

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Program Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 12, 2019

District Office Conference Room

2 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

4:00 p.m.

Members Present

Kathy Clancy, Chairperson

Michelle Sweet, Vice Chairperson

Joel Favazza, Member

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent

Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Clancy called the meeting to order at 4:04 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.)

B. GHS Attendance Language – Mr. Bach discussed the issue regarding the use of the terms “excused” versus “unexcused” absences. He distributed and the committee discussed a document setting out the current terms and practices as well as his proposed terms to communicate absences to parents. For example, what is now called an “unexcused absence” would be defined as short-term illness, family vacation, or unknown, and “excused absences” would be long-term illness, court, bereavement, religious holiday, and college visit. Dr. Safier noted that students are allowed six unexcused absences per quarter before any potential consequences are incurred. Mr. Bach proposed discussing this matter at the next leadership meeting (around January 9th) and coming back to subcommittee to review the new language.

A. Draft Proposal on Crowdfunding – Dr. Safier reviewed the Model Crowdfunding Policy and indicated that he has not yet heard back from Naomi Stonberg about it.

On a motion by Ms. Sweet, seconded by Mr. Favazza, it was unanimously

VOTED: 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the full School Committee that we approve the Model Crowdfunding Policy pending legal review.

Chairperson Clancy noted that the GPS website and the GHS and O’Maley turnaround plans are still outstanding. Dr. Safier reported that James Cook will make a presentation to the full committee in January on the GHS turnaround plan. There was a discussion about whether it should go to subcommittee first. Mr. Bach suggested that the plan be presented to the subcommittee for a discussion of the implications, how things are changing at the high

school, and what kinds of professional development are involved. The subcommittee can then identify the most important things that should be shared with full the full committee. Mr. Bach stated that there is no turnaround plan yet for the middle school.

III. ACTION – Item II.A.

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

VOTED: 3 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the Program Subcommittee Meeting of December 12, 2019 at 4:34 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*