

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Program Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 6, 2017

District Office Conference Room

2 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

5:00 p.m.

Members Present

Kathy Clancy, Chairperson

Michelle Sweet, Vice Chairperson

Joel Favazza, Member

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent

Debra Lucey, O'Maley Principal

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Clancy called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

II. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS/DISCUSSION

A. Policies

1. Wellness Policy, File ADF – Dr. Safier recommended that the Wellness Policy that was recently drafted and approved by the Wellness Committee should instead be considered the “wellness plan,” since it is very specific and subject to change. He presented and the committee reviewed a simplified Wellness Policy that speaks to the criteria in the plan. Chairperson Clancy pointed out that the policy references three component areas of the plan but the plan does not include “health” as a component area. Dr. Safier indicated that he would review the policy again and make the appropriate revisions.

Chairperson Clancy stated that she believes reasonable judgment should be used when it comes to activities in the schools and what constitutes “healthy snacks.” There was a discussion about recess at the middle school and the practice of withholding recess as punishment. Ms. Lucey indicated that lunch detention is rare at O'Maley.

The approval of this policy was tabled until the next meeting.

2. Administering Medicine to Students, File JLCD – Dr. Safier reviewed the changes made to the policy consistent with the new laws involving substance abuse education and the mandated application of Narcan in schools. There was a discussion about training non-medical staff in the administration of Narcan.

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

VOTED: 3 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the revised policy entitled “Administering Medicine to Students,” File JLCD.

3. Head Lice Policy, File JLCC-1 – Dr. Safier reported that the draft policy is exactly the same as the protocols that have been given to the school nurses. He stated that Naomi Stonberg indicated that very few school districts have head lice policies. As such, he stated that he is not inclined to go forward with this policy unless the committee wishes to do so. It was the consensus of the subcommittee not to go forward with the head lice policy.

- B. O’Maley Innovation Middle School Innovation Plan** – Ms. Lucey reported that the O’Maley staff wants to continue as an innovation school. They have divided up into committees to work on each of the categories in the renewal plan. She noted that they plan to keep the vision and mission statement the same and that the background information will also stay the same. They will be updating the measurable annual goals and the requirement is an achievement goal specifically addressing ELL, special education and low income students. They will also be updating their professional development to keep some of it in-house and looking at a standards-based report card.

Ms. Lucey reported that tardies have significantly decreased this year (about 2%) but that they are still struggling with absenteeism. The current procedure is to send letters to parents after the fifth and tenth absences. After that, they go forward with a CRA action (child requiring assistance) in court. Ms. Lucey noted that they have come up with a new program that will be included in the plan. A committee consisting of an administrator, a guidance counselor, the attendance office, and the School Resource Officer Mike Scola will meet with the student and his/her parent(s) to come up with a plan, which will add another layer before getting the courts involved.

Ms. Lucey indicated that technology continues to remain a focus and that as of next year, every core teacher in sixth and seventh grade will have Chromebook carts. She stated that the community service goal for this year is 4,200 hours and that community service will continue next year. There was a discussion about MCAS scores.

Ms. Lucey reported that the staff is meeting on March 14th and she will be meeting with each of the subcommittees in the next month. She expects the draft plan to be finished by the beginning of April. Dr. Safier indicated that the next Program Subcommittee meeting will take place on April 6th and it would be helpful to have the draft plan for review at that meeting. Ms. Lucey stated that there may be more work needed on the plan after that date. Chairperson Clancy stated that she believes there is some grant money available.

III. ACTION – See Item II.A.2.

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

VOTED: 3 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the Program Subcommittee Meeting of March 6, 2017 at 6:07 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*