

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Program Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Val Gilman, Chairperson
Roger Garberg, Vice Chairman
Kathy Clancy

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Dr. Shayne Trubisz, Assistant Superintendent
Ann-Marie Jordan, Health Coordinator

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gilman called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

II. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS/DISCUSSION

- A. Health Education Policy Update** – Ann-Marie Jordan stated that this policy was extensively reviewed and revised in 2008 with input from community members, health and PE teachers, administrators, and sex education experts, such as Joy Robinson Lynch from DESE. There was also an extensive amount of training for staff, including training PE teachers to provide puberty education for all fifth grade students.

Ms. Jordan indicated that Mass. law mandates parental/guardian notification. She reviewed the notification letter templates and stated that the high school also provides notification via the automated phone messaging system. Dr. Safier indicated that the notification letters could become a standard part of the packets for parents/guardians for fall enrollment.

Ms. Jordan recommended having a checklist for administrators to remind them of the need to notify parents and guardians. Chairperson Gilman suggested posting the curriculum on the website and including a link to the website on the notification letters. Ms. Jordan would also like to encourage parents/guardians to have conversations if they have questions or concerns about the curriculum. Dr. Trubisz recommended putting the core curriculum in a PDF document that can be emailed to all of the teachers every year.

Ms. Jordan reviewed the policy, and the subcommittee discussed the process of parents exempting their child from the curriculum.

Chairperson Gilman made a motion, seconded by Kathy Clancy, to recommend to the full School Committee that, consistent with the requirements of M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 32A, the administration provide full and timely parental/guardian notification of all aspects of the Comprehensive Health and Sex Education Policy, including the posting of the curriculum on the district website. After discussion, Mr. Garberg proposed an amendment that the motion be inscribed in paragraph 2 of the policy.

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

VOTED: 3 in favor zero opposed, to recommend to the full School Committee that paragraph 2 of File IHAMB, Comprehensive Health and Sex Education Policy, be amended as follows:

- a) The administration shall provide full and timely parental/guardian notification of all aspects of this policy.
- b) The curriculum will be placed on the district website.
- c) Parents/guardians shall be made aware that on written request, they may withdraw their child(ren) from any portion of the sex education curriculum, confident that no child so withdrawn shall be penalized by reason of such a withdrawal.

Chairperson Gilman will check with Mike Gilbert to see if a first and second reading of the amended policy is needed.

Ms. Jordan left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

- B. Endorsement/Educational Merits of Smaller Community vs. Larger Elementary Schools** – Dr. Safier recommended that the GPSD continue with the spirit, philosophy and manifestation of the Plan for Effective Learning Communities, which calls for smaller community elementary schools. He stated that he has received enrollment projections from the MSBA which he will report at the School Committee meeting on Wednesday. He also indicated that the district needs to build upon the work done by Dr. Connelly with respect to space needs and to examine the long-term and short-term needs of the buildings and what the capital plan is going to be to help support the schools.

After discussion of the MSBA feasibility study and enrollment projections, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Chairperson Gilman, it was unanimously

VOTED: 3 in favor zero opposed, to recommend to the full School Committee that we endorse and reaffirm our commitment to smaller community elementary schools which are consistent with the Plan for Effective Learning Communities based on educational merit.

Dr. Safier summarized the results of the K-12 Insight survey, which were overwhelmingly in favor of smaller community schools, and Chairperson Gilman requested that Mr. Garberg summarize the survey data so the results can be reported to the community. Dr. Safier stated that he will draft a Q&A on the educational merits of smaller community schools.

- C. Special Education Parent Advisory Council** – Dr. Safier stated that the SEPAC met on May 10th and that seven parents have shown interest in belonging to the group. The next meeting is scheduled for June 13th. The co-presidents are Jennifer Messier and Tricia Reed, and they have asked the district to fund a MassPAC membership. JoAnne Reis will put \$500 into the grant if possible. Dr. Safier will clarify this. Chairperson Gilman would like to get the SEPAC flyer distributed to parents. Kathy Clancy asked whether local pediatricians would be invited to participate in the SEPAC.

III. ACTION

IV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Mr. Garberg, it was unanimously

VOTED: 3 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the Program Subcommittee Meeting of June 7, 2012 at 8:35 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*