

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, October 12, 2011  
City Hall – Kyrouz Auditorium  
7:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

Val Gilman, Chairperson  
Melissa Teixeira, Vice Chairperson  
Kathleen Clancy, Secretary  
Roger Garberg  
Michelle Sweet  
Mayor Carolyn Kirk

**Administration Present**

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent  
Assistant Superintendent Brian Tarr

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Recorded by Cape Ann TV

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Gilman called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

**II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Chairperson Gilman stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools, thanked Cape Ann TV for televising the meeting, and reminded the public that hearing impaired devices are available at the City Clerk's office. She recognized Brian Tarr and reporters from both the Beacon and the Gloucester Daily Times and stated that Tony Gross will not be attending the meeting.

**III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None**

**IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – None**

**V. RECOGNITIONS**

1. GHS Junior ROTC Program – Dr. Safier recognized the Junior ROTC students that participated in the recent 2011 Fish Box Derby race. He read a letter from Bob Ryan, Treasurer of the Fish Box Derby, to Gunner Muth enclosing a gift of \$300 for the Junior ROTC Program.
2. Chairperson Gilman recognized the First R Foundation, the Gloucester Education Foundation, the Gloucester Fishermen's Athletic Association, and New Balance for their donation in support of the renewal of Newell Stadium. She stated that thank you letters will be going to all of these organizations from the School Committee. Mayor Kirk reported on the fundraising efforts for Newell Stadium and indicated that she believes the groundbreaking will take place in the spring of 2012.

3. Chairperson Gilman recognized and thanked Ken Weiss, a resident of Eastern Point, for hosting a celebration to thank people in the community who have donated to the GFAA.

**VI. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Arianna Puopolo introduced herself and updated the School Committee on events at Gloucester High School, including Spirit Week, freshmen student council elections, DECA store, PSATs, cheerleaders’ competition, theater program’s play, college visits, Chorus Club upcoming performance, ROTC ball, upcoming Docksiders performances, and a fundraiser for the Asaro family. Abigail Avila is a junior at GHS and the vice president of the Class of 2013. She is also a cheerleader and has been on the student council for three years.

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

1. School Committee Meeting of September 14, 2011
2. School Committee Executive Session Meeting of September 14, 2011 – Confidential
3. School Committee Special Meeting of September 26, 2011
4. School Committee Meeting of September 28, 2011

**B. Schedule of Future Meetings**

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

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

School Committee – Wednesday, October 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

Program Subcommittee – Friday, November 4, 2011 at 9:45 a.m.

Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

**C. Field Trip Requests**

1. To approve an out-of-state GHS Interact Club field trip to New York City on Saturday, November 5, 2011.
2. To approve an out-of-country GHS Spain trip during the April vacation in 2012 (April 10 to April 19, 2012)

**D. Acceptance of Grant**

To accept a grant in the amount of \$500 from the Gloucester Education Foundation for the O’Maley STEP Program.

**E. Acceptance of Gift**

To accept a gift in the amount of \$300 from the Fish Box Derby, Inc. to the GHS Junior ROTC Program.

It was unanimously

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

**VIII. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES**

**A. Superintendent's Report** – Dr. Safier updated the School Committee on the following matters:

1. Coordinated Program Review Submission – There was a discussion about the need to get the mandatory vocational advisory committees in place.
2. Update on the Phone System – Mayor Kirk clarified that the City Council Budget & Finance Subcommittee unanimously supported the advertisement of a public hearing for a loan authorization for this purpose on October 25, 2011. She stated that the funding is not quite secured yet, but all indications are that it will be successful. There should be representation from the School Committee to testify in favor of this expenditure, and the city administration will also be speaking in favor of it, as well. Chairperson Gilman stated that she will attend the public hearing. There was a discussion about the content of the RFP.
3. Enrollment – Kathy Clancy stated that birth rates also affect enrollment and that she does not believe the decline in enrollment is strictly due to people choosing out. A discussion was held on elementary class size in relation to enrollment.
4. Acceptable Use Policy
5. O'Maley Innovation School Update – Dr. Safier described the goals of the innovation school. Mayor Kirk questioned whether the vote of the faculty is done by ballot. Chairperson Gilman distributed a handout on innovation schools and stated that there is a session on October 17<sup>th</sup> and webinars on October 18<sup>th</sup> and October 24<sup>th</sup>.
6. District and School Accountability Center (DSAC) Self-Assessment Survey – Dr. Safier reviewed the ten areas covered by the survey and recommended concentrating on three or four of them. He suggested waiting until January to implement the survey in light of the staff's current focus on the new literacy program.

7. FY12 Budget Freeze
8. Charter School Update – Chairperson Gilman stated that she would like to be able to see at any given time the number of students from the GPSD that are represented in the annual number of charter school students for budget planning purposes.
9. MSBA – Dr. Safier reported on the recertification process for statements of interest that were submitted for FY11. He believes the SOI for West Parish was prior to FY11 and, therefore, we would not be eligible for that. Mayor Kirk suggested submitting it as a new application for FY12. Dr. Safier indicated that we would have to contact MSBA to see where we stand with that project.

Dr. Safier indicated that there is a new science lab initiative for which we may be eligible. This will be discussed by the Building & Finance Subcommittee next week.

Finally, Chairperson Gilman stated that she read in the Boston Globe that Katherine Craven is leaving MSBA. She believes it would be a good idea for Dr. Safier, Tom Markham, Kathy Clancy and a member of the city administration to have another conversation with her to ensure that she is transferring the knowledge that she had from her tours here to whomever is going to replace her so we do not lose the momentum that we had.

## **IX. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. **Program Subcommittee Report of October 7, 2011** – Tabled to next meeting.

## **X. DISCUSSION/ACTION**

- A. **Second Reading of After-School Activities Policy File IHC**

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

**VOTED:** 5 in favor, 1 abstained (Mr. Garberg) to waive the second reading of After-School Activities Policy File IHC.

After discussion, on a motion by Chairperson Gilman, seconded by Mrs. Sweet, it was

**VOTED:** By Roll Call Vote

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

To approve the second reading of After-School Activities Policy File IHC as revised by the Program Subcommittee on September 16, 2011.

Mr. Garberg stated that he is not supporting the policy because he is not convinced that it reflects the comments made at the public hearing. He stated that the people who objected to the new policy were advocating for cooperation among all schools in Gloucester, and he believes the School Committee did not do that in this policy. He also does not support the idea of a premium set of fees for non-GPSD students.

Chairperson Gilman stated that while she believes that all of the schools that are participating in our district's after school programs should want to support collaboration and our city's lobbying efforts to join the city-wide resolution on charter school funding, she did not feel it was responsible or fair to put non-GPSD children eager to join band or run track in the middle of this legislative battle. However, she believes it will be very easy to attend PTO meetings at these different schools and work very hard to engage a good dialogue with the leaders of those schools to join us in our legislative lobbying on behalf of all of the children of Gloucester.

- B. After-School Extracurricular Sign-Up Packet 2011/2012 and After-School Permission Form** – Dr. Safier reviewed his letter to parents/guardians and the permission form. There was a discussion about monitoring out-of-district students to ensure that they are in good standing. Chairperson Gilman recommended adding chorus to the list of available programs.
- C. School Committee Letter to Present at Public Hearing at the State House on October 18, 2011 in Support of Senate 246 Bruce Tarr/Stephanie DiNatale, “An Act Establishing a Charter School Working Group”** – Chairperson Gilman reviewed her draft letter to Senator Tarr in support of Senate 246 for the School Committee's approval. She invited members of the committee to attend the public hearing at the State House with her and Kathy Clancy.

- D. MASC – School Committee’s Selection to Serve on the District Governance Support Project/RTTT** – Chairperson Gilman indicated that the Gloucester School Committee was selected as one of 20 districts in Massachusetts to go through this relationship-building program that incorporates the Common Core and SMART goals and teaches committees to be better partners with superintendents. Dr. Safier believes it is a positive opportunity for us to enhance the committee/superintendent partnership and impact student achievement.

Mayor Kirk cautioned that participation in this program may be a distraction for the superintendent and the School Committee, who need to be focused on building community support for capital investment in our schools (i.e. West Parish and science lab initiative). She would hate to see it interfere with what Dr. Safier is trying to get done. She also questioned the criteria that MASC used for selecting our district.

Chairperson Gilman recommended that she and Dr. Safier go back to MASC and MASS, respectively, and get more information. A vote on this matter was tabled until the next meeting.

- E. MASC Annual Meeting** – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mrs. Sweet, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to delegate Roger Garberg as a member and Valerie Gilman as an alternate of the School Committee to attend the MASC Annual Meeting on Friday, November 11, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in Hyannis, MA for voting purposes.

## **XI. OTHER COMMUNICATION**

### **A. FYI**

1. Letter from Anthony Blackman, Executive Director of GCACS (9/30/11)

## **XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None**

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of October 12, 2011 at 8:28 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi, Recording Secretary*