

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Program Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 6, 2018

District Office Conference Room

2 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

5:15 p.m.

Members Present

Kathy Clancy, Chairperson

Joel Favazza, Member

Jonathan Pope, Alternate

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent

Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent

Gary Frisch, Director of Finance
and Operations

James Cook, GHS Principal

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Clancy called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

II. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS/DISCUSSION

A. Vocational Program Update – Mr. Cook, Mr. Frisch and Dr. Safier reviewed the progress made on the safety checklist. Dr. Safier reported that they will be having conversations with Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School (ENSATS) and the Construction and Craft Laborer’s Local 22 with respect to helping to refurbish the shops during the summer.

Mr. Cook reported that Local 22 gave a presentation to the junior class on November 13th and a follow-up two weeks later with outreach to specific students and parents. A smaller group was then invited to another presentation to ask questions. Mr. Cook stated that Local 22 is working on the room to be used for the pilot program.

B. Enrollment/Class Size as it relates to Modular Classroom Planning – Dr. Safier stated that he was asked to look at the logistics of reducing Beeman from three to two classrooms per grade. He noted that if there were to be a change in enrollment of the new East Gloucester school, the district would need to reapply. Therefore, we would be restricted to sending Beeman students to Plum Cove and West Parish only.

Mr. Pope noted that after the new school is built, the district can do whatever it wants in terms of catchment areas.

Chairperson Clancy stated that she would like to hear the educational implications of redistricting Beeman students. Mr. Bach reviewed the report entitled “Educational and Facility Considerations for a Hypothetical Closing of 6 Modulares at Beeman,” including the capacity for larger class sizes, managing high needs students and social/emotional issues, lost office space and small group work areas, reallocation of

staffing, transportation and parking issues at West Parish and Plum Cove, and community integration.

Mr. Bach stated that he would like to know the existing condition of the modular units and recommended asking the DPW what it will take to get them to last for five more years. Mr. Pope indicated that the committee should request a report from the DPW about their life expectancy and future costs.

Chairperson Clancy expressed her concern with redistricting Beeman students given the progress that the district has made academically, especially since we have a new school being built. She would like to focus on the educational implications of this move and stated that she does not see any benefit to increasing class sizes.

Mr. Pope believes it is important to talk about the possibilities now because there will come a time when the DPW will say the modulars are no longer viable. Chairperson Clancy stated that moving kids from Beeman to Plum Cove would be taxing the modulars there and would be compromising confidentiality and the delivery of services to kids. Mr. Favazza suggested that the committee keep talking to find the right scenario before the modulars fail, and Mr. Pope noted that once the new East Gloucester School is built, it could be part of the solution to the modular issue.

This matter was referred to the Building & Finance Subcommittee to discuss the life expectancy and costs associated with maintaining the modular units.

Finally, Chairperson Clancy stated for the record that the educational implications or pieces related to the modular units is not enough to drive a shift in students; rather, any shift would be driven by a facilities need.

III. ACTION – None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by Mr. Pope, seconded by Mr. Favazza, it was unanimously

VOTED: 3 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the Program Subcommittee Meeting of December 6, 2018 at 6:51 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*