

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

**Second Amended
Program Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

8:30 a.m.

Members Present

Val Gilman, Chairperson
Roger Garberg, Vice Chairman (8:39)
Kathy Clancy

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Dr. Shayne Trubisz, Assistant Superintendent
Ann-Marie Jordan, Health Coordinator (9:08)
Mark Bedrosian, Dean of Academic Affairs
Rachel Rex, Program Leader
Grant Harris (9:48 a.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gilman called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

II. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS/DISCUSSION

- A. Professional Development Update Report** – Dr. Trubisz reviewed the types of professional development and how it is determined. She distributed the GPS Comprehensive Professional Development Plan for 2009-2012 and reviewed the goals of professional development and the work done by the teaching and learning leadership team regarding effective instruction. Dr. Safier noted that a number of the principals have gone through NISL training.

Dr. Trubisz distributed a packet on current professional development programs and reviewed the math courses, summer courses, and online courses for SPED teachers that are being offered. There was a discussion about O'Maley professional development programs, such as co-teaching with Ed Nazzaro from Teachers 21 and a learning institute presented by Jacy Ippolito and Josh Lawrence.

Dr. Trubisz reviewed the professional development section of the district improvement plan, which is still in draft form. This will be shared with the leadership team on Thursday.

A discussion was held on how teachers are generally reacting to the professional development environment. Rachel Rex commented on how teachers are reacting to common planning time/professional learning communities. She believes it has been very well received at the high school and that teachers are working very well together. She

would like to see more professional development in how to generate smart goals, as well as some RBT professional development. She is very excited that professional development is now based on the impact on student learning.

There was a discussion about addressing professional development needs as a result of performance evaluations. Chairperson Gilman expressed the need for the subcommittee to review and approve the district improvement plan once it is finalized.

- B. Science Planning for MassCore** – Ms. Rex distributed and reviewed a document entitled “GHS Science Restructuring,” which demonstrates two pathway choices for students in their high school science career, namely a traditional college/career track and a pre-engineering/college career track. She explained how students are placed in a science course in the 9th grade, which is based on their math and reading levels, and reviewed 12th grade electives offered at GHS.

Mr. Bedrosian explained in further detail how students are placed as freshmen. Three years of performance data is used to determine the next logical step for placement, and middle school teachers also provide guidance and recommendations. Mr. Bedrosian believes that the pre-engineering track is a good continuation of the science programming at O’Maley. There was a discussion about how parents are involved in the process of course placement.

After discussion, on a motion by Chairperson Gilman, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: To recommend to the full School Committee that we endorse the proposed GHS Science MassCore Restructuring Plan as presented on February 7, 2012.

Finally, Ms. Rex reviewed the resources needed for pre-engineering courses, such as text books and lab kits. Dr. Safier recommended that she and Mr. Bedrosian speak to Dr. Goodwin about those needs.

Mr. Bedrosian and Ms. Rex left the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

- C. Head Injuries and Concussion Policy – Second Reading**

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

VOTED: To waive the second reading of the Head Injuries and Concussion Policy, File JJIF.

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

VOTED: To approve the second reading of the Head Injuries and Concussion Policy, File JJIF.

Ms. Jordan left the meeting at 9:46 a.m.

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

E. MSBA Process/Program Issues – In response to Mayor Kirk’s request that the subcommittee review the MSBA Initial Compliance Certification, Chairperson Gilman noted the following charges specifically related to the Program Subcommittee:

- Identify educationally sound solutions to validated deficiencies; and
- Respond to inquires about educational programs in a timely and effective manner (i.e. outreach).

These items should continue to be put on the subcommittee agenda. Dr. Safier indicated that he will be completing an enrollment projection form and will send it out for the subcommittee’s review. There was a discussion about the enrollment projection that was previously done by Interim Superintendent Connelly.

D. Continuation of Conversation on Fuller School

1. K12 Insight and LISTSERV Progress for Survey Distribution – Grant Harris reviewed how LISTSERV works at O’Maley. He will research whether smaller list servers can be created for the elementary schools, with a master list for administration. He also indicated that School Messenger has the capability of creating a parent portal where parents can maintain their contact information. Chairperson Gilman requested that the process of entering information into LISTSERV be as easy as possible.

Dr. Safier shared information from the Fort Wayne, Indiana school system called “Your Voice,” which is a potential vehicle that could be used to collect parent email addresses. There will be a meeting with Jesse Lieb from K12 Insight on Thursday, and he may have other ideas.

The subcommittee discussed options for parents to complete the K12 Insight survey, including hard copies at the schools.

Mr. Harris left the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

2. Educational Merits of Small vs. Larger Schools – Chairperson Gilman recommended using the phrase “small community schools” as opposed to “neighborhood schools” when making comparisons to a larger school, as well as speaking on the educational merits as we progress with recommendations on the educational differences of a small community school versus a larger school.

Dr. Safier reviewed the information he has in support of small community schools, including the research and conclusion of the Plan for Effective Learning Communities, class size studies, and school size studies. He emphasized the difference between rehabilitation and renovation with respect to Fuller School and stated that renovation will cost much more. Finally, he noted that the city is pressing to redefine the use of Fuller School.

Chairperson Gilman state that she would like to promote in community outreach sessions the moderate and consistent results in student achievement and the fact that the house system at O'Maley fits within the framework of a small community school.

Dr. Safier left the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

3. Outreach Committee/Community Engagement – Chairperson Gilman recommended putting together a timetable of important events in the history of Fuller School. Kathy Clancy believes the most relevant point is the fact that it was built as a high school. Mr. Garberg noted that, in his opinion, the most relevant history began with the discussion around the Mt. Vernon plan, which called for consolidating grades 3-5 at Fuller School and which plan was roundly rejected by the community of school parents.

Chairperson Gilman suggested that the subcommittee members individually send to Dr. Safier items to add to his talking points, including their thoughts on the Plan for Effective Learning Communities. She also recommended that Dr. Safier write a “My View” column and make an “all call” to set the stage for the K12 Insight survey. She would then like to schedule another short meeting to discuss community outreach in more detail. Dr. Trubisz suggested including in the talking points the negative impact on academic achievement of the disruption caused by moving schools, which can last a year or more.

F. Update on Website/School Committee Home Page – Tabled.

G. School Choice Survey Results – Tabled.

III. ACTION – None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOTED: To adjourn the Program Subcommittee Meeting of February 7, 2012 at 10:53 a.m.

Maria Puglisi, Recording Secretary