

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**Special School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, January 20, 2011  
Gloucester High School Library  
8:30 p.m.

**Members**

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

**Administration Present**

Jean Perry, West Parish Principal

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

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**I. SELECTION OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Chairperson Gilman commented on the process of selecting the new superintendent and thanked the 15 members of the Gloucester Superintendent Search Advisory Committee who did an outstanding job in providing five qualified candidates. The 15 members recognized by the chair included teachers Andrea Pretzler, Leslie Sellers, Beth Goldberg and paraprofessional Jayne Morse; Administrators Dr. Bill Goodwin, Dr. Cheryl Ann Parker, and Ann Marie Jordan; Parents Beth Morris, Richard Jabba, and Erika Hansen; Community members Jonathan Pope, who chaired the advisory task force, Ann Ziergebel, and Simon Paddock; City Councilor Paul McGeary and Gloucester Education Foundation Board Vice President, Joe Rosa. She also thanked Mike Gilbert, the MASC consultant, who led the School Committee through the process.

Chairperson Gilman thanked the principals for escorting and hosting the candidates, the culinary arts students and Pat Reardon for providing food for the interviews, members of staff and the community for being at the interviews each night, Dr. Connelly for his leadership in the process, Administrative Assistant Stephanie Delisi, Gloucester Daily Times, the Beacon, and Cape Ann TV for continuous coverage and support, all five candidates for following through with their interest and commitment, and most of all the School Committee for making strategic decisions and working as a team, attending extra meetings, hosting candidates, making site visits, checking references and participating in interviews.

The School Committee members discussed the candidates as follows:

- Kathy Clancy found each candidate very inspirational and stated that ideas from all of them can be used to help us move forward in a positive way. She stated that she enjoyed the process tremendously and that she is most inclined to support Dr. Richard Safier for the position of superintendent. He brings a wealth of experience at different levels, having been a principal and assistant principal, and his strength in curriculum would be very helpful.
- Mrs. Sweet stated that it was very interesting to hear from these candidates and visit their districts. She found that they were all very smart and stated that it has been a difficult choice for her. She is supporting Dr. Richard Safier because of his experience as a teacher, principal, assistant principal, and assistant superintendent. She believes he will work very well with our district staff in moving forward, as well as with the School Committee, the mayor, the city council and the community.

- Mayor Kirk thanked Chairperson Gilman for keeping the School Committee on task. She spoke briefly about each of the candidates, noted several strengths of each candidate, and stated that Dr. Richard Safier is her number one candidate, also. He is also a Gloucester resident and knows what he is getting into. Mayor Kirk believes the district will need to bolster the budget management within the schools in order to allow Dr. Safier to focus on education because his budget experience is a little less than a \$34 million budget. Her impression is that he knows the district inside and out, and it is clear he has a total command of how to move a district forward.

- Mr. Garberg complimented the superintendent search advisory task force for the way they clearly implemented the criteria developed in the focus groups. He spoke briefly about the strengths of all five candidates and stated that Dr. Richard Safier is his first choice for superintendent.

- Ms. Teixeira thanked Chairperson Gilman for her tenacious efforts in this process and stated that Dr. Richard Safier is her choice for superintendent. She reviewed some of the matters he spoke about in his opening statement several times when she watched the tape, which showed his diverse and well-rounded background, including extensive advocacy in the Billerica community. Ms. Teixeira felt that Dr. Safier would be able to come up to speed quickly in the area of budget development and oversight. Ms. Teixeira also stated that she was impressed by how involved Dr. Safier is in the Billerica community even though he lives in Gloucester.

- Chairperson Gilman stated that she enjoyed getting to know all five candidates very much and learned something from each of them. She is also supporting Dr. Richard Safier and believes he is confident that he will be a tremendous asset and leader for the Gloucester Public School district in the years ahead.

Upon a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mr. Garberg, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** By Roll Call Vote

Chairperson Gilman – yes  
Ms. Teixeira – yes  
Kathy Clancy – yes  
Mrs. Sweet – yes  
Mr. Garberg – yes  
Mayor Kirk – yes

That the Gloucester School Committee appoint Dr. Richard Safier as the Superintendent of the Gloucester Public Schools pending successful contract negotiations.

*At this time, a brief break was taken to obtain Dr. Safier's acceptance of the position by telephone.*

Chairperson Gilman indicated that after several telephone calls that would not go through, she and Mr. Gilbert spoke to Dr. Safier, who indicated that he is honored to accept the School Committee's offer to become Superintendent of Schools, subject to successful contract negotiations. Chairperson Gilman indicated that contract negotiations will be discussed during executive session after the School Committee meeting on January 26, 2011. The following week, Dr. Safier will be asked to meet with two members of the School

Committee and Naomi Stoneberg to discuss more specific details of the contract. It was decided that those two members would be Mrs. Gilman as chairperson of the School Committee and Ms. Teixeira as chairperson of the Personnel Subcommittee.

Chairperson Gilman welcomed Dr. Safier to the GPS district and stated that a press release will be sent out. She requested that Kathy Clancy draft a letter to each of the final candidates thanking them for their application, which will be signed by the School Committee members on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

Chairperson Gilman reminded everyone about the education forum on January 25, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Cruiseport, the Building & Finance Subcommittee meeting on January 26, 2011 at 4:45 p.m., and the School Committee meeting on January 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., at which the three candidates for School Committee member will be speaking. Linda Lowe will be attending the meeting to swear in the new School Committee member.

## **II. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn the School Committee Meeting of January 20, 2011 at 9:15 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*