

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Gloucester High School Library

4:45 p.m.

Members Present

Val Gilman, Chairperson
Melissa Teixeira, Vice Chairperson
Kathleen Clancy, Secretary
Michelle Sweet
Roger Garberg (4:56 arrival)
Tony Gross (6:17 arrival)
Mayor Carolyn Kirk (4:56 arrival)

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Assistant Superintendent Brian Tarr
CFO Tom Markham
Principal William Goodwin
Kim Patience, Athletic Director
Jonathan Pope (5:37 arrival)

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gilman called the meeting to order at 4:52 p.m.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chairperson Gilman stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools, recognized Tom Markham, Dr. Goodwin, Kim Patience, and Brian Tarr, and retired superintendent of Bedford Public Schools, Dr. Joe Buckley. She thanked Cape Ann TV for televising the meeting.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – Chairperson Gilman reported on the successful MASS/MASC conference in Hyannis last week. She welcomed Jonathan Pope back to the School Committee effective on January 1, 2012. She acknowledged and thanked committee member Michelle Sweet for her four years of service on the committee. Effective on January 1, 2012, Chairperson Gilman also welcomed Steve LeBlanc and Melissa Cox to the City Council and thanked outgoing city councilors Steve Curcuru and Ann Mulcahey for their service to Gloucester. Finally, Chairperson Gilman stated that a special School Committee meeting will be scheduled in the next week or two to prioritize the use of free cash.

V. RECOGNITIONS – None

VI. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Eleanor Keller and Marica Gillis introduced themselves and updated the School Committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: food drive for Open Door, NEASC meeting, Interact Club, Environmental Club, and Secret Pals.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. School Committee Meeting of October 26, 2011

B. Schedule of Future Meetings

Program Subcommittee – Friday, December 2, 2011 at 9:45 a.m.
Location: Superintendent’s Conference Room

School Committee – Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
Location: City Hall – Kyrouz Auditorium

Building & Finance Subcommittee – Wednesday, December 21, 2011 at 4:45 p.m.
Location: GHS Guidance Conference Room

C. Acceptance of Grants

1. To accept a grant in the amount of \$1,000.00 from GEF (donated by the Moore Family Foundation) to support science oriented projects run by O’Maley teacher, David Brown.
2. To accept a grant in the amount of \$32,030.00 from GEF for the Math Coach position.
3. To accept a grant in the amount of \$37,720.00 from DESE for SPED Program Improvement

D. Acceptance of Gifts

1. To accept a gift in the amount of \$194.32 from Ohiopyle Prints, Inc. to GHS.
2. To accept a gift in the amount of \$700.00 from Varian Semiconductor Equipment to Beeman Memorial Elementary School.

Mr. Garberg removed the Program Subcommittee meeting from the Schedule of Future Meetings.

It was unanimously

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

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

X. DISCUSSION/ACTION

- A. Thanksgiving Day Football Ticket Prices** – Dr. Goodwin stated that he and Kim Patience have had several discussions about this matter. He indicated that Beverly and Salem started charging \$10 for Thanksgiving Day tickets several years ago, and it has been a huge increase in their revenue. He also stated that our revenue from football games has decreased due to lower attendance at the games this year. Danvers charged \$10 for the Thanksgiving game last year, and it was implied that Gloucester would do the same this year.

Ms. Patience does not believe that the Thanksgiving ticket prices should be based on how well the team is doing. She and Dr. Goodwin believe it is a social event and that people will attend whether the price is \$7 or \$10. They recommended charging \$7 for advance tickets for students and \$10 for everyone at the gate, and Ms. Patience recommended publicizing the increase in price in the newspaper 4-5 days before the game.

Ms. Teixeira stated that she is struggling with this issue because she has heard from people in the community that they would not attend the game if the price went up to \$10. However, she understands that the increase would help support athletics. She also speculated that people may wait to go to the game at halftime when they can get in for free. Ms. Patience indicated that she did not receive any complaints about the \$10 ticket price in Danvers last year.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

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

To approve \$10.00 ticket prices for the Thanksgiving Day football game, with a presale option of \$7.00 for students.

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

- D. District Governance Support Project/RTTT Professional Development Invitation** – Chairperson Gilman welcomed both of our guests, Bob Gass, Program Manager, and Dorothy Presser, President of MASC and Chair of the Lynnfield School Committee. Last week in Hyannis, members of the committee learned that 16

districts in Massachusetts were selected for this first round of governance support, of which 12 have already voted to participate. The remaining, like Gloucester, are waiting for more information to help with their decision.

Mr. Gass and Ms. Presser presented information about this program, the purpose of which is to work with school committees and superintendents on governance in order to focus on academic achievement of students. Mr. Gass indicated that Ms. Presser would be our coach, and she stated that the goal is to make the program flexible for the committee. Ms. Presser suggested starting with a meeting to review what the committee has already done and to talk about the information and substance that is needed to continue to focus on the committee's priorities.

Jonathan Pope joined the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

Chairperson Gilman summarized the School Committee's priorities according to an informal survey that was distributed and summarized by Dr. Safier's office. This summary, included in tonight's packet, was filled out by five members of the committee. The following issues were highlighted as top priorities:

1. Solidifying the partnership between the superintendent and school committee in order to successfully support all aspects of improving academic achievement and results.
2. Partnering and working closely with the City Council, city administration, and legislators in anticipation of the budget challenges for FY12 and the years ahead.
3. Making a well-founded and community supported decision on the future use of Fuller School and support of neighborhood schools.

The committee also discussed:

- Time commitment and training
- The Mayor's role in the program
- Module on collective bargaining

Both Dr. Safier and incoming School Committee member Jonathan Pope stated that they support this program.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, that the Gloucester School Committee accept the invitation to join the District Governance Support Project.

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

VIII. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- A. Superintendent’s Report** – Dr. Safier updated the School Committee on the following matters:
1. MSBA and West Parish Update
 2. Circuit Breaker
 3. Budget Calendar – Mayor Kirk requested that the calendar be approved by Jeff Towne to make sure that the time frames are accurate.
 4. Telephone System Update

IX. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Personnel Subcommittee Report of November 1, 2011** – Chairperson Teixeira reported that the Personnel Subcommittee discussed the status of the health insurance audit at its November 1, 2011 meeting. She corrected a statement that she made during the meeting that tax returns are public records. In fact, they are not public records.
- B. Program Subcommittee Report of November 4, 2011** – Chairman Garberg reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed strategy development in relation to communications at its November 4, 2011 meeting. Mr. Garberg made a motion, seconded by Chairperson Gilman, that the School Committee endorse the use of K12 Insight to survey parents, guardians, staff and the school community on their support of maintaining neighborhood schools, in order for the School Committee to be in a position to make an expeditious and well-founded decision on the future use of Fuller School which takes into account an informed public opinion.

Mayor Kirk explained that a survey instrument was a response to the City Council’s request to place a referendum question on the ballot, which the School Committee and many city councilors did not support. Ms. Teixeira and Mrs. Sweet believe that a lot of this work was done through the Plan for Effective Learning Communities and resulted in the decision to support neighborhood schools. However, Ms. Teixeira stated that she believes it is important to honor City Council’s request for a survey.

Mr. Garberg believes it would be premature to send out a survey at this time since these issues have not been fully discussed by the committee. However, Chairperson Gilman believes that it is important to move forward with this matter, and Kathy Clancy feels that the anticipated results in favor of neighborhood schools will give the committee more support to move ahead with a West Parish project.

Mr. Gross expressed concern with the concept of “government by poll” and the fact that the survey would not include the general public. Dr. Safier believes that the survey will give us an opportunity to inform the public as well as getting their input on the matter of Fuller School.

After a lengthy discussion, the motion was tabled and the matter was referred back to Program Subcommittee for further discussion of the types of questions to be included on the survey.

X. DISCUSSION/ACTION

- B. Second Reading of the Meal Payment Policy, File EFD** – The second reading of the policy was waived.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to approve Meal Payment Policy, File EFD.

- C. MSBA Declaration of Removal of Statement of Interest** – Tabled

- E. Report on Resolution Approved on November 11, 2011 at MASC Delegate Assembly** – Mr. Garberg briefly reviewed Resolution 1, and this matter was tabled to the next meeting.

- F. K12 Insight** – See Agenda Item IX.B.

XI. OTHER COMMUNICATION

A. FYI

1. Information from Mrs. Clancy on meeting with Roger Hatch and Hadley Cabral of DESE School Finance Department on September 15, 2011
2. Thank you letter from Chairperson Gilman (11/9/11) to Tower Foundation

B. OTHER

1. Chairperson Gilman indicated that a Special School Committee meeting will be scheduled for next week or the week after to discuss the use of free cash.
2. The Program Subcommittee meeting has been rescheduled from December 2, 2011 to **Friday, December 9, 2011 at 9:45 a.m.**
3. Chairperson Gilman appointed Roger Garberg to serve on a three-person committee to consider and vote to submit the prospectus or outline for a possible innovation school at O'Maley Middle School. Other members of this committee will include Dr. Safier and a member of the Gloucester Teacher's Association.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of November 16, 2011 at 6:48 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*