

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

## **Special School Committee Workshop Minutes**

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

5:00 p.m.

### **Members Present**

Jonathan Pope, Chairman  
Melissa Teixeira, Vice Chairperson  
Kathy Clancy, Secretary  
Tony Gross  
Michelle Sweet  
Jack O'Maley

### **Administration Present**

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent  
Hans Baumhauer, Director of Finance  
and Operations

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**I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 5:27 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

**II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Chairman Pope noted that the meeting is being recorded.

**III. DISCUSSION**

**A. Review of FY15 Draft Budget Proposal** – Mr. Baumhauer stated that the budget summary has been revised from the last presentation due to the fact that the increase in health insurance was voted at 1% as opposed to the 2% increase that was previously included in the budget. In addition, Circuit Breaker was budgeted at a 60% reimbursement rate and it has now been raised to 70%. The increase over the FY14 budget now stands at \$1,895,534.

The committee reviewed the salary line items contained in the FY15 proposed budget and the following matters were discussed:

- Auditor's request to include retired teachers' health insurance in the school budget
- Assumption of a 2% increase for all groups
- Funding sources for nurse leader's salary
- Expansion of vocational program at GHS due to competitive enrollment at new North Shore Tech
- Reduction in hours for K-8 Math Coordinator

*(A 15-minute break was taken at this time.)*

- Removal of furniture from St. Ann's
- Emphasizing that the increase in salaries equates to over 400 employees
- Wage adjustment to principals' salaries

- Co-teaching model at Veterans
- Four teachers retiring at West Parish
- GHS special education teachers' salaries
- GAEP career ladder points
- Increase in out-of-district special education tuitions
- New IT position
- Additional bus and driver for in-district special ed transportation
- Increase in OOD transportation
- Offsetting principals' needs with expectations of city

Dr. Safier indicated that the budget does not reflect the request for a modular unit at Plum Cove. However, he is looking into the possibility of asking the vocational students at GHS to build a classroom that could be used for a variety of purposes.

The committee discussed whether the \$383,053 free cash appropriation should be included as part of the base budget in future presentations. The consensus of the committee was that \$175,000 should be added to the base budget, which represents the free cash that was needed for additional staff and out-of-district tuition which is an ongoing, not one-time, expense.

Chairman Pope asked the administration to prepare a report showing \$295,000 of potential budget reductions for consideration by the Building & Finance Subcommittee tomorrow night.

Kathy Clancy asked the committee to consider whether the budget as presented reflects the priorities that the committee believes our students deserve for education (e.g. new math curriculum, BSRI, etc.). She noted that the salary increases are in line with what the city has done.

Ms. Teixeira stated that there should be equity in the per pupil cost in all five elementary schools. Dr. Safier noted that adjustments were made this year due to some disparity. In addition, all of the technology has been removed from the individual school budgets and placed into the IT budget so that it is centralized. Lastly, Dr. Safer stated that the district should be able to add 42-48 Chromebooks at each school as a consequence of the budget and the 1:1 initiative.

Finally, Kathy Clancy stated that the Building & Finance Subcommittee needs to review the DPW budget before it is presented to the Mayor in order to see what they are asking for.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT** – On a motion by Mr. O'Maley, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the Special School Committee Workshop of March 5, 2014 at 7:53 p.m.

*All reference documents and reports are filed in the Superintendent's office.  
Maria Puglisi, Recording Secretary*