

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

7:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

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

**Administration Present**

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent  
Gregg Bach, Assistant Superintendent  
Patricia Wegmann, Director of Special  
Education

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Recorded by Cape Ann TV

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.
- II. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG** – The committee also observed a moment of silence in remembrance of City Councilor Jackie Hardy.
- III. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** – None.
- IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON** – None.
- V. **RECOGNITIONS** – Ms. Teixeira recognized the City Council, Mayor Kirk, Steve Winslow and everyone else who was involved with the Burnham's Field project for making it a safe and beautiful place for children and families. Kathy Clancy thanked Dore & Whittier for readying the former St. Ann's building for West Parish students.
- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Sam Bevans introduced himself and updated the committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: start of the school year, fall sports, Spirit Week, freshmen class elections, and new lockers.
- VII. **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. **Approval of Minutes**
    - 1. School Committee and Executive Session of August 27, 2014
    - 2. Program Subcommittee of September 4, 2014
    - 3. Building & Finance Subcommittee of August 20, 2014
  - B. **Approval of Warrants** – Cover Sheets

**C. Acceptance of Grants**

1. GEF Grant – To accept a grant in the amount of \$47,243.00 from the Gloucester Education Foundation for programs
2. DESE Grant – \$101,145.00 Mass 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program – Continuation Grants (FY 2015)
3. DESE Grant – \$120,414.00 Mass 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers – Supporting Additional Learning Time

**D. Approval of Transfers**

**E. Referrals**

**F. Acceptance of Gift** – To accept the gift of bookplates and a check in the amount of \$300.00 from Susanna Natti for the Robert Natti Story Corner to be given this year to the West Parish Elementary School.

**G. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip** – To approve a field trip request from the O’Maley Innovation Middle School to the Gulf of Maine Institute in Portland, Maine on September 11, 12, 19 and 24, 2014.

Ms. Sweet removed Item A2 from the Consent Agenda, and Chairman Pope removed Item D since there are no transfers to approve. Kathy Clancy highlighted the grants listed in Item C and thanked the GEF and the DESE for the additional funding.

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.

**VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**A. Presentation on LEAP for Education (formerly Salem CyberSpace)** – Linda Saris, the Director of LEAP for Education, introduced Scott Memhard, who is working part-time with GHS students on their college applications. Ms. Saris updated the committee on the Gloucester college success program, which is funded through the Department of Higher Education, Applied Materials, and CDBG funding. She stated that most of the students are referred into the program from the guidance counselors. For juniors, the program includes career exploration, job shadowing, resumé preparation, college campus visits, and SAT preparation. Seniors work on college essays and scholarship applications, and LEAP helps them and their parents with college acceptance paperwork and selection of courses. LEAP will also meet with students weekly when they are college freshmen and work with them on summer internships, etc.

Ms. Saris indicated that the program is targeted to low income students. However, she reported that about half of the students that are expressing an interest in the program are not low income. She is reluctant to tell those students they cannot be involved but expressed concern that accepting them into the program will affect their grant. More information about the program is available at [www.leap4ed.org](http://www.leap4ed.org).

- B. Presentation on Interior Drawings of West Parish Elementary School** – Brad Dore of Dore & Whittier reported that a subcommittee has been working with his team to determine what the interior of the new school will look like. He reminded the committee that this will be a LEAD project, which means it will be a green building.

Michele Rogers updated the committee on what is happening on the site, and Giovanna Chaisson presented a slide show illustrating what the interior of the building will look like, including the display of student artwork and subtle details that pay homage to the maritime history of Gloucester. The team also brought samples of the materials that will be used in the new school.

The committee discussed the following matters:

- Durability and maintenance of concrete floor
- Wood ceiling in lobby – may need additional lighting
- Window coverings in classrooms
- Maintenance of acoustic ceiling in media center

*(A 10-minute recess was taken at this time.)*

- C. Update on Professional Development – September 2** – Gregg Bach updated the committee on the professional development that took place on September 2, 2014, including training of elementary school teachers and paraprofessionals on the new math program. Mayor Kirk stated that she was very pleased to issue parking passes for staff to park downtown, and Mr. Bach thanked her for that.

Patty Wegmann updated the committee on the first of a series of professional development sessions for special education teachers with Allan Blume of Simmons College. The next session is on September 23rd for PreK to Grade 5 teachers. Ms. Wegmann also updated the committee on the SEPAC workshops that will take place this year.

- D. Consideration of the ALICE Program** – This matter was tabled since Lt. Gossom was not able to attend the meeting.

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

1. School Opening
2. Enrollment

3. Standards-Based Report Card Presentations
4. West Parish Groundbreaking – Mayor Kirk stated that the West Parish second-graders will be attending the event since they will be the fifth grade class when the new building opens. She described the speaking program and the ceremonial groundbreaking and indicated that invitations will be emailed to the building committee, School Committee, City Council, and West Parish PTO. Chairman Pope noted that some former West Parish teachers would like to be invited.
5. Food Service Debt Update – Mr. Gross stated that the \$50 threshold should be lowered in the near future, and Chairman Pope noted that that may encourage families to apply earlier for free and reduced lunch, which will lessen the amount of debt that is ultimately written off for those families.
6. Out-of-District Move-Ins

On a motion by Mr. O'Maley, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 7 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Superintendent's Report.

## **IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. **Program Subcommittee Meeting of September 4, 2014** – Chairperson Sweet reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed the ALICE program at its meeting on September 4, 2014. She made a motion, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, that the School Committee consider the ALICE (“Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate”) program. After discussion and in light of Lt. Gossom’s upcoming presentation to the School Committee, the motion was withdrawn. Ms. Teixeira recommended that members review the ALICE website for information on the program in advance of Lt. Gossom’s presentation.

Dr. Safier reported that the Program Subcommittee also reviewed the Student Discipline policy and A Policy to Prevent Bullying, and Mr. Bach indicated that the Computer Network and Internet Acceptable Use Policy for Students was also discussed. All of these matters were continued to the next Program Subcommittee meeting.

- X. **ACTION** – None.

## **XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **MSBA Project Update** – See Item VIII.B.
- B. **Drug and Alcohol Policies** – Ms. Teixeira referred the following policies to the Personnel Subcommittee:

1. Bus Driver Examination and Training, File EEAEA
2. Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus and Commercial Vehicle Drivers, File EEAEA-1
3. Drug-Free Workplace Policy, File GBEC
4. Drug and Alcohol Use by Students, File JICH

- C. Employee Handbook** – Ms. Teixeira reported that in conversations with former superintendent Christopher Farmer and acting superintendent Joseph Connolly, it was brought to her attention that the employee handbook may need to be updated. Therefore, she referred the matter to the Personnel Subcommittee, as well.
- D. Storm Damage at GHS** – Mayor Kirk reported that the high school was struck by lightning during Saturday night’s storm, which knocked out the power and destroyed the refrigerator in the teachers’ lounge. She indicated that the air conditioning was not connected to the generator, so there was a concern about cooling the building. There was also water penetration into the building and a concern for protecting technology. She noted that because the storm happened so quickly, there was no time to pre-plan a response.
- E. Level IV GAEP Grievance** – Chairman Pope reported that he received notice of a Level IV grievance from GAEP. A hearing will be scheduled in the near future.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of September 10, 2014 at 9:02 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*