

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Program Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 4, 2013

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

2:30 p.m.

Members Present

Val Gilman, Chairperson

Roger Garberg

Kathy Clancy

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent

Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent

Ann-Marie Jordan, Student Health

Coordinator

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Gilman called the meeting to order at 2:36 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

II. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS/DISCUSSION

A. Bullying Policy, File JICFB – Dr. Safier reviewed the revision made to this policy which adds school staff to the definition of bullying in compliance with the new law. After discussion, it was the consensus of the subcommittee to remove the added language defining “perpetrator.”

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

VOTED: 3 in favor zero opposed, to recommend to the full School Committee that we approve the Policy to Prevent Bullying, File JIFCB, as amended by the Program Subcommittee on October 4, 2013.

Chairperson Gilman reviewed the minutes of the December 6, 2012 subcommittee meeting regarding next steps, and Ms. Jordan shared some flyers on cyberbullying, social networking and electronics. Ms. Jordan indicated that she has contacted the Mass. Aggression Reduction Center with respect to scheduling a forum sometime in early December for middle and upper elementary school parents. She also suggested inviting our neighboring school districts and private schools. Dr. Safier recommended providing students with some incentive for bringing their parents/guardians to the forum.

Ms. Jordan believes that “The Yellow Dress” performance will be taking place at the high school again this year. She also indicated that there has been conversation about bringing a different performance-based program to the middle school. Finally, Mr. Garberg requested an update later in the year on discipline and behavior issues as a result of the anti-bullying policy.

- B. Sawyer Medal Policy, File KCDA** – Dr. Safier reiterated that O’Maley principal Debra Lucey reviewed this policy and said that everything is great. However, she believes that the word “cumulative” should be inserted before the word “average” in paragraph number 2. After discussion, the same addition was made to paragraph 2 in the section regarding Gloucester High School.

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 we approve the Sawyer Medal Policy, File KCDA, as amended by the Program Subcommittee on October 4, 2013.

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

- E. Student and Staff Fundraising Policy, File JJE** – Dr. Safier reported that Naomi Stonberg is in the process of reviewing the paragraph regarding raffles and that he has asked her to expedite her opinion on that issue.

Dr. Safier reviewed the language added to highlight the examples set out in paragraph III.C with respect to fundraising by outside organizations. After a lengthy discussion, the following language was added: “Solicitation of donations, contributions or sales by an organization or company that uses paid solicitors is not an acceptable fundraising activity.”

Dr. Safier indicated that he will ask Chairman Pope to explain his concerns regarding this policy. This matter will be discussed further at the next meeting.

- C. Admission of Students to Elementary Schools Policy, File JF** – Kathy Clancy stated that when there are situations where class sizes or the makeup of the class due to intradistrict choice presents a particular challenge, resources should be allocated accordingly to support the teachers in that situation. After a lengthy discussion, she suggested reporting back to the full committee that the consensus of the subcommittee is that the policy as written is sufficient to address the unique circumstances that come up from time to time.

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

VOTED: 3 in favor zero opposed, to recommend to the full School Committee that we approve the Admission of Students to Elementary Schools Policy, File JF, based on the Program Subcommittee’s reendorsement of the policy.

- D. Time on Learning/Extended Learning Time** – Dr. Safier reported that he has not yet received clarification from the DESE regarding the district’s compliance with time on learning. He also reported that most of the district’s federal grants should be carried over through the government shutdown but that the Universal Breakfast in the Classroom program will not be reimbursed during the shutdown. Extended learning time will be discussed at the next meeting.

III. ACTION – See above.

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 October 4, 2013 at 4:20 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*