

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Special School Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 4, 2013

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

4:45 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Val Gilman, Vice Chairperson
Kathy Clancy, Secretary
Tony Gross

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 4:51 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG – Waived.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None.

IV. ACTION

- A. Financial Appropriations for Cost Estimate for Fuller Swing School** – Dr. Safier stated that the funds for this cost estimate will come from the School Committee contingency fund. Kathy Clancy expressed concern that it may be less likely that the School Committee will be reimbursed by the city if the funds come out of a contingency fund. Chairman Pope stated that the city administration has promised to give the funds back to the School Committee. In any event, he does not believe that the money will actually come out of our account because Kevin Buckley indicated that Dore & Whittier will eventually bill the city for the work, and if that bill comes a month from now, free cash will be available to pay it.

Dr. Safier reported that Dore & Whittier has already gone through both 1 Kondelin Road and St. Ann's School. If proposals are received for either of those buildings in response to the RFP, Dore & Whittier will be asked to conduct similar cost estimates for using those buildings as swing space. Chairman Pope assumes that the cost to prepare those estimates will be billed as extras on Dore & Whittier's contract. He noted that once a space is chosen, bid documents will need to be prepared.

Chairman Pope indicated that the original estimate from Dore & Whittier to conduct an investigation of the Fuller site and produce bid documents was \$100,000. Through negotiations with Kevin Buckley and Dore & Whittier, that number was reduced to \$10,000 to use the information they already have.

There was a discussion about the RFP process and the need to share the same information with all potential respondents to the RFP so that there is not a perception of anyone being given preferential treatment.

Mrs. Gilman reminded the committee that at the September 6th Building & Finance Subcommittee meeting, Chairman Pope indicated that he was going to talk to Bill Sanborn and Dr. Safier stated that he would talk to Dore & Whittier about getting an estimate for the Fuller site. As such, Mrs. Gilman was under the impression that this information was forthcoming. She believes that from a process standpoint, the full committee should have voted to request this information from the city.

Unfortunately, seven weeks went by and the committee is now in an emergency situation. Mrs. Gilman stated that she believes the committee is stronger as a group of elected officials and that full committee votes in the future will help guide any differences of opinion with other public bodies or the city administration. Chairman Pope stated that the city stalled on this process and that it is ultimately a city-funded project.

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

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to appropriate up to \$10,000.00 from the School Committee contingency account for the purpose of conducting a cost estimate for the Fuller site as a swing space for the West Parish MSBA project.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

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

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the Special School Committee Meeting of November 4, 2013 at 5:19 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*