

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

GHS Library

4:45 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Val Gilman, Assistant Chairperson
Kathy Clancy, Secretary
Melissa Teixeira
Tony Gross
Roger Garberg
Mayor Carolyn Kirk (6:14 p.m.)

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Assistant Superintendent
Hans Baumhauer, Dir. of Finance and
and Operations
Erik Anderson, GHS Principal
Phil Padulsky, Food Service Director

-
- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 4:50 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** – Chairman Pope noted that the meeting will be adjourned at 6:45 p.m. so that the members can attend the Sawyer Medal Award ceremony. However, if there is still unfinished business to be addressed, the meeting will be reconvened after the ceremony.
- V. RECOGNITIONS** – Kathy Clancy recognized the Plum Cove Singers and the Docksiders for their performances at the Veterans Day celebration. She also recognized the hard work of the Gloucester football players and noted that they are playing well.

Ms. Teixeira recognized the Junior ROTC, who are selling raffle tickets to win a \$500 prize on December 15th.

Mrs. Gilman recognized O'Maley Innovation School students for participating in "O'Maley Gives Back" and helping senior citizens with yard work. She also thanked Dr. Safier for his letter to the editor in the Gloucester Daily Times.

Chairman Pope noted that people in New York and New Jersey are still in severe situations as a result of Hurricane Sandy and that there are a number of organizations in the community that are collecting donations. Dr. Safier stated that beginning on November 26th, volunteers will be at the GHS Fieldhouse to collect donations of food, clothing, etc. from 10:00 to 2:00 and from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

VI. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Ariana Puopolo introduced herself and updated the School Committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: senior class semiformal, food drive for Open Door, first place varsity cheerleaders, and the Thanksgiving pep rally.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Special School Committee of October 17, 2012
2. Special School Committee Executive Session of October 17, 2012 –
Confidential
3. Building & Finance Subcommittee of October 17, 2012
4. Building & Finance Subcommittee Executive Session of October 17, 2012 –
Confidential
5. School Committee Governance Workshop of October 23, 2012
6. School Committee of October 24, 2012

B. Acceptance of Scholarship – To accept the Caleigh Harrison Scholarship in the amount of \$4,000.00.

C. Acceptance of Grant – To accept the C.A.S.IT., Inc. grant in the amount of \$5,000.00.

D. Acceptance of Gift – To accept a donation from the Class of 1967 in the amount of \$500.00 to go toward the purchase of materials to enhance student opportunities at GHS.

Mrs. Gilman removed Item 6 from the Approval of Minutes.

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

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

Mrs. Gilman requested that the School Committee minutes of October 24, 2012 be amended by adding to the third paragraph of Item IX.B. “and unanimously approved by the full committee.” However, there was no vote taken on that motion.

Mrs. Gilman also requested that the minutes be amended by deleting the last sentence of Item VIII.A.4. and replacing it with the following. “She noted that shortly after the 30 percent number was defined in the Plan for Effective Learning Communities, the district instituted bus fees and athletic fees due to budget cuts. This, in addition to the economic downturn, possibly led to an increase in the number of parents/guardians applying for free and reduced lunch.”

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the School Committee minutes of October 24, 2012 as amended.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT/DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

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

1. Healthy Students, Healthy Schools – Dr. Safier reviewed the Mass. School Nutrition Standards and discussed school lunch menu planning. Mr. Padulsky shared materials from the USDA website and discussed implementation of the nutrition standards in the schools. There was a discussion about the West Parish Garden/Harvest Day and the salad bar at Veterans. Mrs. Gilman suggested updating parents/guardians at back-to-school night on what the district is doing to provide nutritional meals and how parents/guardians can help reinforce this at home.

Mr. Padulsky left the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

2. Monitoring Progress: First Thoughts – Dr. Safier suggested that the draft School Committee Calendar be discussed in the next Governance Workshop.
3. Calendar Activities

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

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

- ### B. **Benchmark Assessments: DIBELS** – Mr. Bach presented the K-5 DIBELS Data Review, including a description of the measures, results, and reports by school. Mrs. Gilman suggested asking parents/guardians of students entering kindergarten whether or not they attended Pathways in order to determine how important it is to get students in school before kindergarten.
- ### C. **Update on Elementary Math** – Mr. Bach gave a presentation on the K-5 Math Goal, including the purpose, goal statement, key actions, and timelines. He noted that teachers are applying their BSRI literacy training to providing small group instruction in math and that a recommendation has been made that teachers focus their student learning goal on the creation of good assessments.

Mayor Kirk joined the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

- ### D. **Proposed FY14 Budget Timeline** – Mr. Baumhauer reviewed the FY14 City & School Budget Timeline Planning Guide and requested that he and Jeff Towne, Kenny Costa and/or Jim Duggan meet regularly to discuss development of the budget. Mayor Kirk indicated that the city is typically behind the school budget schedule and that these meetings could possibly take place in late January after the health insurance quote is received. Chairman Pope suggested that the School Committee discuss budgetary goals at its next meeting, and Mr. Gross suggested reusing the FY11 budget books for the FY14 budget.

- E. Memorandum of Understanding Between Gloucester Public School District and The Gloucester Education Foundation** – Dr. Safier reviewed the MOU and recommended that Chairman Pope sign it. There was a discussion about the grant application process. Ms. Teixeira requested that the chart attached to the MOU be clearly included as part of the document by numbering the pages “1 of 4,” “2 of 4,” etc. Mrs. Gilman recommended that the full committee meet with the GEF at least once a year to discuss the programs they fund.

After discussion, on a motion by Mrs. Gilman, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Memorandum of Understanding Between Gloucester Public School District and The Gloucester Education Foundation as presented on October 23, 2012.

Kathy Clancy suggested that teachers be reminded about GEF and their programs.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of October 17, 2012** – Chairperson Clancy noted that the only motion taken up by the subcommittee was addressed at the last School Committee meeting and that the next B&F Subcommittee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 28th at 5:00 p.m.

X. ACTION

- A. Second Reading of GHS Attendance Policy** – Dr. Safier reviewed the changes made to the last draft of the attendance policy and presented a form entitled “Request for Attendance Review Board Hearing.”

On a motion by Mrs. Gilman, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to waive the second reading of the Gloucester High School Attendance Standards & Procedures as amended.

Ms. Teixeira made a motion, seconded by Kathy Clancy, to accept the second reading of the Gloucester High School Attendance Standards & Procedures as amended. She then requested clarification of whether the six absences in a quarter that result in an attendance failure refers to excused or unexcused absences. Dr. Safier indicated that excused absences do not count towards the six absences.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to add the word “unexcused” between the words “six” and “times” in the second and fourth paragraphs under “Attendance Requirements.”

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to accept the second reading of the Gloucester High School Attendance Standards & Procedures as amended.

B. Memorandum of Understanding Between GPSD and GEF – See Item VIII.E.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS

At this time, the agenda was taken out of order.

F. Superintendent Evaluation – Ms. Teixeira distributed documents she received at the MASC meeting in Hyannis and noted that the Personnel Subcommittee will be discussing this matter at its next meeting.

G. GHS Settlement Money – Mr. Gross referred the task of getting a definitive answer on the GHS settlement money to the Building & Finance Subcommittee. Dr. Safier stated that that request has already been made.

H. Antibullying Policy – Mrs. Gilman referred a review of this policy to the Program Subcommittee.

I. Gifting of Flags to Schools – Kathy Clancy reported that Representative Ferrante announced at the Veterans Day ceremony that she and Senator Tarr will be donating flags to each of the schools in a special ceremony and suggested that the School Committee liaisons attend those ceremonies.

A. MSBA Update – Chairman Pope noted that tonight's packet includes a copy of an email from Katie Loeffler of the MSBA to Mayor Kirk requesting more information on the OPM.

B. Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

C. Memorandum from Mayor Kirk (11/5/12)

D. Letter from School Committee Chairperson to MASC (11/5/12)

E. Interagency Memorandum of Understanding for Schools

J. Upcoming City Council Meetings – Mayor Kirk stated that she has asked the City Council to take up some emergency requests for funding for heating systems and other urgent repairs of school buildings at their B&F Committee meeting tomorrow night. She believes if that is successful, there will be a special City Council meeting scheduled for Monday night. She stated that having School Committee members present at both of those meetings would be very helpful.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of November 14, 2012 at 6:51 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*