

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

**Minutes of the School Committee Public Hearing
On the FY 2014 Proposed School Budget**

Wednesday, April 3, 2013
Gloucester High School Lecture Hall
7:00 p.m.

Members

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Val Gilman, Vice Chairperson
Kathy Clancy, Secretary
Melissa Teixeira
Roger Garberg
Tony Gross (7:30 p.m.)
Mayor Carolyn Kirk

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Assistant Superintendent Gregg Bach
Hans Baumhauer, Dir. of Finance
and Operations
Telena Imel, West Parish Principal
Ellen Sibley, Beeman Principal
Carol Bratt, East Gloucester Principal
Tammy Morgan, Plum Cove Principal
Patricia Wegmann, SPED Director

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the public hearing to order at 7:07 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.
- II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**
- III. INTRODUCTION** – Dr. Safier stated that the FY14 budget is designed to support many programs and initiatives facing the district, a number of which are mandated by the state. The initiatives themselves require an appropriate infrastructure (i.e. staff). The FY14 budget absorbs a series of unanticipated expenses, a number of which have been allocated in FY13 and which will need to be carried over into FY14. The budget also takes into account the need to accommodate the influx of approximately 100 students from the charter school, anticipated reductions in grant funding, potential consequences of sequestration taking place at the federal level, an increase in health insurance, and collective bargaining.
- IV. THE PROPOSED FY14 BUDGET PRESENTATION** – Dr. Safier reviewed district programs, FY14 budget goals, additional requirements (including security measures and an attendance officer), FY13 successes, FY14 educational requirements, the budget development process, the budget proposal bottom line, historical budget summary, non-salary expense budget summary, salary/personnel budget summary, FY13 additions, and anticipated loss of funding.

Kathy Clancy thanked Mr. Baumhauer and his staff for their hard work in putting together a detailed budget. Chairman Pope stated that the committee will vote a final version of the budget at the next School Committee meeting to go to the Mayor. The Mayor will have it for two weeks and will then submit it to the City Council, who will have it for 45 days. The School Committee will likely appear before the City Council Budget & Finance Committee or perhaps the full City

Council to make a presentation on the School Department's budget, and there will then be a public hearing on the entire city budget. Mrs. Gilman requested that committee members work hard to encourage as many people as possible to attend the City Council public hearing to speak on behalf of the School Department budget.

Mr. Garberg asked Dr. Safier to speak about the origin of the proposal for a school resource officer at the high school. He noted that an article in the newspaper left the impression that this was a hastily contrived idea that came about just in the last few weeks. Dr. Safier indicated that to the contrary, the restructuring of the high school has been on the table for months and that a school resource officer has been part of the ongoing discussions he has been having with the high school administration.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS – None.

VI. ACTION – None.

VII. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS

A. Request for Proposals to Review Conditions of Elementary Schools – Chairman Pope reported that the City has requested that the School Department share the cost of the survey of Beeman, Plum Cove, East Gloucester and Veterans. He referred this matter to the Building & Finance Subcommittee to be taken up on April 10, 2013. He noted that the matter is time sensitive because the City Council will have to approve the city's portion of the cost and the funds must be identified before the RFP can be issued.

B. MASC Election Forms – Chairman Pope noted that he has a packet of forms from MASC if anyone would like to run for a position on the Board of Directors or any of the subcommittees.

C. Level III Grievance – Chairman Pope reported that a hearing on the grievance has been scheduled for April 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at GHS. He, Ms. Teixeira and Kathy Clancy will attend the hearing on behalf of the School Committee.

VIII. RECOGNITIONS – Mrs. Gilman recognized Maggie Rosa and Tina Raimo of the Gloucester Education Foundation for financing and obtaining the banner solidifying the new innovation award that the high school received. Chairman Pope reported that next Wednesday and Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m., Beeman students will be presenting "Oliver."

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Public Hearing of April 3, 2013 at 7:57 p.m.

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

Maria Puglisi, Recording Secretary