

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 22, 2014

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

7:00 p.m.

Members Present

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

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Assistant Supt. (8:12 p.m.)
Hans Baumhauer, Director of Finance
and Operations
Patricia Wegmann, Director of Special
Education

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**
- III. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** – None.
- IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON** – Chairman Pope reported that the Gloucester Education Foundation will be holding a community education forum on November 17, 2014 at Cruiseport from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Kathy Clancy stated that the topic of the forum is “Library Commons,” which is under consideration for GHS. She requested that the GHS Student Advisory Council members encourage their fellow students to attend the forum.
- V. **RECOGNITIONS** – Chairman Pope recognized Gregg Bach for painting the Superintendent's conference room.
- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Brianna Sutherland and Michelle Quinn introduced themselves and updated the committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: Halloween fundraiser, senior semiformal, “Think Pink” fundraiser, letter from Colleen Ritzer's father, annual food drive, PSAT participation, the Gillnetter, photo club portrait fundraiser, and Spanish class trip to Casa Romero in Boston.
- VII. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **Approval of Minutes**
 - 1. Special School Committee and Executive Session of October 2, 2014
 - 2. School Committee and Executive Session of October 8, 2014
 - 3. Building & Finance Subcommittee of October 15, 2014

- B. Approval of Warrants – Cover Sheets**
- C. Approval of Transfers through October 10, 2014**, as recommended by the Building & Finance Subcommittee at its meeting of October 15, 2014
- D. Referrals**
- E. Acceptance of Gloucester Education Foundation Gift** – To accept a donation of a Hewlett Packard 42” Designjet 500 Plotter/Printer and stand valued at \$2,000.00 from Ken and Patty Hecht of Hecht Development in Gloucester. In addition, they donated paper stock for the printer.
- F. Acceptance of Gloucester Education Foundation Grants**
 - 1. \$646.90 for O’Maley Innovation Middle School’s Garden Project supplies
 - 2. \$15,820.00: Math Olympiads Program in the elementary schools (\$6,000.00), science field trips, supplies and stipends (\$8,820.00), and East Gloucester Elementary School theater program for stage manager stipend (\$1,000.00)
- G. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip** – To approve an annual out-of-state field trip request from GHS Boys Ice Hockey to attend scrimmages at Essex Junction Regional High School and BFA High School in Vermont on Friday, December 5, 2014
- H. Acceptance of DESE Grants**
 - 1. \$8,000.00 Early Childhood Special Education Improvement Grant (FY15)
 - 2. \$26,277.00 Early Childhood Special Education Entitlement Grant (FY15)

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

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

X. ACTION

- D. Approval of the West Parish Elementary School Proprietary Specification Items**
Kevin Buckley, Owners Project Manager, stated that the list of eleven proprietary specification items that he believes are best suited for West Parish will be sent to the MSBA and filed with the Purchasing Agent.

On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve and authorize the Owners Project Manager to submit the list of Proprietary Specification Items for the West Parish School to the MSBA for consideration.

Mr. Buckley reported that job meetings are held every Wednesday morning and that foundations, footings and walls are going in. He also stated that the project is on schedule.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

Ms. Teixeira – no
Kathy Clancy – no
Mr. Gross – no
Mr. O’Maley – no
Chairman Pope – no
Ms. Sweet – no

Not to reconsider the Committee’s vote to approve and authorize the Owners Project Manager to submit the list of Proprietary Specification Items for the West Parish School to the MSBA for consideration.

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- A. Presentation on the ALICE Program** – Lieutenant Mike Gossom presented a slide show on the ALICE program, which stands for “Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate.” He noted that the current policy in response to an active shooter in a building is to shelter in place, which means locking the door, going to the furthest corner of the room, and waiting. The ALICE program provides other options, such as evacuating, barricading, and fighting back with objects that can be used as makeshift weapons. He indicated that NEMLEC has adopted the ALICE program and that Chief Campanello is recommending it for Gloucester schools.

Lt. Gossom provided some background on the program and indicated that he, Officer Mike Scola, the current school resource officer, and Detective Steve Mizzoni attended the two-day training to become ALICE instructors. Lt. Gossom described the drills in which they participated during the training, and the committee discussed the following matters:

- Empowering teachers to make the decision on whether to evacuate, barricade, and/or fight back
- Free staff training by GPD ALICE instructors
- Resources for training elementary school students (examples online)
- Parent information session(s)
- Possible difficulty in police response due to number of individuals evacuating the building
- School incident command system
- Incorporating ALICE options into current emergency plans

After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mr. O’Maley, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to adopt the theories and protocols of the ALICE program as a safety resource and integrate them into the district's crisis management plan.

- B. Walker Report** – Robert McArdle of Walker Partnerships presented a PowerPoint on the Elementary Special Education Program Evaluation, including the methodology used, positions interviewed, commendations, factors affecting special education programming and services, findings, and recommendations, and stated that the report represents a three- to five-year plan for the district to reach its goals.

The committee discussed the following matters:

- Difference between behavioral and emotional disabilities
- High number of referrals and paraprofessionals compared to other districts
- Purpose of pre-referral process
- Accurate assessment of students, which may result in less referrals and the ability to reallocate resources
- Feedback from parents and parent trainings
- Expansion of co-teaching to other schools
- Training for paraprofessionals
- Next steps

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

1. Emergency Operations for Technology/Communications – Dr. Safier reported that there will be a meeting tomorrow to address these issues.
2. Kindergarten Open House
3. PARCC/MCAS Statewide – Dr. Safier indicated that GPSD elementary school students will be taking the paper version of the PARCC exam and that middle school students will take the exam online.
4. Possible Curriculum Grant Opportunity – Dr. Safier reported that districts are eligible for up to \$11,000 for two teams, \$16,000 for three teams, and \$22,400 for four teams. He believes the GPSD will apply for funding for at least three teams.
5. CopSync Revisited
6. Sawyer Medal Award Ceremony

On a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Superintendent's Report.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of October 15, 2014 – Chairperson Clancy reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its meeting of October 15, 2014:

- Outstanding Meal Payment Balances
- Elementary Principals’ Request for Elmo Cameras
- FY15 Budget Update
- Unanticipated Expenses – Mr. Baumhauer reported that the majority of unanticipated FY15 expenses are due to six special education move-ins. Also included in the unanticipated expenses are settlement agreements, the COPsync software, additional teacher stipends, St. Ann’s moving expenses, and additional paraprofessionals.

After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Chairman Pope, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to authorize the CFO to transfer the sum of \$208,855.00 from the School Committee contingency fund to the appropriate account for the purpose of paying the following unanticipated expenses:

- Settlement agreements, \$25,200.00
- Additional St. Ann’s expenses, \$31,071.00
- Additional paraprofessionals, \$39,346.00
- New student at Home for Little Wanderers, \$73,338.00
- New student at North Shore Consortium, \$39,900.00

Chairman Pope noted that the above transfers do not cover all of the unanticipated expenses. Mr. Baumhauer reported that one special education student will be aging out of the program in January, which will offset the unanticipated special education costs. The committee discussed the balance remaining in the contingency fund after the above transfers are made.

X. ACTION (CONTINUED)

A. Transfer of Funds to Pay for Unanticipated Expenses – See Item IX.A.

B. Second Reading of Policies – Chairman Pope indicated that no changes have been made to any of the policies since the first readings.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to waive the second reading of the following policies:

1. Student Conduct Policy, File JIC
2. Student Absences and Excuses Policy, File JH
3. Student Responsible Use Policy, File IJNDB

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the following policies:

1. Student Conduct Policy, File JIC
2. Student Absences and Excuses Policy, File JH
3. Student Responsible Use Policy, File IJNDB

C. First Reading of Student Discipline Policy, File JK – Dr. Safier reviewed the changes to the existing policy.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to waive the first reading of the Student Discipline Policy, File JK.

On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mr. O'Maley, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Student Discipline Policy, File JK.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

A. MSBA Project Update – Chairman Pope reported that the building committee discussed different types of glass and security at its meeting last week and recommended that the security glass be extended up to six feet in the cafeteria. Dr. Safier stated that the building committee also discussed trash and recycling, fence maintenance, wetland protection, etc. Chairman Pope indicated that the project is currently on schedule and under budget.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

Ms. Teixeira – yes
Kathy Clancy – yes
Mr. Gross – yes
Mr. O’Maley – yes
Chairman Pope – yes
Ms. Sweet – yes

To enter into Executive Session at 9:21 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a Level II GTA grievance and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of adjournment only.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by Mr. O’Maley, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of October 22, 2014 at 9:34 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*