

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

GHS Library

5:00 p.m.

Members Present

Melissa Teixeira, Vice Chairperson
Kathy Clancy, Secretary
Tony Gross
Michelle Sweet
Mayor Carolyn Kirk (6:00 p.m.)

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Hans Baumhauer, Director of Finance
and Operations
Patricia Wegmann, Director of Special
Education

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Vice Chairperson Teixeira called the meeting to order at 5:02 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** – Vice Chairperson Teixeira wished Chairman Pope a speedy recovery.
- V. **RECOGNITIONS** – Kathy Clancy reported that she was able to observe the first group of O'Maley eighth graders working with the new 3D printers.
- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – None present.
- VII. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **Approval of Minutes**
 - 1. Special School Committee of October 16, 2014
 - 2. School Committee and Executive Session of October 22, 2014
 - 3. Personnel Subcommittee of November 3, 2014
 - B. **Approval of Warrants** – Cover Sheets
 - C. **Approval of Transfers**
 - D. **Referrals**

E. Acceptance of Gloucester Education Foundation Grants

1. \$6,000.00 for the Math Olympiads Program in the elementary schools
2. \$8,820.00 for science field trips, supplies and stipends
3. \$1,000.00 for East Gloucester Elementary School theater program for stage manager stipend

Vice Chairperson Teixeira removed Items C and D from the Consent Agenda.

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

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. Presentation: Phil Bolger and Friends, Inc. – Vice Chairperson Teixeira reported that Suzanne Altenburger was unable to attend the meeting this evening. Therefore, her presentation will be rescheduled to a future meeting.

B. Special Education Report – Patty Wegmann reported that last year, there were 80 referrals to the preschool. Of those referrals, 27 students entered the program, 20 into integrated classrooms and seven into substantially separate classrooms. There are currently 53 special needs students in the preschool, including three children who will be starting in the next couple of weeks. She stated that there are six openings for children with IEPs in the integrated classrooms and four openings for students in the substantially separate classrooms.

Ms. Wegmann reported that overall, the district has 795 students on IEPs, which is a 9% increase over last year. A review of the data shows that the rise is due to the increase of preschoolers as well as students being identified with social/emotional issues and developmental delays. She stated that staff are vigilant at monitoring requirements for eligibility but stated that the district must continue to audit the identification of students with special needs.

Of the total number of students on IEPs, 62 students are placed out-of-district, eight of which were unanticipated move-ins for the 2014-2015 school year. Out-of-district tuitions constitute 34% of the special education budget and that percentage has remained much the same over the last five fiscal years.

Ms. Wegmann reported that two students returned this fall from out-of-district placements to the GAP. In addition, the district continues to tuition in students from neighboring districts (one at GHS and one at the preschool). The hiring of a speech pathologist at O’Maley has replaced costly contracted services there. GHS is currently the only school with contracted speech and language services, since the number of students who need those services does not dictate the need for a full-time employee.

Ms. Wegmann indicated that in May, the Department of Education monitored selected special education criteria to determine the district's compliance with special education laws and regulations, including documentation regarding specific needs for students on the autism spectrum, IEP development, and parent participation. She reported that all areas but one were given a rating of "implemented." The one area that needed to be rectified was the lack of independent space for speech and language services at Veterans, which has now been resolved.

Finally, Ms. Wegmann reported that she and Dr. Safier are working on an action plan in response to the Walker Report.

Vice Chairperson Teixeira stated that Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) workshops are held on the first Wednesday of each month at Pathways and child care is available.

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

1. Education Evaluation Data – Dr. Safier reminded the committee that comparisons between districts cannot be made because they are not working on the same things and there is no communication between districts.
2. Ebola Guidance for School Nurses
3. Public Comment Session on Physical Restraint Amendments – Ms. Wegmann described the use of time-out rooms and stated that staff are well-trained to manage those situations.
4. CPR Legislation
5. MCAS Follow-Up
6. Preliminary Graduation Rates – GHS – Dr. Safier reported that the adjusted preliminary graduation rate for 2013-2014 is 91.93%.
7. Upcoming Calendar Events – Dr. Safier reported that, in addition to the events listed in his report, kindergarten open houses will be held at each of the elementary schools during the week of December 1-5, 2014.

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

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Superintendent's Report.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Personnel Subcommittee Meeting of November 3, 2014** – Chairperson Teixeira reported that the Personnel Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its meeting of November 3, 2014:

- Family and Medical Leave Act
- Employee Handbook
- Minimum Wage Increase
- Review of Alcohol and Drug Policies

X. ACTION

- A. Approval of Funding for Settlement of a Grievance** – On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to authorize the Director of Finance & Operations to transfer \$6,000.00 from the School Committee contingency fund to the appropriate account for the purpose of settling a grievance.

- B. Appointment of School Committee Representative to the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School Committee** – Vice Chairperson Teixeira reported that her three-year appointment to the school committee will expire at the end of the year. She noted that Mayor Kirk has indicated her intention to reappoint her to the school committee.

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

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to approve Melissa Teixeira’s appointment to act as Gloucester’s representative to the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School Committee.

There was a brief discussion about the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District’s budget and enrollment projections.

- C. Second Reading of Student Discipline Policy, File JK** – Ms. Sweet reported that no changes have been made to the policy since the first reading.

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

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to waive the second reading of the Student Discipline Policy, File JK.

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

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Student Discipline Policy, File JK.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. MSBA Project Update** – Dr. Safier updated the committee on the following matters with respect to the West Parish project:
- Foundation work is 50% complete.
 - The MSBA was on-site today to conduct a walk-through and review general project information. Going forward, MSBA site visits will be held bi-monthly.
 - Location and size of sewerage tank
 - Blasting
 - Change orders in the range of \$10,001 to \$50,000 must be approved by a subcommittee of the building committee.
 - The building committee is meeting tomorrow at 4:00 p.m.
 - Heating issue at West Parish
 - Renderings of new building on website
- B. Request from MASC re: Selection of Arbitrators** – Kathy Clancy reported that MASC is requesting that School Committees designate MASC as a representative so that MASC can have access to and keep track of certain arbitrators. This matter was referred to the Personnel Subcommittee.

(Mayor Kirk joined the meeting at 6:00 p.m.)

- C. MASC Conference in Hyannis** – Ms. Sweet, Kathy Clancy, and Vice Chairperson Teixeira shared their experiences at the annual conference, including their attendance at seminars on budget process, unfundated mandates, PARCC vs. MCAS, parent engagement, opiate addiction, and strategic capital planning.

XII. ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of November 12, 2014 at 6:07 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*