

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Special School Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 17, 2011

City Hall – Third Floor Conference Room

7:45 p.m.

Members

Val Gilman, Chairperson
Melissa Teixeira, Vice Chairperson
Kathleen Clancy, Secretary
Roger Garberg
Anthony Gross

Administration Present

Assistant Superintendent Brian Tarr
CFO Tom Markham
New Superintendent Dr. Richard Safier

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gilman called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG – None; no flag in the room.

Note: Chairperson Gilman stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools and welcomed new superintendent Dr. Richard Safier, Assistant Superintendent Brian Tarr, Attorney Naomi Stonberg, and CFO Tom Markham.

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION

- A. Appoint a Member of the School Committee to the City Council O & A Interim Task Force on the Periodic Review of the Gloucester City Charter (Charter, Section 10-1(b))** – Chairperson Gilman explained the role of the interim task force and the reasoning for having a School Committee member on the task force. Attorney Stonberg stated that she believes Gloucester is the only city in Massachusetts that has a restriction on the length of contract for a superintendent, which is inconsistent with the statute. Chairperson Gilman also noted that in some cases with our city charter, Ed Reform trumps the charter because of the legal requirements concerning the committee's roles and responsibilities in district activities have changed. She explained that this ad hoc committee currently includes Councilor Ann Mulcahey, City Clerk Linda Lowe, and community member Ab Khambaty.

On a motion by Chairperson Gilman, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Tony Gross to represent the School Committee on the City Council O & A Interim Task Force.

B. Executive Session in Compliance with Open Meeting Law to Conduct Contract Negotiations with Non-Union Personnel

On a motion by Chairperson Gilman, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

Chairperson Gilman – yes

Ms. Teixeira – yes

Kathy Clancy – yes

Mr. Garberg – yes

Mr. Gross – yes

To enter into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations with non-union personnel and to return into open session for the purpose of announcing what was discussed in Executive Session.

C. Further Communications

Chairperson Gilman indicated that the School Committee in Executive Session unanimously voted to amend the Contract Between the Gloucester School Committee and Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent of Schools, to provide for a two-year agreement with a notification on or before December 31, 2011 as to whether or not the School Committee will add an additional year to cover the period from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014.

Chairperson Gilman also indicated that the School Committee authorized her to sign the presented side letter on behalf of the School Committee confirming that if Dr. Safier commences employment prior to July 1, 2011, he will be compensated on a per diem basis and will receive pro rata benefits in accordance with his contract effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013.

Finally, Chairperson Gilman stated that the School Committee authorized her to add the following sentence to the amended contract: “Calculation of a daily rate of pay under this agreement will be based upon a 260-day work year.”

IV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Mr. Garberg, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the Special School Committee Meeting of February 17, 2011
at 9:00 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*