

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Program Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

5:30 p.m.

Members Present

Kathy Clancy, Chairperson

Michelle Sweet, Vice Chairperson

Joel Favazza

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent

Dr. Arthur Unobskey, Asst. Superintendent

Also Present

Jonathan Pope

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Clancy called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

II. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS/DISCUSSION

A. Review of School Committee Motion to Move Burnham Field Catchment Area to Veterans' Memorial Elementary School – Dr. Safier indicated that the School Committee vote taken on June 3, 2015 was a one-year solution for the students in the Burnham Field catchment area. He distributed a spreadsheet showing the number of potential kindergarten students at each of the schools beginning in September of 2016, which totals 286. He noted that by comparison, the current kindergarten class is 250 students.

Dr. Safier stated that there are 88 potential kindergarten students at Beeman next year, which would need to be reduced to 75 or less to maintain reasonable class sizes. He noted that 16 students choiced out of the district from Beeman last year.

Dr. Safier reported that there are 49 potential kindergarten students in the East Gloucester catchment area, not including 11 students in the Burnham Field area. If the Burnham Field students were placed at East Gloucester, there would be 60 potential enrollees, which is the same situation the district was in last year. For the purpose of the spreadsheet, the 11 Burnham Field students were included in the Veterans catchment area, for a total of 25 students in each of the two classes at Veterans.

Mr. Favazza stated that it would be nice if the Burnham Field students could go to the new West Parish building, and there was a discussion about the fact that students in that neighborhood would then be going to three different schools. Dr. Safier stated that he is reluctant to establish Burnham Field as a catchment area for West Parish at this time and indicated that it may be necessary to send incoming kindergarten

students to schools outside their catchment area to create equity in class sizes across the district.

Dr. Safier requested that the committee consider acting on the motion with the understanding that the administration will be sensitive to maximizing the availability of slots at West Parish for high needs students without the formalization of a catchment area.

After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Sweet, seconded by Mr. Favazza, it was unanimously

VOTED: 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the full School Committee that we indefinitely extend the redistricting of the Burnham Field area kindergartners and new students to Veterans' Memorial Elementary School.

Dr. Safier stated that he will work with Kathy Verga to identify exactly which streets are in the "Burnham Field area."

B. Review of School Committee Policies

1. Admission of Students to Elementary Schools, File JF – Dr. Safier reviewed and the committee discussed the revised policy and further revisions were made. The policy will be reviewed again at the next subcommittee meeting.
2. Elementary Attendance Policy, File JE – Tabled.

C. High School Start Time – Tabled.

III. ACTION – See Item II.A.

IV. ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by Ms. Sweet, seconded by Mr. Favazza, it was unanimously

VOTED: 3 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the Program Subcommittee Meeting of February 24, 2016 at 6:49 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*