

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

City Hall – Kyrouz Auditorium

7:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

Val Gilman, Chairperson  
Melissa Teixeira, Vice Chairperson  
Kathleen Clancy, Secretary  
Michelle Sweet  
Roger Garberg  
Tony Gross  
Mayor Carolyn Kirk

**Administration Present**

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent  
Assistant Superintendent Brian Tarr  
CFO Tom Markham  
JoAnne Reiss, Director of Special Education

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Recorded by Cape Ann TV

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Gilman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Chairperson Gilman stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools and reminded the public that hearing impaired devices are available at the City Clerk's office.

**III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None**

Chairperson Gilman welcomed JoAnne Reiss, Jonathan Pope and Tom Markham.

**IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON –** Chairperson Gilman stated that she recently attended a forum at Cruiseport to discuss how the business community can promote job readiness and widen entry level jobs for youth in Gloucester. She stated that the guest speaker of the interactive forum was Dr. Bob Swartz, an education professor at Harvard, who described his findings in a book entitled "Pathways to Prosperity." Chairperson Gilman indicated she has sent this to the committee for their review. She listed the members of the community who attended the forum and indicated that it was a good brainstorming session. She recognized co-hosts Joan Whitney, Director of Healthy Gloucester Collaborative, and Joe Rosa, Vice Chair of the Gloucester Education Foundation, for organizing this successful event.

Chairperson Gilman recognized and thanked Michelle Sweet for serving on the School Committee for the past four years and presented her with a gift on behalf of the school committee. Mrs. Sweet thanked the School Committee, City Council and Mayor Kirk and stated that it has been a pleasure working with them. She also thanked the administration, teachers and staff for tirelessly working for our students and thanked the community for their

support. Finally, she wished the School Committee and the district success in the future. Each of the committee members thanked Mrs. Sweet for her years of service and for bringing her perspective to the School Committee.

Chairperson Gilman stated that Dr. Safier's contract will automatically renew until June of 2014 unless the School Committee takes action prior to December 31st not to extend the contract beyond June 2012. Since there was no motion made to hold a meeting to discuss this matter before the end of the year, Dr. Safier's contract will be extended until June 2014.

Finally, Chairperson Gilman indicated that she has decided to step down as chair of the School Committee effective January 1, 2012 and that she will be supporting Jonathan Pope as chair, who she believes will be a great leader.

- V. RECOGNITIONS** – Dr. Safier indicated that JoAnne Reiss has submitted a letter of intention to retire. He reviewed Ms. Reiss' past positions in the district and comments from previous superintendents on the quality of her work. Dr. Safier thanked Ms. Reiss for her years of service and effort. The members of the committee also thanked her, wished her happiness in her retirement, and stated that she will be greatly missed. The School Committee accepted Ms. Reiss' resignation.

Chairperson Gilman recognized the Gloucester Education Foundation for recently installing a wind turbine at O'Maley School, which will cut down on energy costs at the school and serve as a great learning initiative for our middle school students.

- VI. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – None present.

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

1. Special School Committee Meeting of November 30, 2011

**B. Schedule of Future Meetings**

Building & Finance Subcommittee – Wednesday, December 21, 2011 at 4:45 p.m.

Location: Superintendent's Conference Room

2012-2013 Inauguration of the Mayor, City Council and School Committee

Sunday, January 1, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

Location: City Hall – Kyrouz Auditorium

Program Subcommittee – Friday, January 6, 2012 at 9:45 a.m.

Location: Superintendent's Conference Room

School Committee – Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: City Hall – Kyrouz Auditorium

**C. Acceptance of Grants**

1. To accept a grant in the amount of \$6,870.00 from GEF to cover the costs of the following programs in the elementary schools:

a.	Grades 3 to 5	General Science Supplies	\$2,500
b.	Grade 5	Robotics Fair	\$1,870
c.	Grades K to 2	Early Engineers	\$2,500

2. To accept the following grants from DESE:

- a. Safe and Supportive Learning Environments-Continuation Grant in the amount of \$8,880.00
- b. Perkins Secondary Allocation Grant in the amount of \$33,510.00

Kathy Clancy removed the Building & Finance Subcommittee meeting from the Schedule of Future Meetings.

It was unanimously

**VOTED:** 7 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

**VIII. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES**

**A. Superintendent's Report** – Dr. Safier updated the School Committee on the following matters:

- Review of Possible School Closure Scenario Regarding FY 2013 – This document will be discussed at the upcoming Building & Finance Subcommittee meeting. It is intended to outline financial cost scenarios if the committee decides to consider possible school consolidations.
- Electronic Security System for Gloucester High School
- District Unified Communication VOIP Telephone System – Mr. Markham reported that this contract has been awarded to Partners Technology and that the base price is \$105,000. He stated that this was the lowest bid received, with a high bid of \$318,000. Mr. Markham indicated that once the work has begun, there will likely be some change orders which will increase the final price. The system should be in place by the end of the first week of February.

- Update on Students Returning from the Charter School – Dr. Safier indicated that there has been no significant fluctuation one way or the other in the last six weeks.
- CPI and Improvement Targets – Dr. Safier explained the Composite Performance Index.
- Conditions for School Effectiveness Survey – Dr. Safier reviewed the purpose of the survey and stated that implementation is now in place.
- Social Networking Policy
- District Technology Committee – Dr. Safier indicated that he has asked Gregg Bach and Grant Harris to co-chair this committee. There will also be several teachers, a special education person, and one or two administrators on the committee. Dr. Safier stated that there is also an ad hoc group at the high school, which he hopes will be interactive with the district committee. He indicated that they are looking into providing iPads to teachers, as well as to students in grades 6 through 12.

**IX. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – None**

**X. DISCUSSION/ACTION**

- A. Mayor’s Appointment of Gloucester’s Representative to the North Shore Regional Vocational School District School Committee** – Chairperson Gilman reviewed Mayor Kirk’s memorandum to the School Committee indicating that she has reappointed Ms. Teixeira as the city’s representative to the North Shore Regional Vocational School District School Committee and requesting that the committee approve the reappointment.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor zero opposed, to accept Mayor Kirk’s reappointment of Melissa Teixeira as the City of Gloucester’s representative to the North Shore Regional Vocational School District School Committee.

- B. Update on City Council’s Budget and Finance Committee Regarding Free Cash**  
Dr. Safier reported that the City Council approved the recommendations put forward by Mayor Kirk for free cash for the School Department, which totals \$684,439. He thanked the mayor and the City Council for their support of the School Department’s vital needs. He stated that the City Council also voted to reduce the stabilization fund by \$60,000 in order to provide a supplemental appropriation to the School Department for food service equipment.

Dr. Safier stated that he spoke with Diane Sullivan of MSBA yesterday and that we are eligible for an extension to move forward with the West Parish project. He reviewed the eligibility requirements for the project and indicated that this matter will be discussed by the Building & Finance Subcommittee next week.

Mayor Kirk indicated that the City Council approved the supplemental request for custodial support in the amount of \$100,000 and stated that the pay of the nine custodians whose hourly rate was cut has been restored by using free cash. City Council also supported the administration's request for DPW, a good portion of which will be devoted to school buildings, particularly heating systems. Chairperson Gilman thanked Mayor Kirk for her support of the School Department with free cash.

- C. Update on Budget Planning Process** – Dr. Safier reviewed the instructions to principals and department heads regarding level service budget suggestions and indicated that they will be received by December 16<sup>th</sup>. Kathy Clancy expressed concern that expenses were drastically reduced in the current fiscal year's budget and that she is hopeful that a level service budget would go back to the previous fiscal year. Dr. Safier indicated that he has asked the principals and department heads to provide a list of other needs and resources that would not be covered by a level service budget. There was a discussion about School Improvement Plans with respect to the budget planning process.

## **XI. OTHER COMMUNICATION**

- A. Gloucester Community Arts Charter School Annual Report 2010/2011**
- B. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting – Wednesday, December 21, 2011** – In light of the pressing nature of some of the agenda items, Dr. Safier requested that the meeting be moved up to Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. He also recommended having a full committee meeting on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> to finalize the matters addressed in the subcommittee meeting.

After a lengthy discussion, Kathy Clancy made a motion, seconded by Chairperson Gilman, to schedule the December Building & Finance Subcommittee meeting for Monday, December 19, 2011 at 4:45 p.m. After a roll call vote of 3 in favor, 4 opposed, the motion did not pass.

Roll Call Vote:

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

- C. Discussions with Pathways for Children and Possibility of Community Innovation Challenge Grant Application** – On a motion by Chairperson Gilman, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 7 in favor zero opposed, to refer the Pathways matter to the Building & Finance Subcommittee.

Chairperson Gilman suggested that the ad hoc committee on the city charter/rules and procedures, chaired by member Tony Gross, reconvene a meeting in the near future to finalize the process of referring matters to subcommittee.

- D. Compensation Ranges for Administrative Personnel** – After discussion, on a motion by Chairperson Gilman, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 7 in favor zero opposed, to refer the matter of compensation ranges for non-union administrative personnel to the Personnel Subcommittee.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of December 14, 2011 at 9:15 p.m.

Chairperson Gilman thanked Cape Ann TV for televising the meeting.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*