

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Program Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Superintendent's Office

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 (6:02)

Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Clancy called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

II. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS/DISCUSSION

A. Parent Partnership Series – The committee discussed ideas to inform parents on what is happening and engage them in the schools, such as curriculum information nights, social media and online habits, school safety, and anxiety. Mr. Bach suggested inviting Doug Fodeman back for a presentation on online safety and indicated that there was a great turnout (over 100 families) for the community literacy night held at City Hall earlier this year. He also noted that if kids are performing at events, families are more likely to attend these types of sessions.

Mr. Bach reported that attendance is a major problem in the district and that we need community-wide support to address that issue.

Mr. Bach reported that he has heard from parents that the open houses (i.e. Meet the Teacher Night) are not great. There was a discussion about changing teacher handouts that are typically given out that night to a Google document with links to what parents need to know during the year, and including presentations by kids on open house nights. Mr. Bach suggested creating a parent survey or inviting parents to be part of a focus group to get feedback and come up with ideas for the open houses.

There was a discussion about presenting the topic of school safety, and Mr. Bach noted that presentations by the police department can be frightening. Chairperson Clancy suggested creating some informational videos with help from 1623 Studios on what happens during safety drills at each grade level, narrated by the principals, which can be shared with parents. Mr. Favazza suggested requiring parents and students to watch a series of videos at the beginning of the school year, like the training videos that student athletes have to watch before they can play sports.

Mr. Bach indicated that he will bring that up at the next leadership meeting.

- B. Crowdfunding** – The committee reviewed the draft crowdfunding policy from MASC. Mr. Bach spoke about the Artsonia website, which sells students’ artwork on mugs, tee-shirts, etc. and provides a percentage of the sales back to the school for art supplies. He indicated that art teachers should not be directly soliciting parents of their students to purchase their child’s artwork. Rather, the opportunity to buy artwork should be posted on the website or communicated by the principal.

(Dr. Safier joined the meeting at 6:02 p.m.)

Dr. Safier indicated that he will research other policies, and the committee discussed the definition of “crowdfunding.”

III. ACTION – None.

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 May 9, 2019 at 6:22 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*