

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**Program Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, April 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

Dr. Arthur Unobskey, Asst. Superintendent

Jeff Destino, O'Maley Asst. Principal

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**I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairperson Clancy called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

**II. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS/DISCUSSION**

**A. Policies**

1. Wellness Policy, File ADF – Dr. Safier reviewed the minor revisions made to the policy.

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 approve the Wellness Policy, File ADF, as presented.

2. Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Guidelines, File EBCF – Dr. Safier reviewed the new law with respect to AEDs in schools and recommended that this policy be included in the Policy Manual. He reviewed the policy and some statistics on defibrillation and cardiac arrest. Dr. Safier also distributed a list of AED trained employees, the location of defibrillators in each building, and response protocols. He noted that some of the AEDs are quite old and that seven of them are being replaced (one per school) at a cost of \$1,375 each. The committee discussed the following matters:

- Proximity of AEDs to gyms at GHS and O'Maley, as well as at Newell Stadium
- Training
- Including locations of AEDs on building use application

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

**VOTED:** 3 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Guidelines, File EBCF, as presented.

- B. O'Maley Innovation Middle School Renewal of Innovation Plan** – Mr. Destino reported that the committee work on each of the categories in the renewal plan is due tomorrow. He stated that their attendance rate is at 94.6%, which is higher than the state average, and tardies have gone down. He reviewed the current practice of addressing absenteeism and tardiness and reported that a formal committee is being created to address those issues.

Mr. Destino reported that one of the committees is addressing the increase in technology. He reviewed the current technology at O'Maley and there was a discussion about expanding the 1:1 Chromebook program to sixth grade. The committee also discussed students' accessibility to the Internet at home. Mr. Destino stated that that does not seem to be an issue and that there is a lot of opportunity for students to do tech-based things at school and at the Sawyer Free Library.

Mr. Destino discussed parental and community outreach and noted the parent coffees are poorly attended. Chairperson Clancy noted that the timing of the coffees is tough for parents and they may think it is just another tour of the school. She suggested having a theme for each session.

Mr. Destino reported that the O'Maley staff wants to continue professional development within the school as much as possible, feedback from which has been very positive. There was a discussion about professional development with high school teachers and vertical alignment between O'Maley and the high school. The committee also discussed project-based learning and teaching to the standards.

*(Mr. Favazza left the meeting at 5:49 p.m. to attend a Planning Board meeting.)*

Mr. Destino discussed the O'Maley Academy program and noted that participation has been incredible. He indicated that more than half of the offerings are taught by O'Maley staff and that community members also come in to teach programs.

With respect to the ELL goal, Mr. Destino reported that all staff, with the exception of specialists, has had specific training on how to teach ELL students. He noted that O'Maley has a wonderful ELL teacher and they hope to have her full-time next year for increased support. He also reported that Spanish teacher Bianca Robinson has a connection with a professor at Salem State who teaches Spanish to students who need to fulfill community service hours. They are in the process of discussing what those students would then be able to do for the district, such as translation work, one-on-one work with students, making phone calls, etc.

Mr. Destino discussed the grant received for the Learning Commons and indicated that the lower level will become a maker space. He added that they are hoping to bring in sewing machines to make costumes for drama productions. There will also be a green room and a Lego room in the Learning Commons.

Mr. Destino discussed the PBIS behavior program and reported that a group of O'Maley teachers went to Salem to be trained on specific management within the classroom as opposed to the school as a whole. Those teachers will share that information with other teachers. Mr. Destino noted that the program is not working to its fullest potential at this point.

Mr. Destino reported that the committee work will be added to the plan tomorrow. Any necessary changes will be made and the teachers will vote on the plan. A two-thirds vote is needed for approval. The School Committee will then vote on the plan, after which it will be submitted to the state. The state does not need to approve the plan. Dr. Safier reviewed the template provided by the state of what should be included in the plan.

Dr. Safier indicated that the draft plan should come back to the Program Subcommittee for review in May.

**III. ACTION** – See Item II.A.1 and 2.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT** – On a motion by Ms. Sweet, seconded by Chairperson Clancy, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 2 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the Program Subcommittee Meeting of April 6, 2017 at 6:26 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*