

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Gloucester High School Library

4:45 p.m.

Members Present

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

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Assistant Superintendent (5:23)
Hans Baumhauer, Director of Finance
and Operations

Also Present

Ann-Marie Jordan, Student Health
Coordinator
Patricia Wegmann, Director of Special
Education
Cindy Juncker, Nurse Leader
Erik Anderson, GHS Principal
Debra Lucey, O'Maley Principal
Noreen Burke, Public Health Director

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- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 4:53 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 O'Maley Innovation Middle School students who performed yard work in the community on October 25th. She also reminded the community of the Al Swekla dedication event on November 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at O'Maley.
- VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Cody Eaton introduced himself and reported on the new way in which the Student Council receives information to report to the School Committee. He then updated the committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: JROTC drill team and rifle team, chorus performance at Addison Gilbert Hospital, NHS annual food drive, Interact Club lobster roll fundraiser, ribbon fundraiser for the Colleen Ritzer scholarship fund at Danvers High School, New England Student Council Conference, annual Thanksgiving pep rally, senior semi-formal dance, Business Department sweatshirt fundraiser, card drive for teacher's wife, fall drama production, MCAS retakes, Sawyer Medal ceremony, cap and gown measurements, and MEFA financial aid night.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of October 16, 2013
2. School Committee Meeting of October 23, 2013
3. Ad Hoc Policy Manual Subcommittee Meeting of October 30, 2013
4. Program Subcommittee Meeting of November 1, 2013
5. Special School Committee Meeting of November 4, 2013
6. School Committee Executive Session of October 23, 2013

B. Acceptance of Scholarship – To accept the Marjorie Hartford Hooper Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00.

C. Acceptance of Grant – To accept the Massachusetts 21st Century Community Learning Centers – Out-of-School Time Grant in the amount of \$145,000.00.

D. Approval of Warrant – Cover Sheet

Mr. Garberg removed Item A4 from the Consent Agenda and requested the following revisions to those minutes.

With respect to the statement in Item II.B.1 that the superintendent “is comfortable implementing universal breakfast before school,” Mr. Garberg believes that that statement is evasive. He stated that the discussion was that the superintendent would not implement the universal breakfast program so long as the DESE has not provided an answer about whether the time could be credited towards time on learning.

Mr. Garberg indicated that he was quoted in the minutes as stating that the School Committee made a strong case for implementing the breakfast program. He noted that he, in fact, made that point but he also made the important point that the administration made the strongest case for the program, in his view, calling it a moral obligation. Mr. Garberg would like the minutes to reflect that observation and also his statement that he would hope that the administration would proceed with the program unless the district receives a positive signal from the DESE that we would be wrong to do so.

With respect to Item II.B.2 regarding extended learning time, Mr. Garberg stated that the minutes should note that there was some discussion about whether it was a good idea. He stated that he quoted a study suggesting that there were substantial side effects to extended learning time initiatives and that it needs to be approached very cautiously.

These minutes were referred back to the Program Subcommittee for review.

On a motion by Mrs. Gilman, 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. Youth Survey on Substance Abuse** – Ms. Jordan stated that this survey is a collaborative effort between the GPSD, the Healthy Gloucester Collaborative, the Gloucester Health Department, and Social Science Research and Evaluation (SSRE). The survey was conducted in April 2013 at O’Maley, GHS, Compass and GAP, and students had the choice to opt out of the survey. The survey asked about substance use, violence and safety, and mental and physical health. Ms. Jordan reviewed highlights from the results of the survey as well as next steps. She recommended reviewing the district’s policies, programs and procedures to ensure they are up-to-date, relevant and accurate.

(Mr. Bach joined the meeting at 5:23 p.m.)

Ms. Juncker spoke about the SBIRT initiative conducted by school nurses and guidance counselors for all seventh and tenth graders to provide early intervention and treatment for students at risk for substance abuse and related problems. She noted that students are able to opt out of this initiative, as well.

Mrs. Gilman requested that programs be built into the high school curriculum to increase students’ physical activity. Ms. Jordan recommended that the district look into those types of programs, as well as what is going on in the community.

Principal Lucey stated that she was disappointed with the survey results with respect to bullying. She believes that students still do not have a good grasp of what constitutes bullying and stated that the guidance counselors will be working with them on this. She also indicated that there was a recent presentation for parents on cyberbullying. Ms. Jordan reported that there is no research yet that shows effective prevention or intervention strategies for cyberbullying. Kathy Clancy suggested sharing information with parents about what they should be looking for.

Principal Anderson stated that the high school is planning to hold an assembly on cyberbullying and social media before the holiday break. With respect to the survey, he indicated that the numbers regarding prescription drug abuse and bullying stood out to him.

Mrs. Gilman recommended that the handouts from the O’Maley presentation be placed on the school’s website. She also suggested that teachers have their students discuss cyberbullying and social media with their parents as homework. Ms. Teixeira expressed concern that students may be going home to a parent that has a mental health or substance abuse problem, which is a community issue and not just a school issue.

- B. Cape Ann YMCA After School Program Update** – Tabled since Brian Flynn was not present at the meeting.
- C. Special Education Update** – Ms. Wegmann reported that the district’s preschool numbers have increased by about 25% since 2007. There are currently 47 special

needs students in the preschool, with 32 tuitioned role models. By the first of the year, she expects to add six or more students. Ms. Wegmann noted that neighboring communities are also experiencing an increase in preschool students requiring special services. She stated that a new classroom will need to be opened in order to meet their instructional requirements.

Ms. Wegmann reported that overall, the district has 728 students on IEPs. Of that number, 60 students are placed out-of-district, and those tuitions constitute 35% of the special education budget. With the development of our own programs, Ms. Wegmann hopes to see fewer students leaving the district for specialized programming.

Ms. Wegmann reported that six students returned to in-district programs this year from out-of-district placements (2 at GHS, one at O'Maley, and three at GAP). In addition, two students have been tuitioned in to GHS from neighboring districts. The hiring of a speech pathologist at East Gloucester has replaced costly contracted services. O'Maley and GHS are currently the only schools with contracted speech and language services.

Finally, Ms. Wegmann reported on the upcoming mid-cycle Coordinated Program Review in March, the language based program at East Gloucester, and outreach efforts to other districts.

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

1. Update on New National Background Check Law
2. PARCC Update
3. Professional Development Day, November 5
4. O'Maley: Using Digital Communication Responsibly
5. The Hour of Code
6. House Bill No. 524: An Act Raising the School Dropout Age

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

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

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Program Subcommittee of November 1, 2013 –Chairperson Gilman reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its meeting on November 1, 2013:

- Student and Staff Fundraising Policy – Chairperson Gilman stated that the raffle permit application procedures are already in place in the City Clerk's office. Dr. Safier recommended that these procedures be placed in Section N of the policy, which specifically talks about raffles.

On a motion by Mrs. Gilman, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to waive the second reading of the Student and Staff Fundraising Policy, File JJE.

After discussion, on a motion by Mrs. Gilman, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Student and Staff Fundraising Policy, File JJE, as revised by the Program Subcommittee on November 1, 2013 and as further revised by moving the permit application procedures from Section S to Section N.

- Time on Learning – Dr. Safier reported that he spoke with Jeff Wulfson regarding the Breakfast in the Classroom program at the recent MASC conference. Mr. Wulfson apologized for not getting back to him and stated that he would not have been pleased with the response from the DESE with respect to going forward with the program. Dr. Safier reiterated that the district does, in fact, have universal breakfast before school at both Beeman and Veterans and will continue to promote it.

Kathy Clancy reported that she spoke with a woman from the DESE who stated that if districts want to implement this program, they should appeal directly to the commissioner.

- Extended Learning Time
- FAQ Update for West Parish/MSBA

After discussion, on a motion by Mrs. Gilman, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to approve the updated Frequently Asked Questions and Answers on the West Parish/MSBA Building Project, as amended by the Program Subcommittee on November 1, 2013.

- B. Ad Hoc Policy Manual Subcommittee of October 30, 2013** – Chairperson Teixeira reported that the subcommittee reviewed and approved the Policy Manual at its meeting on October 30, 2013.

After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mrs. Gilman, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to approve the updated Gloucester Public School District Policy Manual with the following changes:

- (a) In File AC-E, civil rights coordinators will be stated in general terms; and

- (b) In File BEDH, the definition of Oral Communications will be modified consistent with the governance rules and procedures.

Mrs. Gilman made the following referrals, as discussed at the Ad Hoc Policy Manual Subcommittee meeting:

- The matter of electronic cigarettes was referred to the Program Subcommittee to discuss whether they should be included in the policy regarding the use of tobacco products on school property.
- The matter of including a self-evaluation of the committee in the School Committee annual agenda was referred to the Personnel Subcommittee.
- The matter of including the annual reports by athletic teams and boosters on the School Committee annual agenda was referred to the Building & Finance Subcommittee.
- The policy regarding the quarterly audit of Executive Session minutes was referred to the Personnel Subcommittee.

Chairman Pope referred the matter of distribution of the Policy Manual to the Building & Finance Subcommittee.

Finally, Chairperson Teixeira reported that the matter of swing space for West Parish students was discussed at the October 30, 2013 meeting.

X. ACTION

- A. Second Reading of Student and Staff Fundraising Policy, File JJE – See Item IX.A.**
- B. Approval of School Committee Policy Manual – See Item IX.B.**
- C. Approval of Revisions to West Parish FAQs – See Item IX.A.**
- D. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Summer School Pay – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Chairman Pope, it was unanimously**

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement Between the Gloucester School Committee and the Gloucester Association of Education Paraprofessionals under the following terms:

- (a) All bargaining unit members who worked the 2013 summer program will be reimbursed with a \$1.50 increase to their hourly wage;
- (b) Effective for the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter, bargaining unit members employed in the summer program will be compensated at the top pay rate of the salary schedule pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement between GAEP and the Gloucester School Committee;

- (c) Effective for the 2013-2014 school year and hereafter, bargaining unit members employed in the after school activities and programs will be compensated at the top pay rate of the salary schedule pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement between GAEP and the Gloucester School Committee; and
- (c) The following language will be added to the MOA: “This agreement, together with any appendix attached hereto, constitutes the entire understanding and agreement of the parties hereto regarding the employment of the GAEP members. This agreement supersedes all prior negotiations, discussions, correspondence, communications, understandings, and agreements between the parties relating to the subject matter of this agreement.”

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS

- A. MSBA Update** – Dr. Safier reported that Dore & Whittier are putting together the schematic design for submission to the MSBA on December 12th. The MSBA will then review the entire package, including the proposed swing space, on January 29, 2014. Chairman Pope recommended having a meeting with West Parish families when the committee has all of the information regarding swing space.
- B. Email from Superintendent Safier dated 11/2/13**
- C. Superintendent’s Evaluation** – Chairman Pope stated that the public evaluation will take place at the December 11th School Committee meeting. Dr. Safier stated that he will be providing committee members with a progress report and information on his goals. Chairman Pope requested that all members provide their individual evaluations to him by December 5th.
- D. Chapter 70 Legislative Matter** – On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Chairman Pope, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, that we send a letter in support of An Act to Revive the Foundation Budget Review Commission to our representatives as well as the joint education committee.
- E. Security at GHS** – Mrs. Gilman requested a report on the use of the video camera at the high school and suggested inviting the school resource officer to speak to the committee at an upcoming meeting.
- F. Reanalysis of GRADE Scores** – Mr. Garberg requested that this be included in the packet for the next meeting.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by Mrs. Gilman, seconded by Mr. Garberg, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of November 13, 2013 at 6:54 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*