

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Amended Special School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

5:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Val Gilman, Vice Chairperson
Melissa Teixeira
Roger Garberg
Tony Gross
Mayor Carolyn Kirk

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Pope stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – See attached statement from Jason Grow.

IV. ACTION

A. Approval of Honorary Diploma – Chairman Pope shared a copy of a letter he received from Attorney Mike Faherty requesting that a diploma be awarded to Phyllis O'Maley Curcuro.

After discussion, on a motion by Chairman Pope, seconded by Mrs. Gilman, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to confer an honorary high school diploma to Phyllis O'Maley Curcuro.

At this time, the agenda was taken out of order.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mrs. Gilman, it was unanimously

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

Ms. Teixeira – yes
Mr. Garberg – yes
Mrs. Gilman – yes
Mr. Gross – yes
Mayor Kirk – yes
Chairman Pope – yes

To enter into Executive Session at 5:10 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of ratifying contracts and adjournment.

(Mr. Bach joined the meeting at 5:20 p.m.)

(Mayor Kirk left the meeting at 5:46 p.m.)

The meeting reconvened at 5:49 p.m.

B. Ratification of Contracts

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

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to enter into a three-year contract with the noon supervisors effective November 1, 2011 to June 30, 2014 under the following terms: a 1% salary increase for Year 1 retroactive to 2011-2012, a 1.5% salary increase for the period 11/1/12 through 10/31/13, a 2% salary increase for the period 11/1/13 through 6/30/14; and direct deposit of salary with email notification of such deposits.

On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to enter into a three-year contract with the Gloucester Association of Education Paraprofessionals effective July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015 under the following terms: They are now working 183 days; documentation of attendance at evening meetings; a 1.5% salary increase for Year 1, a 2% salary increase for Year 2; a 2% salary increase for Year 3 retroactive to the beginning of this school year; direct deposit of salary with email notification of such deposits; and a new evaluation instrument.

After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mrs. Gilman, it was

VOTED: 4 in favor, one abstain (Chairman Pope) to enter into a one-year agreement with the Gloucester Teachers Association effective September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013 under the following terms: The agreement from 9/1/11 through 8/31/12 is revised to add a 1.5% salary increase effective the first day of the school year. The rest of the salary payment section will be deleted. Effective upon execution of

the Memorandum of Agreement, all salary payments will be made by direct deposit with email notification of such deposits. The summer school student enrichment professional development pay will increase to \$30.00 effective 6/5/13, and the staff development leadership professional development will increase to \$35.00 as of 6/5/13.

Mr. Gross stated that this one-year agreement reflects the hard work that the teachers have done with the district on the new mandated evaluation system. Ms. Teixeira noted that the teachers have been complying with the mandated system since the beginning of the year. However, their salaries did not reflect that until now. Therefore, the 1.5% salary increase technically includes their participation and commitment to the evaluation process which was successfully negotiated earlier this year.

V. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/NEW BUSINESS – None

VII. ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the Special School Committee Meeting of June 5, 2013 at 5:54 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*

III.

Dear School Committee Members,

While I agree that Roger Garberg's unfortunate response to Lisa Fornero was most definitely an ill-conceived move, especially considering the otherwise exceptional intelligence of the author, I'm writing to ask that before you wrap yourselves in high dudgeon, collectively take a breath and not fan the controversy more than it deserves.

I certainly understand the inappropriateness of his response and agree that the actions of one can reflect poorly on the School Committee as a whole. Roger, I'm sure certainly understands the importance of apologizing for the incident. I would suggest however that we've all pulled knucklehead moves we wish we could retract. A couple of years ago, I was the recipient of what I considered to be a very offensive email from our Mayor and never received even a passing hint of an apology. I expect we've all said, texted or emailed things that we wish we had kept to ourselves.

I'm hoping that the Committee will remember its primary responsibility of governing the policies and direction of our school district and leave the politics and histrionics at the door. There's too much work to be done to be distracted by relatively minor incidents. Roger will likely suffer the slings and arrows of the ballot box should it come to that and I expect that the embarrassment of today's article and the range of social media will serve as sufficient censure without your committee becoming overly exercised in your response.

Certainly do not allow this to become an excuse to derail the importance of implementing the universal breakfast program – punishing our students would not be an appropriate or measured response.

Please keep your focus on doing the important work that needs to be done for the benefit of our students and the district.

Respectfully,
Jason Grow