

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Program Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

City Hall – Kyrouz Auditorium

5:30 p.m.

Members Present

Val Gilman, Chairperson
Roger Garberg, Vice Chairman (5:43 p.m.)
Kathy Clancy

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Dr. Shayne Trubisz, Assistant Superintendent
Principal Gregg Bach
Principal Jean Perry
Principal Tammy Morgan

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gilman called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m., stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools, and welcomed the principals to the meeting.

II. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS/DISCUSSION

- A. Elementary School Attendance Policy – First Reading** – Chairperson Gilman stated that she would prefer not to do the first reading at the full School Committee meeting later tonight but rather wait to get the minutes of this subcommittee meeting and do the first reading at the June 13th School Committee meeting. Dr. Safier believes there will be plenty of time to put the policy into final form to be put into effect in September.

Mr. Bach stated that the changes made to Draft #1 of the policy as a result of the May 3rd subcommittee meeting have been reviewed by the principals, teachers and site-based councils and that Naomi Stonberg also provided some recommendations for inclusion in the policy. Mr. Bach reviewed Draft #2 of the policy, and the subcommittee discussed the following:

- Whether a situation where a student is sent home by the school nurse should be counted towards the maximum 12 absences. Mr. Bach noted that students sent home after three hours at school are not marked as absent.
- Students who walk to school that come in late – parents will be called by the principal.
- Middle school attendance policy
- Including a reference to 51A or DCF – Mr. Bach recommended acknowledging the possibility of DCF involvement in the policy.
- Parents requesting expensive testing for students who have a high number of absences

After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Mr. Garberg, it was unanimously

VOTED: 3 in favor zero opposed, to approve the first reading of the Elementary School Attendance Policy as presented and edited on May 23, 2012 (Draft #3).

Possible next steps outlined between subcommittee members, superintendent and principals:

- First reading on June 13, 2012
- Second reading on June 27, 2012
- Principals suggested sending policy to parents/guardians over the summer with a letter inviting feedback and questions and perhaps directing them to a website with FAQs about the policy.
- Parent information nights during the first or second week of school.
- Follow up at parent conference nights at the end of September.

III. ACTION – See above.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 3 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the Program Subcommittee Meeting of May 23, 2012 at 6:47 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*