

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

City Hall – Kyrouz Auditorium

7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman

Kathy Clancy, Secretary

Melissa Teixeira

Tony Gross

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent

Gregg Bach, Assistant Superintendent

Hans Baumhauer, Dir. of Finance and Operations

Patricia Wegmann, Special Education Director

Phil Padulsky, Food Service director

Jeff Strong, O'Maley Assistant Principal

Carol Bratt, East Gloucester Principal

Telena Imel, West Parish Principal

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – Chairman Pope welcomed Cape Ann TV and their audience, as well as the new administrators, and invited everyone to the Newell Stadium groundbreaking on Friday, September 14th at 9:00 a.m. He also mentioned that he met with representatives from the youth basketball leagues regarding the closing of Fuller School, which will greatly impact their programs this winter. He noted that these leagues are run by hardworking volunteers and serve 600-700 kids in the community. Chairman Pope indicated that the School Committee will do whatever it can to help the leagues find space for their programs.

V. RECOGNITIONS – Dr. Safier recognized a number of groups who are responsible for providing afternoon programs at Veterans Memorial School. He noted that the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation contributed \$10,000.00 to support the Passport to Fitness program, which included the purchase of a salad bar. Other groups involved are The Open Door and Julie LaFontaine, North Shore YMCA, The Food Project, and Steve Winslow, who is associated with Get Fit Gloucester. Ms. Teixeira requested that the School Committee send a thank you letter to those involved with this program.

A. Introduction of New Administrators – Dr. Safier introduced Jeff Strong, Phil Padulsky, Patti Wegmann, Carol Bratt and Telena Imel. He noted that the new high

school staff are attending the high school open house tonight and will be introduced at the next meeting.

Ms. Wegmann reported that all special ed programs are fully staffed, along with paraprofessionals. She also noted that the first SEPAC meeting was held on Monday night with about a dozen attendees, and they are looking forward to having some speakers come in throughout the year. She thanked Mrs. Gilman for being the liaison between the School Committee and SEPAC.

Ms. Bratt stated that she is fortunate to be working with such a dedicated and professional staff at East Gloucester. She thanked the custodial staff for getting the school up and running and welcomed three new staff members. She reported that they have a cultural enrichment program with the BSO for third and fourth graders in the next couple of weeks and a field trip on the Thomas E. Lannon.

Ms. Imel stated that the West Parish community is very committed to its students and that she is very fortunate to be a part of that community. She noted that the before- and after-school programs started this week, with over 40 students in the after-school program. She also reported that there were more than 20 parents in attendance at the PTO meeting last night and that they will be showing “The Lorax” on the West Parish lawn on Friday night.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Amended School Committee Governance Workshop Minutes of July 31, 2012
2. School Committee Minutes of August 15, 2012
3. School Committee Minutes of August 29, 2012
4. Executive Session Minutes of August 29, 2012 – **Confidential**
5. West Parish Ad Hoc Communications Minutes of September 10, 2012

B. Acceptance of Grants

1. GEF grant in the amount of \$3,000.00 for the O’Maley Career Initiative
2. C.A.S.IT. grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the GHS Italian Program
3. Whole Kids Foundation School Garden Grant in the amount of \$2,000.00

C. Acceptance of Scholarship

1. Scholarship from the Friends of the Sawyer Free Library in the amount of \$1,000.00

D. Acceptance of Gift

1. Bookplates and check in the amount of \$300.00 from Susanna Natti for the Robert Natti Story Corner to be given this year to the Beeman Memorial Elementary School

Ms. Teixeira removed Item 4 from the Approval of Minutes.

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

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

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT/DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

A. Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Safier updated the committee on the following matters:

1. Opening of School – Dr. Safier read an email from a teacher at O’Maley to Principal Debra Lucey regarding the loss of electricity on the first day of school, praising her for the way she handled the situation.

Ms. Wegmann, Mr. Padulsky, Mr. Strong, Ms. Bratt and Ms. Imel left the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

2. Professional Development Day – 9/6/12 – Mr. Bach reviewed the exercises conducted during this program and the feedback received from teachers via a survey regarding the program, showing that 76% of teachers feel more comfortable with the evaluation system now than they did before the training. He noted that this program was an unprecedented group effort in professional development and thanked the program leaders who met with him in August and led small group activities on September 6th. The team will be meeting tomorrow to review how the presentations went and to take a close look at the questions that arose and develop a PowerPoint response to those questions.

Dr. Safier read an email from a middle school teacher to Mr. Bach thanking him for “a fantastic PD on the new eval system” and stated that the administration is very sensitive to and cognitive of the concerns about ensuring that the professional development is not only practical and applicable but presented in a way that people can internalize as quickly as possible. The School Committee members thanked the administration and teachers for working together on this huge initiative.

3. Enrollment Update – Dr. Safier suggested getting information from the clerk’s office on children born five years prior to the start of the next school year and corresponding with their parents to provide them with information and resources. Ms. Teixeira also suggested reaching out to the private preschools in the city to provide their students with information about the GPSD.
4. Staffing Update – Dr. Safier reported that there are 26 kindergarten students at Veterans, necessitating an additional kindergarten teaching position which will be filled this week.
5. Calendar Items

6. Medical Emergency Plans
7. My Calendar
8. Groundbreaking Ceremony for Newell Stadium

VIII. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – None

IX. ACTION

- A. Review of Superintendent’s Salary** – Chairman Pope reported that the committee discussed this matter in Executive Session two weeks ago and that the request is that the superintendent be given the same 1% increase that was given to all district employees this past year. Mr. Gross read an email from Mike Gilbert of MASC regarding the range of superintendent salaries for comparable districts, which is \$150,000 to \$160,000. It also indicates that “raises that aren’t making up for some salary deficiency . . . are running about 2-3%.” Ms. Teixeira reviewed the clause in the superintendent’s contract regarding compensation, which states that, “The committee shall each fiscal year consider increasing the superintendent’s salary based upon economic conditions and performance,” which is why the committee is discussing an increase at this time.

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

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to increase the superintendent’s salary by 1 percent, which is equivalent to what other members of the district received for FY12.

- B. First Reading of Pest Management Policy, File EBAB** – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to waive the first reading of the Pest Management Policy, File EBAB.

Ms. Teixeira noted that the copy of the policy that was included in the packet does not contain the language that is being added to the policy. Dr. Safier confirmed that the language was added to the policy but that this appears to be an earlier version of the policy. Ms. Teixeira suggested going forward with a motion to accept the first reading of the policy, and Chairman Pope agreed.

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to accept the first reading of the Pest Management Policy, File EBAB.

X. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS

- A. Massachusetts School Building Authority Update** – Dr. Safier reported that there is a site visit at West Parish tomorrow and reviewed upcoming dates with respect to the selection of an Owner’s Project Manager. (See Superintendent’s Report.) He also reported on how that position was advertised.
- B. Governance Workshop** – Chairman Pope stated that the governance workshop scheduled for September 20th has been changed from 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in light of the open houses at the elementary schools that night.
- C. Upcoming Meetings** – Ms. Teixeira noted that there is an Ad Hoc City Charter Subcommittee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 18th and an Ad Hoc Policy Manual Subcommittee meeting on Monday, September 24th. Kathy Clancy noted that there is a Program Subcommittee meeting on Friday, September 14th at 3:00 p.m.
- D. Clarification of Minutes** – With respect to the minutes of the June 27th School Committee meeting, Kathy Clancy stated that as the Chair of the Building & Finance Subcommittee, she made a motion on the recommendation of the subcommittee to purchase iPads for the School Committee. She clarified for the record that she was the dissenting vote at the B&F Subcommittee meeting.
- E. School Committee Calendar** – Kathy Clancy reported that she attended a School Committee meeting in her hometown in late August and picked up their calendar, which talks about things going on in each school, as well as School Committee meetings, etc. She believes it would be beneficial for the GPSD to have such a calendar, with sports games and plays listed on it. Ms. Teixeira stated that North Shore Tech has a printing capacity and that we could partner with them on this project.
- F. Executive Session Minutes** – Chairman Pope indicated that the Executive Session minutes that were removed from the Consent Agenda will be discussed in the next Executive Session.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of September 12, 2012 at 8:06 p.m.

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

Maria Puglisi, Recording Secretary