

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 9, 2013
City Hall – Kyrouz Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Val Gilman, Vice Chairperson
Kathy Clancy, Secretary
Melissa Teixeira
Tony Gross
Roger Garberg

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Assistant Superintendent

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:03 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** – None.
- V. **RECOGNITIONS** – Mrs. Gilman recognized the Gloucester Education Foundation for their annual celebration last week at the North Shore Art Association. She also announced that Soccer Night at Newell Stadium will take place on October 18th.

Mr. Gross thanked the new School Committee candidates for not attending the debate tonight since the current members of the committee could not attend. Kathy Clancy recognized the Fish Box Derby for their donation to the JROTC Program.

- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Jordan Westling and Autumn Zubricki updated the School Committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: senior college planning night, progress reports, PSATs, National Merit Scholarship test, Think Pink fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Spirit Week, health fair, fire drill, “Our Town” auditions, Italian exchange program, Art Club, tutoring, and the voter registration drive.

Jordan indicated that she is a member of the regional and state Student Advisory Councils and that their focus this year is on digital learning. Kathy Clancy encouraged her to bring information back to the committee. Chairman Pope requested that Jordan and Autumn read through the fundraising policy and provide feedback to the committee.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Building & Finance Subcommittee of September 25, 2013
2. School Committee of September 25, 2013

B. Acceptance of Gifts

1. \$300.00 from Fish Box Derby, Inc. to the JROTC Program
2. \$11,500.00 from Boston Foundation for the Construction of the High School Digital Photography Studio

C. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip – To approve GHS hockey preseason scrimmages in Burlington, Vermont on Friday, December 6, 2013

Chairman Pope removed Item B2 from the Consent Agenda since the donation has not yet been received.

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

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

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

1. Gloucester Education Foundation Celebration – Friday, October 4, 2013
2. Federal Government Shutdown – Dr. Safier reported that the Breakfast in the Classroom program is currently on hold because of the shutdown and because the district is still awaiting clarification from the DESE that the we are meeting the requirements for time on learning.
3. Mid-Cycle Review
4. Preliminary Annual Dropout Data Ready for Review – Mrs. Gilman reported on a hearing that was held in Boston recently to discuss raising the dropout age in Mass. from 16 to 18. She suggested that Kathy Clancy draft a letter on behalf of the committee to support this change. However, the consensus of the committee members was that they would need to see the bill before supporting it. Chairman Pope suggested that this matter be tabled until the next meeting. Kathy Clancy requested that Dr. Safier make a recommendation to the committee at that time.
6. Central Office Move to 2 Blackburn Drive

7. Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Summit
5. October 1, 2013 Early Release Professional Development Day – Mr. Bach circulated and reviewed a PowerPoint presentation outlining the activities of the three key groups that met on October 1st. There was a discussion about developing new report cards and including parent input in the process. Mr. Bach also shared the written feedback received from the teachers, and Mr. Garberg suggested a change to the wording of the feedback questions.

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

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

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Personnel Subcommittee of September 26, October 7 and October 8, 2013** – To be discussed in Executive Session.
- B. Program Subcommittee of October 4, 2013** – Chairperson Gilman reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its meeting on October 4, 2013:
 - Student and Staff Fundraising Policy – This policy will be discussed further in subcommittee.
 - A Policy to Prevent Bullying – Dr. Safier reviewed the change made to the policy in accordance with the new law. Chairperson Gilman reported that Ann-Marie Jordan spoke to the subcommittee about enhanced training on bullying, which will focus on social media.
 - Sawyer Medal Policy – Chairperson Gilman reviewed the minor change made to this policy regarding students having a **cumulative** average of at least 90%.
 - Admission of Students to Elementary Schools Policy

X. ACTION

- A. Approval of A Policy to Prevent Bullying, File JIFCB** – After discussion, on a motion by Mrs. Gilman, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously
VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Policy to Prevent Bullying, File JIFCB, as amended.
- B. Approval of Sawyer Medal Policy, File KCDA** – On a motion by Mrs. Gilman, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously
VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Sawyer Medal Policy, File KCDA, as amended.

- C. **Approval of Admission of Students to Elementary Schools Policy, File JF** – Mrs. Gilman made a motion, seconded by Kathy Clancy, to reendorse this policy. After discussion, it was the consensus of the committee that a motion was not necessary. Therefore, the motion was withdrawn. Mr. Garberg suggested including a note on the policy indicating that it was reendorsed by the Program Subcommittee on October 4, 2013.
- D. **Resolution of Level IV Grievance with GAEP** – To be discussed in Executive Session.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS

- A. **MSBA Update** – Dr. Safier reported that a meeting was held at the MSBA on October 2nd and the board unanimously approved moving the project from the feasibility study into the schematic design phase. The next building committee meeting will be tomorrow at 4 p.m. at 2 Blackburn Drive. The first drawings of the new school will be presented at that meeting.

Dr. Safier also reported that Dore & Whittier will be making a presentation to the City Council Planning and Development Committee on October 15, 2013 regarding the procurement method for a Construction Manager at Risk. The matter will then go back to the City Council for a vote to approve the procurement of a Construction Manager at Risk.

Kathy Clancy noted that the Beacon contains an article summarizing the project to date. Mrs. Gilman requested that that article be added to the West Parish FAQs on the website.

- B. **Policy Manual** – Mr. Gross requested that the School Committee workshop with Mike Gilbert scheduled for October 30th be changed to sometime in November since there will be a candidate forum the night before. After discussion, it was the consensus of the committee to keep the workshop on October 30th. Chairman Pope indicated that the committee will need to discuss the ongoing services required from MASS with respect to the policy manual. Dr. Safier stated that he will be sending the two amended policies approved at tonight's meeting to Mr. Gilbert and will ask him to incorporate them into the CD. Mr. Garberg asked the administration to look into the possibility of the district hosting the policy manual in order to save money.
- C. **MASC Annual Meeting** – Mrs. Gilman reported that she and Mr. Garberg will not be attending the annual meeting and noted that the committee needs to delegate a member and an alternate to attend the meeting for voting purposes. Ms. Teixeira indicated that she will be attending the meeting but will also be representing the North Shore Tech. She does not know if she can vote twice. Kathy Clancy asked Mrs. Gilman to find out when the voting will be taking place and indicated that she will try to be there at that time.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

Chairman Pope – yes
Ms. Teixeira – yes
Kathy Clancy – yes
Mr. Garberg – yes
Mrs. Gilman – yes
Mr. Gross – yes

To enter into Executive Session after a five-minute recess to discuss contract negotiations with the nurses, a GAEP Level III grievance, and a GTA Level III grievance, and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of adjournment only.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by Chairman Pope, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of October 9, 2013 at 9:23 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*