

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

City Hall – Kyrouz Auditorium

7:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

Jonathan Pope, Chairman  
Val Gilman, Assistant Chairperson  
Kathy Clancy, Secretary  
Melissa Teixeira  
Tony Gross  
Roger Garberg

**Administration Present**

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent  
Gregg Bach, Assistant Superintendent  
Hans Baumhauer, Dir. of Finance and  
and Operations  
Kim Patience, Athletic Director  
Deborah Lucey, O'Maley Principal

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Recorded by Cape Ann TV

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.
- II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**
- III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** – Jen Sperry stated that she has a daughter who attends GHS and a son who attended GPS schools from K-6 and is in a private school this year. She asked that the School Committee consider voting tonight to make the O'Maley hockey team a no-cut sport for students who attend O'Maley. According to an article she read, cutting adolescents from team sports denies them opportunities to learn new skills, build confidence in their abilities, and develop positive interactions with their peers. The article cites that one detrimental result of the cutting process is that many adolescents drop out of all future sports and participation. For this and other reasons, the National Association for Sports and Physical Education recommends that all middle schools adopt a no-cut policy. If a no-cut policy is put into place for all O'Maley students who try out for the hockey team, this would enable her son and other students who attend private school to have an opportunity to try out for the remaining spots. Last year, there were 22 students on the O'Maley hockey team, her son being one of them, resulting in approximately \$8,360 in user fees. This year, if two teams are being created and possibly 36 students trying out, there would be an additional eight spots for kids who live in Gloucester but attend private schools to take part on the team. This would result in an additional \$3,040 in user fees. Obviously, the private school kids would be held to the same academic and behavioral standards in order to play on the hockey team. Playing hockey requires determination, dedication, hard work and commitment, and for any child who lives in Gloucester who is willing to wake up before 6:00 in the morning, lace up their skates to get on the ice shows that they really want to be there and they want to play, and that's where her son is. He wants the opportunity to be part of Gloucester's middle school team, and she hopes that he would not be denied that opportunity. Year after year, this issue comes up. She is not asking that anything be taken away from the kids who go to O'Maley School. She is just asking that the committee consider allowing the kids who want to try out the opportunity to take those additional spots and be part of the team because they

are part of this community. She is not asking for the city to pay for her son to go to a private school, just that he have the opportunity to do something that he's absolutely passionate about.

**IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – None.**

**V. RECOGNITIONS – None.**

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

**VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. O'Maley Innovation Middle School Engineering/Science Curriculum –** Dr. Safier introduced tonight's engineering demonstration, and Mr. Zierk reviewed the eight steps of the engineering design process that the students followed to build towers out of wooden Popsicle sticks and rubber bands. Mr. White discussed the research done in connection with the process, Ms. Facciolla talked about the students' interaction with the engineers, and Mr. Kellogg reported on his work with the students. Three seventh grade students role-played as colleagues in a company that researched, built and tested the towers and reported on their favorite part of the process and whether they enjoyed working as a team.

*A five-minute recess was taken at 7:27 p.m.*

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

1. Amended School Committee of October 24, 2012
2. West Parish Ad Hoc Communications Committee of November 13, 2012
3. School Committee of November 14, 2012
4. Personnel Subcommittee of November 15, 2012

**B. Acceptance of Grant**

1. Massachusetts DESE Title 1, Part A Grant in the amount of \$60,333.00
2. New England BioLabs Inc. in the amount of \$2,000.00

**C. Acceptance of Scholarships**

1. Family and Friends of John W. Orlando Scholarship in the amount of \$500.00
2. The Height-Stanley Scholarship in the amount of \$150,000.00

Chairman Pope removed Item 2 from the Acceptance of Scholarships.

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

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

Dr. Safier reported that there was no prior notification regarding the Height-Stanley Scholarship and that the letter simply came in the mail. The scholarship will provide two awards of \$2,000 each to graduating students residing in the Magnolia area demonstrating academic ability and financial need and attending a technical school.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Height-Stanley Scholarship in the amount of \$150,000.00.

Ms. Teixeira requested that a thank you note be sent on behalf of the School Committee.

**VI. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Cody Eaton introduced himself and updated the School Committee on a fundraiser at Jalapenos and the Spring Fling.

**VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT/DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES (Continued)**

**B. Benchmark Assessments: GRADE** – Mr. Bach presented GRADE assessment information and results for the fall of 2012. He noted that lower scores at the beginning of fourth grade may be a factor of a slightly different test that raises the bar for students or a loss of reading skills over the summer. There was a discussion about how each child’s individual summary integrates into his or her IEP. Dr. Safier clarified that the data is not used exclusively for special education students but for all students.

**X. ACTION**

**A. Unpaid Athletic Police Detail Bills from FY12 and Rental of Neighboring Fields Without a Purchase Order in Place** – Mr. Baumhauer reviewed two invoices from the police department for police details at hockey games last winter, which Kim Patience just received in October. He indicated that these invoices must be presented to the City Council to allow them to be paid with FY13 funds. Ms. Patience discussed a new practice put into place to ensure that this does not happen again.

After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Chairman Pope, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to recommend to the City Council the payment of Invoice #11270 from the Gloucester Police Department in the amount of \$1,240.00 and Invoice #11282 from the Gloucester Police Department in the amount of \$840.00.

Mr. Baumhauer reviewed two purchase requisitions that were opened after the fact for the rental of athletic fields at Gordon College and Bishop Fenwick High School, and Ms. Patience indicated that there is a new practice in place to prevent this from happening in the future.

On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to recommend to the City Council the payment of Purchase Requisition No. 312019 to Gordon College in the amount of \$1,575.00 and payment of Purchase Requisition No. 311928 to Bishop Fenwick High School in the amount of \$720.00.

*Ms. Patience left the meeting at 8:22 p.m.*

Finally, Mr. Baumhauer reviewed an invoice from Gloucester Rental Center for the rental of a propane grill for Field Day at West Parish.

On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Chairman Pope, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to recommend to the City Council the payment of Invoice #108860 from Gloucester Rental Center in the amount of \$150.00 for the rental of a propane grill.

#### **VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT/DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES (Continued)**

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

1. District Analysis and Review Tools (DART)
2. Evaluation: Looking Ahead – Student Surveys
3. Calendar – Dr. Safier reported on what was discussed at the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce Caucus on November 28th and reviewed upcoming meetings and events.

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.

#### **IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Personnel Subcommittee Meeting of November 15, 2012** – Chairperson Teixeira stated that the meeting on November 15th was a negotiation session and not a subcommittee meeting.

**B. Building & Finance Subcommittee of November 28, 2012** – Tabled.

**C. West Parish Ad Hoc Communications Committee of November 13, 2012** – Chairperson Gilman reported that the ad hoc committee discussed the following matters at its meeting on November 13, 2012:

- How KBA can help with community outreach
- Focusing communications and press releases on milestones
- Working with the West Parish PTO regarding a kickoff event
- Posting photos of the project in different locations around the city
- Guided tours for City Councilors and others

**XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Free Cash Request Report** – Tabled.
- B. FY13 Budget Report** – Mr. Baumhauer reviewed the budget report showing salary and non-salary items by department.
- C. NEASC Special Progress Report** – Dr. Safier reviewed the May 9th letter from NEASC and GHS Principal Erik Anderson’s response dated October 30, 2012, indicating that the specific recommendations in the NEASC report are in progress and being addressed. Dr. Safier pointed out the commendations received for PLC work and providing collaborative time, support and professional development for teachers. Chairman Pope reported that Mike Hale presented to the Building & Finance Subcommittee earlier this evening a very thorough explanation of the extensive work that has been done in the schools during the first quarter of FY13, some of which addresses issues listed in the NEASC report.
- D. MSBA Update, Letter of Approval, and OPM Contract** – Dr. Safier reported that tonight’s packet contains a letter of approval from the MSBA for the Owner’s Project Manager, Knight, Bagge & Anderson, Inc. (KBA), as well as the OPM’s signed contract and proposed timeline. The next phase is to advertise for, interview and hire a designer for the project, which Dr. Safier expects to be completed by February 13, 2013. Chairman Pope stated that KBA will make a presentation at the next School Committee meeting.
- E. Mayor Kirk’s Letter to Request/Review of Fuller School MOU** – Chairman Pope referred this matter to the Building & Finance Subcommittee. Ms. Teixeira suggested asking Attorney Naomi Stonberg to review the MOU, and Mr. Gross suggested inviting the Mayor or her designee to the subcommittee meeting to answer questions.
- F. Special City Council Meeting/Two Appropriations** – Dr. Safier reviewed the City Council supplemental appropriations for free cash.
- G. Schedule of Upcoming Meetings**

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

**VOTED:** By Roll Call Vote

Ms. Teixeira – yes  
Kathy Clancy – yes  
Mr. Garberg – yes  
Mrs. Gilman – yes  
Mr. Gross – yes  
Chairman Pope – yes

To enter into Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. to discuss a response to the GTA Level Three grievance and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of adjournment only.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of November 28, 2012 at 9:35 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*