

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**Amended Special School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

7:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

Jonathan Pope, Chairman  
Val Gilman, Vice Chairperson  
Kathy Clancy, Secretary  
Melissa Teixeira  
Roger Garberg  
Tony Gross

**Administration Present**

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent  
CFO Tom Markham

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

**II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG – Waived without objection.**

**III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None**

**IV. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Review FY13 Budget Proposal** – Chairman Pope reminded the committee that they are presenting the budget to the City Council Budget & Finance Committee at 9:00 a.m. on Friday. Dr. Safier stated that the proposed budget is approximately \$1 million above the figure that the Mayor provided and requested the committee's guidance on how to proceed at the meeting on Friday. Chairman Pope stated that the committee members should be prepared to speak at Friday's meeting about items they feel strongly about.

Mr. Markham reviewed and the committee discussed the proposed cuts to the budget presented in three tiers (not prioritized), which include two cuts already voted by the School Committee, namely 10 known retirements and payment of the elementary literacy curriculum. The committee found that even if cuts were made in all three tiers, there would still remain \$125,564 left to cut in order to meet the Mayor's figure. Chairman Pope requested that Tiers I and II be combined for presentation to the City Council B&F Committee on Friday.

With respect to the delay in the locker replacement at O'Maley, Mrs. Gilman noted that students' winter jackets do not fit in the lockers. Kathy Clancy would like to get photos of the lockers to show the condition they are in. Chairman Pope stated that he considers the replacement of the lockers to be the city's responsibility under the MOU.

With respect to the elimination of school payment for AP testing, Ms. Teixeira would like to have a process in place to address the needs of low income students and those who cannot ask their parents for the money (e.g. for them to pay half the cost of the test). Dr. Safier indicated that it is very common for districts not to provide funding for AP testing, and Mr. Markham noted that the cost of the AP test would be a reduction toward college tuition. He also noted that there are a fair amount of students who sign up for the test and then do not show up to take the test.

With respect to the reduction in all ordinary accounts at GHS, Chairman Pope would like to see the list of cuts submitted by Dr. Goodwin, as well as a report on what the School Committee Contingency has been used for this year. Mr. Markham reviewed the report of projected costs to be added to the FY12 base which shows those contingency expenditures, as well as the newly known and projected expenditures beyond the FY12 budget.

Mr. Markham indicated that there will likely be a balance of approximately \$140,000 in employee benefit accounts that will be added to the end-of-year available balance.

The committee also discussed the following:

- Bus maintenance costs that will not be needed on brand new buses
- Graduation expenses
- Whether a police detail is needed at graduation
- Proposed staggered schedule and job description of noon supervisors
- Request to GEF for funding of Robotics curriculum materials
- COLA – Ms. Teixeira would like to compare what teachers have received each year for the last 10 years with the city's salary increases over the same time period.
- Class sizes at O'Maley due to students coming back to GPSD from St. Ann's
- Reduction of paraprofessional staff being perceived by teachers as an increase in their workload
- Difficulty of settling contracts with a 1% salary increase when city employees are getting 2% plus increased benefits

## V. ACTION

- A. Nurses' Contract** – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mr. Garberg, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Tentative Agreement with the Gloucester School Nurses for their contract from 9/1/11 through 6/30/12 with the following provisions: salary increase of 1%, performance review language, reimbursement for professional meetings, conferences, etc., and continued negotiations for a successor agreement to place them on the GTA salary scale by FY16.

**B. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip** – After discussion, on a motion by Mrs. Gilman, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Request for Field Visit submitted by David Benjamin for the Gloucester City-Wide School Band to visit Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH on the afternoon of June 14, 2012.

**VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** By Roll Call Vote

Chairman Pope – yes  
Ms. Teixeira – yes  
Kathy Clancy – yes  
Mr. Garberg – yes  
Mrs. Gilman – yes  
Mr. Gross – yes

To enter into Executive Session at 9:07 p.m. to discuss strategy and status of all open union contracts as well as a level three grievance from the Gloucester Teachers Association and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of adjournment only.

**VII. 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 May 30, 2012 at 9:51 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi, Recording Secretary*