

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Special School Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 7, 2013

Superintendent's Office

4:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Val Gilman, Assistant Chairperson
Kathy Clancy, Secretary
Melissa Teixeira
Roger Garberg
Tony Gross (5:04 p.m.)

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Assistant Superintendent
Hans Baumhauer, Dir. of Finance and
and Operations

Others Present

City Councilor Paul McGeary

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- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.
- II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG** – Waived.
- III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** – None.
- IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON** – Chairman Pope noted that there are items in the first draft of the budget that have been deliberately left out because they have an impact on collective bargaining. As such, if anyone has questions on those items, they will have to be discussed in Executive Session.
- V. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS**
- A. FY14 Draft Budget** – Mr. Baumhauer distributed and reviewed the FY14 proposed budget summary totaling \$36,661,625, an increase of \$1,262,874 or 3.57% over the FY13 budget. To that total, he added \$89,243 in grant reductions and \$722,955 in additional educational needs above level service, for a new total of \$37,473,823 or a 4.74% increase to the FY13 budget.

Mr. Baumhauer also reviewed the major changes from the FY13 to the FY14 budget, and the committee discussed the following matters:

- Allocating Central Office salaries to Title I grant
- Six known retirements to date, resulting in a savings of approximately \$25,000 each
- Hiring of additional 3.5 paraprofessionals since charter school students returned
- Inability to hire in-house speech and language pathologists
- Transfer of athletic transportation from the athletic budget to transportation budget

With respect to Chapter 70 funds, Dr. Safier indicated that the money that was not used by the charter school will go back to the city, not the School Department. The money due to the differential in charter school enrollment is readily available this year in the second and third quarters. If it is not allocated by the beginning of the fourth quarter, it goes into the general fund for next year. Dr. Safier noted that the Mayor has set up a conference call on this matter on February 14th. He, Mr. Baumhauer and Kathy Clancy will participate in that conference call.

Chairman Pope stated that the Mayor indicated that the School Committee would spend the money immediately out of its contingency fund and that free cash would rebuild the contingency fund. Chairman Pope reminded the committee that we also reserved the right to request additional free cash once we know how much more we need.

(Mr. Gross joined the meeting at 5:04 p.m.)

Dr. Safier reviewed the additions to the level service budget, which includes the hiring of a district math coordinator to bring structure and leadership to the math program and to identify exactly where Investigations is aligned with the new Common Core Standards and what must be done to supplement the program with other materials. Kathy Clancy noted that this action is similar to our efforts last year with literacy through BSRI. Dr. Safier indicated that we will be contracting with BSRI for a Math Content Institute for next year and that, over the next five years, small group instruction in math will be emphasized.

The following matters were also discussed:

- Restructuring at GHS – Security resource officer, technology pilot program
- Math courses at O’Maley
- Grant for expanded learning time
- Professional development
- Duties of attendance officer
- Proper implementation of Investigations program

Finally, the committee discussed consideration of the following additions to the level service budget:

- GHS guidance
- Expansion of art programs
- Crossing guard at Eastern Avenue/Hartz Street
- K-8 Media Center Specialist/Librarian
- World languages

B. School Committee SMART Goals – Chairman Pope referred this matter to the Program Subcommittee.

C. Fundraising by School Groups – Chairman Pope referred this matter to the Program Subcommittee.

VI. ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by Chairman Pope, seconded by Mrs. Gilman, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of February 7, 2013 at 6:19 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*