

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 24, 2011
City Hall – Kyrouz Auditorium
8:00 p.m.

Members Present

Val Gilman, Chairperson
Melissa Teixeira, Vice Chairperson
Kathleen Clancy, Secretary
Michelle Sweet

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 8:30 p.m.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chairperson Gilman stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools and noted that both Mayor Kirk and Tony Gross have other commitments and that Roger Garberg is on vacation.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – None

V. RECOGNITIONS – None

VI. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Members for 2011/2012 will be elected and invited to attend meetings when school convenes in September.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

School Committee Meeting of July 20, 2011

B. Schedule of Future Meetings

Special Joint City Council and School Committee Meeting – Wednesday, August 24, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

Program Subcommittee – Friday, September 9, 2011 at 9:45 a.m.
Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

School Committee – Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

Building & Finance Subcommittee – Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at 4:45 p.m.
Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

School Committee – Wednesday, September 28, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

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

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

VIII. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

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

- Roof Replacements
- Touring of Buildings for Readiness – Dr. Safier reported on some work that needs to be done in each of the schools (i.e. replacement of ceiling tiles, trimming of shrubs, painting, carpet cleaning, etc.)
- Back to School – Dr. Safier thanked Principals Gregg Bach and Jean Perry for putting together and conducting the orientation for new teachers and reviewed the series of staff meetings that will take place before the opening of school. He also reported on the dates for open houses, charter school bus planning, early release dates, and start and dismissal times for each school. Mr. Tarr reported on the status of student bus applications and payments.
- Communications – Dr. Safier reported on the new website, Facebook, School Messenger, and publicist positions at the schools. Chairperson Gilman stated that the Facebook page is called “Gloucester Schools.”

IX. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Program Subcommittee Report of July 18, 2011** – Since Chairman Garberg was not present, Chairperson Gilman reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its July 18, 2011 meeting:

- Review of Modified Report on Community Satisfaction Survey
- Superintendent Goals Related to Programs Focus

B. Building & Finance Subcommittee Report of August 9, 2011 – Chairperson Clancy reported that the B&F Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its August 9, 2011 meeting:

- Food Service Payment Policy
- Grant Balances (Surpluses)
- Athletic Fees – Dr. Safier has discussed with Jonathan Pope of GFAA the implications of a change in their policy as to how the work incentive program will work and its impact on the schools. He will have more information on this matter tomorrow night.
- Superintendent Goals

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

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, that the surplus balances from the following grants in the amount of \$38,109.81 revert to free cash for the City of Gloucester:

1999 Summer Tutor Program	\$ 684.40
2004 Title II Improving Educ Quality	26,715.00
2005 Title II Improving Educ Quality	3,666.64
2005 Title II Enhanced Educ Technology	171.78
2005 Title V Innovation	6,625.39
1999 Job Training	246.60

C. Personnel Subcommittee Report of August 15, 2011 – Chairperson Teixeira reported that the Personnel Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its August 15, 2011 meeting:

- Proposed Standards of Professional Practice of the Evaluation System and Timeline for Implementation for Race to the Top Districts
- Computer Network and Internet Acceptable Use Policy
- Superintendent Goals

X. DISCUSSION

- A. FY 2013 Budget Planning** – Chairperson Gilman recommended and the committee agreed that this matter be referred to the Building and Financing Subcommittee for further discussion. Dr. Safier stated that he welcomes the opportunity to work hand in hand with the subcommittee in coming up with constructive solutions.
- B. After School Policy – Public Hearing of Monday, August 22, 2011** – Chairperson Gilman noted that this policy has been referred to the Program Subcommittee for further discussion.
- C. Senate Number 00245 by Senator Bruce Tarr, Petition (Accompanied by Bill, Senate No. 246) of DiNatale and Tarr for Legislation to Establish a Charter School Working Group (Joint Committee on Education)**

Kathy Clancy briefly reviewed Senator Tarr’s bill and indicated that the hearing on this matter is scheduled for October 18, 2011. The Joint Committee on Education will be having several hearings in the fall, and she will plan on being there to provide her comments. She invited other members of the committee to join her. Chairperson Gilman indicated that she will be joining Kathy Clancy at the October 18th hearing and requested that she draft a letter on behalf of the School Committee that could be presented at the hearing.

Chairperson Gilman read the following from Senator Tarr’s letter to her dated July 21, 2011 and stated that she is grateful that he responded to the School Committee regarding the resolution:

Thank you for your correspondence transmitting to me the recently adopted citywide Resolution on Charter School Funding. I truly appreciate not only the spirit in which the resolution is offered but also the import of its substance in portraying and calling attention to the impacts and consequences of the current method employed by our state government to fund the operation of charter schools. You may know that charter school funding has been an issue of significant concern to me for some time, and accordingly I have been working on a number of fronts to address the issue by exploring feasible alternatives and consider the resolution to be demonstrated support for that course of action.

XI. ACTION

- A. Superintendent’s Goals** – Dr. Safier reviewed his Superintendent’s Goals for 2011-12, including key activities/strategies and indicators of success. The following issues were discussed:

Policy Manual – Chairperson Gilman requested that a discussion of who will be on the policy manual subcommittee be placed on the next School Committee agenda. Ms. Teixeira indicated that she will contact Mike Gilbert to find out the responsibilities of that subcommittee and will report back to the full committee at the next meeting.

Budget Projection – Chairperson Gilman requested that Dr. Safier use the detailed demographic information prepared by Interim Superintendent Connelly and Tom Markham in preparing the FY13 budget. Kathy Clancy would also like to include capital planning as a budget goal.

Performance Evaluations – Dr. Safier indicated that this goal would be one that is difficult for him to enforce because of circumstances beyond his control. Ms. Teixeira stated that she is willing to revise the language of the goal to reassure the community and the district that evaluations will be completed. Mrs. Sweet recommended establishing a schedule for performance evaluations to be completed. Chairperson Gilman requested a summary of where evaluations currently stand and a commitment that they will be done. She believes every employee of the district deserves feedback on their performance. Ms. Teixeira stated that there are only a couple of evaluations that are currently outstanding. Chairperson Gilman asked Dr. Safier to draft a goal with wording that he is comfortable with, keeping in mind what was discussed.

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

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Superintendent's Goals 2011-12 as presented, with the inclusion of a yet-to-be-written goal on performance evaluations for employees.

- B. Superintendent's Evaluation Form** – Chairperson Gilman reviewed the purpose of the evaluation form and the process of evaluating the superintendent in a public forum.
- C. Grant Balances/Free Cash** – See Agenda Item IX.B.
- D. Acceptable Use Policies** – Dr. Safier stated that both of these documents were provided by the DOE and have been reviewed by legal counsel. Ms. Teixeira requested that the first reading of these policies be waived, and the committee agreed. The parent/guardian permission page of the student policy was read by Kathy Clancy.

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

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to approve the first reading of the Computer Network and Internet Acceptable Use Policy for Students of the Gloucester Public Schools.

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

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to approve the first reading of the Computer Network and Internet Acceptable Use Policy for Employees of the Gloucester Public Schools.

XII. OTHER COMMUNICATION

For Your Information

1. Welcome Back to School Letter from Dr. Safier (8/19/11)
2. Staff Letter and Opening Day Agenda (8/22/11)
3. Schedule of School Committee and Subcommittee Meetings, 2011/2012
4. Ms. Teixeira reported that she received an email from Kevin McCormick stating that he enjoyed his time at O'Maley School, that he appreciates the support he received, and that O'Maley is in good hands with Principal Lucey.
5. Ms. Teixeira also clarified the all-call that went out tonight regarding the GFAA work day on Saturday. In the all-call, students were asked to report to the high school. However, students should report to O'Maley School instead.
6. Chairperson Gilman recognized four high school students with whom she worked at the race on Sunday. She stated that they were great kids and that it was fun to work with them.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of August 24, 2011 at 9:58 p.m.

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

Maria Puglisi, Recording Secretary