

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Program Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 14, 2017

District Office Conference Room

2 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

4:30 p.m.

Members Present

Kathy Clancy, Chairperson

Michelle Sweet

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent

Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent

Matt Fusco, Veterans Principal

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Clancy called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

II. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS/DISCUSSION

(At this time, the agenda was taken out of order.)

C. Therapy Dog in School -- Mr. Fusco reminded the committee that Veterans is a trauma-sensitive school. He indicated that his speech and language therapist got her dog trained over the summer as a certified therapy dog and he and some of his staff have been exploring how the dog could be used at school, including enticing kids to come to school, teaching responsibility by walking the dog and cleaning up after it, etc. Mr. Fusco indicated that he would like to have the dog at school one or two days a week to start off.

The committee discussed the policy entitled “Animals in Schools,” File IMG, and Dr. Safier indicated that he would like to include specific language regarding therapy dogs. Mr. Bach stated that the policy should state that therapy dogs are to be arranged and provided by the district. Dr. Safier and Mr. Fusco will research language to be included in the policy.

B. Supplemental Guide to the GPS Student Handbooks – Dr. Safier stated that a parent had asked if there was a quick resource for parents to access things that apply to their children. Dr. Safier created the Supplemental Guide by copying Section J of the Policy Manual and noted that the Table of Contents is automated and the document is searchable. If approved by the full School Committee, the guide would go out via School Messenger to all parents as a Google Doc with instructions.

Dr. Safier indicated that there a couple of minor changes to two of the policies and he is asking the committee to vote on those changes so that the revised policies can be included in the Supplemental Guide. The first policy to be revised is “Physical

Examinations of Students”, File JLCA. Dr. Safier indicated that the district no longer has a school physician who is responsible for doing physical examinations. He stated that the nurse practitioner from the Student Health Center now does the examinations.

The second policy to be revised is the policy entitled “After School Activities,” File JJ. Dr. Safier indicated that CFO Tom Lafleur recommended adding the words “and department heads” after the word “Principals” at the beginning of the last sentence under the heading “Participation Fees.”

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

VOTED: 2 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the full School Committee that the policy entitled “Physical Examinations of Students,” File JLCA, be revised by replacing the words “school physician” and “physician” with “nurse practitioner,” as recommended by the Superintendent.

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

VOTED: 2 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the full School Committee that the policy entitled “After School Activities,” File JJ, be revised by adding the words “and department heads” after the word “Principals” at the beginning of the last sentence under the heading “Participation Fees,” as recommended by the Superintendent.

Ms. Sweet suggested that the School Committee Policy Manual be referenced in an introduction to the Supplemental Guide.

After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Sweet, seconded by Chairperson Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 2 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the full School Committee that we approve the Supplemental Guide to the Gloucester Public Schools Student Handbooks with the addition of an introduction.

- A. Review of Sexual Education Curriculum** – Since Mr. Favazza requested this information and is not present at the meeting, this item was tabled.

III. ACTION – See Items II.B and C.

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 September 14, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*