

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Program Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 7, 2016

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

5:00 p.m.

Members Present

Kathy Clancy, Chairperson
Michelle Sweet, Vice Chairperson
Joel Favazza, Member

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Christina Clem, Attendance Supervisor

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Clancy called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

II. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS/DISCUSSION

A. Review of Policies

1. Admission of Students to Elementary Schools, File JF – Dr. Safier reviewed and the committee discussed the changes to the policy, and some additional revisions were made.

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 Admission of Students to Elementary Schools Policy, File JF, as amended.

2. Elementary Attendance Policy, Grades 1-5, File JE – Dr. Safier stated that there is a new law regarding notification of parents/guardians of students who are absent.

(Mr. Favazza left the meeting to attend another meeting.)

Dr. Safier reported that 28% of the district's elementary school students have been absent 10 or more times so far this year, 8% have been absent 15 or more times, and 3% have been absent 20 or more times. He recommended that more research be done to find out the demographics of the students who have high absences and possibly sending out a letter reminding parents/guardians of the importance of attendance.

Dr. Safier reviewed and the committee discussed the proposed revisions to the existing elementary attendance policy, including the difference between excused and unexcused absences, and additional revisions were made.

Ms. Clem discussed what she does during a typical day, including court appearances and meetings with students and administrators. She also discussed the possibility of implementing attendance initiatives such as rewards for perfect attendance. Dr. Safier requested that she do some research on other possible attendance incentives.

On a motion by Ms. Sweet, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 2 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the full School Committee that we approve the Elementary Attendance Policy, Grades 1-5, File JE, as amended.

- B. Review of Gloucester High School Start Time** – Dr. Safier reported that other schools on the North Shore are looking closely at this issue and indicated that Dr. Unobskey is doing some research on it. There was a discussion about how a later start time would affect the scheduling of athletic events. This matter was tabled until the next meeting.

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

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

VOTED: 2 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the Program Subcommittee Meeting of April 7, 2016 at 5:53 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*