF Grants.

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.

Kathy Clancy amended the second paragraph on page 2 of the minutes of the June 26th Governance Workshop as follows: “Kathy Clancy stated that she believes the committee needs to communicate better and hopes, for example, the minutes of tomorrow night’s School Committee meeting include the rationale as to why the elementary attendance policy was brought forward so that the public understands the origin of the policy.”

Mr. Garberg questioned the statement that “Mr. Buckley stressed the need for the School Committee to focus on what is best for the district rather than individual concerns,” asking whether the quote is accurate and, if so, what it means. Chairman Pope stated that the minutes reflect but do not interpret what was said. Mr. Gross believes the statement was referring to the conversation around the district improvement plan.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to approve the minutes of the School Committee Governance Workshop of June 26, 2012 as amended.

With respect to the minutes of the June 27th School Committee meeting, Kathy Clancy indicated that she did not make the motion to purchase iPads for the School Committee. She was reporting out of the B&F Subcommittee that the motion was made by Mr. Pope and seconded by Tony Gross.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting of June 27, 2012 as amended.

Upon review of the audio file of the June 27th meeting, Maria Puglisi confirmed that the motion to purchase iPads was made by Kathy Clancy.

Christina Raimo of the GEF presented a check for \$58,531.00 to the GPSD and stated that they are pleased to be able to fund a number of exciting and wonderful programs that will enrich the learning of Gloucester students in every school and at every grade level in the district. She stated that the GEF is hoping to meet or even surpass last year’s donation of \$187,000 this year. She also noted that the GEF approved a second program, namely \$18,000 for the Write Ahead program at the O’Maley Innovation School that will fund the part-time writing coordinator position. Finally, she thanked all of the generous GEF donors in the community. Chairman Pope thanked her and the GEF for all the hard work they do and for their support.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Dr. Safier updated the committee on the following matters:

1. Update on Hirings – Dr. Safier noted that Phil Podolsky has been hired as Food Service Director for the district. He will be coming in on Friday to discuss his contract.
2. MSBA Update – Dr. Safier reported on the members of the Owner’s Project Manager selection committee.
3. Evaluation Update – Mr. Bach reported on the introduction of the new evaluation system and stated that he has received positive feedback on it from teachers at East Gloucester School. The School Committee discussed the required time commitments of the new evaluation system.
4. MCAS Update
5. Class Size Update
6. School Opening Correspondences
7. Email Signup – Mr. Bach reviewed the New Parent Email and Phone Contact Self-Management System letter to be sent to parents. Mr. Garberg and Mrs. Gilman stated that it seems to be a complicated process and expressed concern that parents will not participate. Mr. Bach indicated that it is actually quite simple and that the letter can be restructured so that the process will seem easier to parents. He noted that it will not cost anything to try this process and suggested having a focus group test it. Mrs. Gilman requested an update of how many parents are in the email database based on the effort taken by the committee before the K-12 Insight survey, and she would like to be able to track that to know how many parents are receiving our messages electronically.

VIII. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of August 8, 2012** – Chairperson Clancy reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed with Jim Hafey the work being done by the DPW at the schools this summer at its meeting on August 8, 2012.
- B. Ad Hoc Policy Manual Subcommittee Meeting of August 13, 2012** – Chairperson Teixeira reported that the ad hoc subcommittee reviewed Sections E and F of the Policy Manual. Sections G and H will be reviewed on September 24, 2012. Mr. Pope noted that Mike Gilbert informed the subcommittee of a mandate from the state that the committee have an emergency plan policy in place by September 1st, and Dr. Safier indicated that the plan must be submitted to the DOE by September 28th. He stated that he will be bringing together the necessary people both within and outside the district in order to put the plan together.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to conduct a first reading of the Emergency Plans policy, File EBC.

Ms. Teixeira did the first reading of the policy. She then made a motion, seconded by Mr. Garberg, to accept the first reading of the Emergency Plans policy, File EBC. Mayor Kirk indicated that the policy should articulate the names of the schools for clarity purposes, including the preschool and perhaps the Compass School.

Mrs. Gilman amended the motion, seconded by Kathy Clancy, to add the listing of the five elementary schools, the middle school, the high school, the Compass program, the preschool, and the alternative school into the third paragraph of the policy. After discussion, Mrs. Gilman further amended the motion as follows:

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to request that the superintendent develop a clause prior to the next School Committee meeting to add to the Emergency Plans policy, File EBC, which would include the locations of the schools.

Mrs. Gilman stated that she was surprised that Kathy Clancy, as the chair of the B&F Subcommittee, was not invited to attend the ad hoc subcommittee meeting on August 13th, which was discussed by the subcommittee at the prior meeting. Ms. Teixeira apologized if that was the case.

- C. West Parish School Ad Hoc Communications Committee Meeting of July 24, 2012** – Mrs. Gilman reported that this ad hoc committee developed a press release at its meeting on July 24, 2012. The committee agreed to meet two days before each Wednesday School Committee meeting so that the information is current. Mrs. Gilman was elected as Chair and Kathy Clancy was elected as Vice Chair.
- D. West Parish School Ad Hoc Communications Committee Meeting of August 13, 2012** – Mrs. Gilman reported that the committee discussed the following matters at its meeting on August 13, 2012:
- What went well with the press release and areas for improvement. She noted that the committee had some concerns that what they wanted to highlight was not completely mentioned in the newspaper article.
 - Updating the website to make sure that all of the quotes in the press release are included
 - Need to develop a website to explain who the building committee is, the FAQ's, and other updates on progress

- Possibility of developing a new press release to announce the selection committee

After discussion, on a motion by Mrs. Gilman, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to request that the superintendent set up a West Parish MSBA Building Project location on the home page of the Gloucester Public Schools website to include Frequently Asked Questions, Meet the Building Committee, and other updates on the project as they emerge.

IX. ACTION

- A. Governance – Protocols** – Chairman Pope stated that because there were only four School Committee members present at the Governance Workshop on July 31, 2012, no action was taken on the operating protocols. Mrs. Gilman suggested that any action be tabled until all of the members have reviewed the minutes of the meeting. Chairman Pope suggested that the committee discuss the protocols at the next Governance Workshop on September 20, 2012.

X. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS

- A. Enrollment Update/Class Size** – See VII.A.
- B. School Committee Agendas** – Kathy Clancy requested that a Schedule of Future Meetings be included on future School Committee agendas and that documents that are part of School Committee packets be listed on the agenda (i.e. MSBA Feasibility Agreement).
- C. Superintendent Evaluation** – Mrs. Gilman asked about the process for the superintendent’s evaluation, and Chairman Pope requested that the committee members complete their evaluation templates by August 22nd. He will then compile them and they will be presented to the superintendent before his evaluation on August 29th. The summative evaluation, the individual evaluations, and the minutes of that meeting will comprise the superintendent’s evaluation. Chairman Pope discussed how he will be compiling the individual evaluations and noted that this will be the last time this process will be used.
- D. High School Attendance Policy** – Chairman Pope reported that GHS Principal Eric Anderson has requested that the School Committee review the high school attendance policy. This matter was referred to the Program Subcommittee. Ms. Teixeira requested that the Program Subcommittee also review the new CHINS law in relation to the current elementary school policy. She will send a copy of the new law to Dr. Safier tomorrow.

- E. Assessment of School Buildings** – Chairman Pope referred this matter to the B&F Subcommittee in relation to the Plan for Effective Learning Communities.
 - F. Preschool to O’Maley Middle School** – Chairman Pope noted that Pathways will not be sending their students to the preschool this year due to the condition of the building. The B&F Subcommittee received a report from Jim Hafey at its August 8th meeting about the possibility of moving the preschool to O’Maley. Mayor Kirk stated that the preschool and administration is occupying approximately 10% of the Fuller School building, but 100% of the building is being heated at an exorbitant cost. Therefore, they are trying to zone the uses to a smaller area, and the projected savings in utility costs is \$100,000 to \$150,000. She noted that there is some impact on the preschool program because the two classrooms they have been using lie outside the boundaries of what can be zoned. Chairman Pope stated that Dr. Safier will be obtaining more information about this matter.
 - G. O’Maley Middle School Name Change** – This matter was referred to the B&F Subcommittee.
 - H. Newell Stadium Groundbreaking** – Mayor Kirk reported that she is trying to pinpoint a date for a groundbreaking for Newell Stadium.
- XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None. Chairman Pope indicated he has received no response from the GTA to the School Committee’s response to their Level 3 Grievance.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of August 15, 2012 at 9:00 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*