

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 28, 2011

City Hall – Kyrouz Auditorium

6:15 p.m.

Members Present

Val Gilman, Chairperson
Kathleen Clancy, Secretary
Roger Garberg
Michelle Sweet (7:00 p.m. arrival)
Tony Gross
Mayor Carolyn Kirk

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Assistant Superintendent Shayne Trubisz
Assistant Superintendent Brian Tarr
CFO Tom Markham
Principal Gregg Bach
Principal Debra Lucey
Principal Jean Perry
Principal Ellen Sibley
Principal Tammy Morgan
Principal Cherylan Parker

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 recognized Gregg Bach, Debra Lucey, Brian Tarr, Shayne Trubisz, Jean Perry, Tom Markham, Ellen Sibley, Tammy Morgan, and Cherylan Parker. She noted that Ms. Teixeira will not be attending the meeting tonight because she is not feeling well and that Mrs. Sweet will be arriving at 7:00 p.m. Finally, Chairperson Gilman recognized guest speaker Jesse Lieb and thanked Cape Ann TV for recording the meeting.

III. PRESENTATIONS

A. Exploratory K12 Insight Presentation – Jesse Lieb of K12 Insight presented an overview of the company and how surveys work in school districts today. He described the challenges districts face in trying to create their own surveys and stated that K12 Insight can help with those challenges and help to educate and inform the community. Mr. Lieb indicated that as the district continues to survey on a planned schedule, more and more of the “silent majority” will respond to our surveys. There was a discussion about maximizing response rates. Chairperson Gilman thanked Mr. Lieb for his presentation.

- B. Stop & Shop Program** – Jackie Mondello from Stop & Shop in Gloucester reviewed the A+ Program, which runs from October 7, 2011 through March 29, 2012. This program gives free money to schools that sign up. Chairperson Gilman recommended that Ms. Mondello’s contact information be passed along to the principals so that all of the schools can sign up for the program. For more information, parents can call 1-877-ASKAPLUS or go online to www.stopandshop.com/aplus.

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

V. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – None

VI. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Garberg recognized the staff at the high school and the efforts of James Cook and Steven Brosnihan in putting together the literary magazine, The Elicitor. Mr. Garberg stated that he was amazed at the quality of the writing in the publication and distributed copies of the magazine to the committee. Mr. Garberg also recognized Lara Lepionka of the Backyard Growers Program who coordinated the West Parish Harvest Day, which he stated was a wonderful event.

Mayor Kirk recognized the high school and O’Maley Middle School for their “Meet the Teacher” nights, which she stated were well-attended by both staff and parents.

VII. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – None present.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. School Committee Meeting of September 14, 2011

B. Schedule of Future Meetings

Program Subcommittee – Friday, October 7, 2011 at 9:45 a.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

School Committee – Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

Building & Finance Subcommittee – Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at 4:45 p.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

C. Out-of-State Field Trip

To approve an out-of-state GHS hockey field trip to Essex Junction, Vermont from December 9-10, 2011.

D. Acceptance of Grant

To accept a grant from the DESE in the amount of \$37,720 for SPED Program Improvement.

Chairperson Gilman removed the Approval of Minutes from the Consent Agenda and tabled this item until the next meeting.

It was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

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

XI. DISCUSSION

- A. MCAS Presentation** – Dr. Safier reviewed a slide presentation on the 2011 MCAS Report, including the current MCAS environment, accountability status/district, three-year comparisons, student growth percentile, low income performance, and the special education differential. Mayor Kirk thanked Dr. Safier for taking the lead in understanding the MCAS results and presenting the report to the School Committee, which sends the message that the superintendent is the leader on academic performance in the district. Dr. Safier credited the efforts of the leadership team in this process. Kathy Clancy thanked the principals for their effort and hard work.

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

IX. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- A. Superintendent's Report** – Dr. Safier updated the School Committee on the following matters:
1. Phone System – Dr. Safier thanked Mayor Kirk for her diligence in helping to replace the phone system. Mayor Kirk indicated that it will take some time to get the financing in place and that the School Committee should speak at the public hearing in favor of the loan authorization.
 2. Resource Assistance for Veterans' Memorial Elementary School
 3. Acceptable Use Policy

4. Surveillance Camera Update
5. Memorandum of Understanding – Facilities

X. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Program Subcommittee Report of September 9, 2011 and Special Program Subcommittee Report of September 16, 2011 – Chairman Garberg reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its September 9, 2011 meeting:

- Status of district web site
- Strategic development activities
- District improvement plan

- Assessing Plan for Effective Learning Communities/Neighborhood Schools – Mayor Kirk stated that all of the original information on this plan should be part of the public record. She believes the committee needs to be clear about what the objective is and give Dr. Safier a chance to review the history and guide the committee as to whether or not the information is relevant.

- After School Policy, response to public input at hearing, new policy options

At the September 16th Program meeting, the subcommittee discussed the details of what constituted restricted programming and came up with a draft policy.

B. Building & Finance Subcommittee Report of September 21, 2011 – Chairperson Clancy reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its September 21, 2011 meeting:

- Cost of the schools and the importance of ongoing communication with the DPW

- Thanksgiving football game ticket prices

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, that basketball ticket prices shall remain at \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students for the 2011-12 school year.

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

XII. ACTION

B. Recommendations of the Building & Finance Subcommittee at its Meeting of September 21, 2011

1. Kathy Clancy made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sweet, to approve the ticket price of \$10.00 for the Thanksgiving football game. After discussion, the motion was amended to approve the ticket price of \$10.00 for adults only. Chairperson Gilman recommended that this motion be tabled at this time and referred to the Building & Finance Subcommittee.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to establish a family cap of \$2,000 per family for athletic participation fees.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to amend the Building & Finance Subcommittee Minutes of August 9, 2011, specifically Section II.B., to state that, “The \$124,000 was appropriated from available city funds during the closedown of FY11, as recommended by the Mayor and approved by the City Council.”

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

XI. DISCUSSION (Continued)

- B. Chapter 70 Funding and Charter School Funding** – Kathy Clancy briefly reported on her meeting with Roger Hatch and Hadley Cabrel at the DOE. She stated that she is working on a document that summarizes the meeting in more detail. Chairperson Gilman thanked her for organizing the meeting.

XII. ACTION (Continued)

A. Recommendations of the Program Subcommittee at its Meeting of September 16, 2011

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to waive the reading of the “Purpose” section, the “Activity Sponsors and Athletic Coaches” section, and the “School Committee Funding and Support” section of the After School Activities Policy File IHC.

Kathy Clancy read the “Participation” section and the “Participation Fees” section of the After School Activities policy. After discussion, on a motion by Chairperson Gilman, seconded by Mrs. Sweet, it was

VOTED: 5 in favor, 1 opposed (Mr. Garberg) to approve the first reading of the After School Activities Policy File IHC.

Mr. Garberg stated that he does not support the policy because it lacks an agreement between the district and the schools that wish to use our programming, as set forth in his proposed Memorandum of Understanding. He also does not agree with the two-tiered fee system contained in the policy, which could be exclusionary.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

Mayor Kirk – no
Mr. Garberg – yes
Kathy Clancy – no
Mrs. Sweet – no
Mr. Gross – no
Chairperson Gilman – no

Not to refer After School Activities Policy File IHC back to the Program Subcommittee with instructions to establish interschool cooperation as a basis for extending after school programs to other schools.

On a motion by Chairperson Gilman, seconded by Mrs. Sweet, it was

VOTED: 5 in favor, 1 opposed (Mr. Garberg) that the determination of appropriate participation fees for after school programs for non-GPSD students who are residents of Gloucester be referred to the Building and Finance Subcommittee.

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

XI. DISCUSSION (Continued)

- C. After-School Extracurricular Sign-Up Packet 2011/2012 and After-School Program Permission Form** – Chairperson Gilman reviewed these documents and requested that Dr. Safier have Ann Marie Jordan, Kim Patience and Naomi Stonberg review them. She indicated that these documents will be going back to Program Subcommittee for review. Chairperson Gilman noted that the sign-up packet contains a letter reminding parents of non-GPSD students that our after school programs are subsidized and/or funded by the GFAA and GEF and asks them to support those organizations. Kathy Clancy requested that Dr. Safier consider the issue of transportation of non-GPSD students and ensuring that principals of other schools notify us when a student is not in school on the day of a program.

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

XIII. OTHER COMMUNICATION

A. FYI

1. Email (9/22/11) from Chairperson Gilman regarding School Committee relationship with North Shore Voc School
2. Letter to Mr. Anthony Blackman (9/23/11) regarding GCACS Annual report

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

XV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Chairperson Gilman, seconded by Mrs. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of September 28, 2011 at 9:30 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*