

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 23, 2013
City Hall – Kyrouz Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Val Gilman, Vice Chairperson
Kathy Clancy, Secretary
Melissa Teixeira
Tony Gross
Roger Garberg (7:07 p.m.)

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Assistant Superintendent
Hans Baumhauer, Dir. of Finance
and Operations
Debra Lucey, O'Maley Principal

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Vice Chairperson Gilman called the meeting to order at 7:04 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** – Kathy Clancy recognized Athletic Director Kim Patience for participating in and helping to organize the event for Fishermen Youth Soccer at Newell Stadium last week.

(Mr. Garberg joined the meeting at 7:07 p.m.)

Vice Chairperson Gilman recognized the GHS Docksiders for the free concert they played over the weekend to benefit the Open Door.

- A. **O'Maley Innovation Middle School "SAILS Pledge" Presentation** – Kathy McLear and Paula Gray described the process that students and staff went through to develop a school pledge based on the SAILS initiative. Ms. McLear acknowledged Rick Doucette as the one who suggested the idea of having a pledge and indicated that he presented the pledge at the first SAILS assembly. Ms. McLear indicated that there is still more work to do with respect to daily practice of the pledge. Ms. Gray read the pledge, and the School Committee members and school administration signed it. Ms. Lucey described the O'Maley Day of Service which will be taking place on Friday, during which students will be doing yard work for local seniors and at other places in the community.
- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Jordan Westling and Autumn Zubricki updated the School Committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: senior winners of Sawyer Medals, Curtis Quinn and Casey Quinn; Curtis Quinn advancing to state finals in

golf; three teams qualifying for MIAA state championships (boys soccer, girls field hockey, and football team); Youth Soccer Night at Newell Stadium; Mole Day; the lobster roll fundraiser; and the John and Abigail Adams scholarship. They also gave their feedback on the fundraising policy and requested that the administration look into why seniors are now required to take finals even if they have an “A” in the class. Dr. Safier indicated that he would speak with GHS administration about that matter and get back to them.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. School Committee & Executive Session (Confidential) of October 9, 2013
2. Program Subcommittee of October 4, 2013
3. Personnel Subcommittee & Executive Session (Confidential) of October 8, 2013
4. Building & Finance of October 16, 2013

B. Acceptance of Gifts

1. Gorton’s Gift Matching Program – \$120.00 to Plum Cove Elementary School
2. The Boston Foundation – \$11,500.00 to be used for renovations for a photo/studio room at GHS

C. Acceptance of Grants

1. \$5,000.00 from C.A.S.IT., Inc. to GHS Italian Program
2. \$6,200.00 from Bay State Reading Institute, Inc. for FY14 math stipends
3. \$13,250.00 from the Gloucester Education Foundation for O’Maley Slime Lab and Career Initiative Award

Kathy Clancy removed Item A4 from the Consent Agenda since the minutes of that meeting have not yet been prepared.

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

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

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- ### **A. Fall Benchmark Assessments** – Gregg Bach presented the K-5 Assessment Data Report for the fall of 2013, including a description of the DIBELS and GRADE measures, results, and reports by school. Dr. Safier indicated that Ed Moskovitz will present the calculations of any correlation between DIBELS and MCAS results at the December 11th School Committee meeting. There was a discussion about using the strengths of proficient teachers to provide coaching to other teachers whose students may be struggling. Mr. Bach stated that he intends to work with teams of teachers to build those opportunities.

B. House Bill No. 524: An Act Raising the School Dropout Age – Dr. Safier reported that the Mass. Association of School Superintendents (MASS) and the Urban Superintendents Network support this legislative effort but indicated that there are issues that still need to be addressed. MASS supports the intent of the legislation but believes that a task force should be formed to work out the details. Dr. Safier agrees with this recommendation and noted that our district has a number of dropout prevention initiatives. At Kathy Clancy’s suggestion, Dr. Safier agreed to send a letter to Senator Tarr and Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante supporting the intent of the legislation but stating that a compulsory education task force to examine all aspects of the bill is necessary.

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

1. 2013 Cohort Graduation Rate Data Ready for Review – Dr. Safier reported that the district’s data manager will be reviewing these numbers and submitting any discrepancies through SIMS. He indicated that the official published report will come out in January.
2. Amendments to Regulations on Student Physical Exams
3. School-Based Publicists – Vice Chairperson Gilman suggested that a checklist of the items that should be updated on the schools’ websites be used by Dr. Safier’s secretary to audit the websites on a monthly basis.
4. Anti-Hazing Law Requirements
5. The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Awards Ceremony – Mr. Gross noted that although it is a great honor to receive this scholarship, if a recipient does not attend college immediately after high school, he/she will not receive the scholarship.
6. Open Door Breakfast
7. State of the City Address – Dr. Safier reported that this has been rescheduled.
8. Superintendent’s Corner
9. Massachusetts Food Day Challenge
10. Sawyer Medal Awards – Dr. Safier reported that the Sawyer Medal Awards ceremony will take place on November 13, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Superintendent’s Report.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Building & Finance Subcommittee of October 16, 2013** –Chairperson Clancy reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed the outstanding lunch account balances at its meeting on October 16, 2013. She suggested getting input from high school students before the meal policy is discussed again in subcommittee.

X. ACTION

- A. Ratification of GAEP Agreement Regarding Summer School Pay** – Tabled.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS

- A. MSBA Update** – Dr. Safier reported that the building committee is continuing to look at the schematic design, specifically the mass and form of the building. At the same time, he, Principal Telenia Imel, and Patty Wegmann have been meeting with Dore & Whittier about the specific layout of the rooms.

Dr. Safier reported that he has received submittal letters that are required to go to the MSBA, including a description of our special education program (methodology letter) and a summary that includes the existing facility, proposed spaces, and the MSBA guidelines based upon agreed design enrollment, which Dore & Whittier will be providing together with the floor plans. These submittal letters will be included with the December 12th submission of the schematic design to MSBA. The MSBA board will be voting on the schematic design on January 29, 2014.

Finally, Dr. Safier reported that the City Council voted last night to approve the Construction Manager at Risk for the schematic design, which provides an additional 1% reimbursement from the MSBA.

With respect to swing space, Dr. Safier reported that the closing date for responses to the RFP is in mid-November. In addition, the city is continuing to look at the status of the Fuller building in relation to any other applicants that come forward. This will include sending in engineers and cost estimators at each of the sites.

Vice Chairperson Gilman stated that she came prepared to make a motion tonight that the School Committee be provided, in a timely manner, the cost estimate to bring Fuller up to code for use as a swing school. She believes it is important for the committee to get this information as soon as possible so that there is transparency for taxpayers. In light of the fact that Dr. Safier has reported that this information is forthcoming, Vice Chairperson Gilman did not feel the need to make that motion. However, she believes it is unacceptable that the committee still does not yet know what that cost is, having requested it in early September. There was a discussion about whether the city or the School Committee will be making the decision about the swing space.

Kathy Clancy noted that the building committee will probably provide opinions on Fuller's educational appropriateness. She stated that timeline will also be important

because if it takes longer to get one place up to code versus another, that will prolong and increase the cost of the total project. She believes the School Committee would have input from an educationally appropriate standpoint and on the cost. She stated that the School Committee has a right to say it wants Fuller, but she doubts the committee would say it wants Fuller if it has drawbacks and is not the most cost advantageous option. She also believes it depends on what the city administration is comfortable asking for funding.

- B. Suburban Coalition** – Kathy Clancy reported that this advocacy group brought forward a notice of a hearing on a Chapter 70 bill that was co-sponsored by Bruce Tarr. She will distribute the information prior to the next School Committee meeting, at which time she will request that the members write letters to their representatives in support of the bill.
- C. Forum** – Vice Chairperson Gilman noted that Diane Ravitch’s forum will take place tomorrow night at the Memorial Church at Harvard.
- D. Al Swekla Dedication** – Vice Chairperson Gilman reported that the Al Swekla dedication ceremony at the O’Maley Commons will be held on November 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. The Docksiders will be playing at the ceremony.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

Ms. Teixeira – yes
Kathy Clancy – yes
Mr. Garberg – yes
Vice Chairperson Gilman – yes
Mr. Gross – yes

To enter into Executive Session after a five-minute recess to discuss collective bargaining with the GAEP paraprofessionals and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of adjournment only.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Vice Chairperson Gilman, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of October 23, 2013 at 9:05 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*