

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**Program Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes**

Friday, May 13, 2011

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

9:45 a.m.

**Members**

Roger Garberg, Chairman

Michelle Sweet

Val Gilman

**Administration Present**

Superintendent Elect Dr. Richard Safier

Assistant Superintendent Shayne Trubisz

Beeman Principal Ellen Sibley

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Garberg called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools. He noted that it is great to have Dr. Safier at the meeting.

**II. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS/DISCUSSION**

**At this time, the Agenda was taken out of order.**

- C. **BSRI Initiative** – In anticipation of having a projected year-end unspent balance, due to the cost savings of administration in order to save for this evidence based literacy initiative, the district might be in a position to purchase this program. Principal Ellen Sibley updated the subcommittee on issues that have come up and lessons that have been learned at Beeman and shared the following comments and recommendations:

Principal Sibley noted that it was overwhelming to receive all of the materials at once in the fall. She stated that it was a huge task to inventory the materials and that it would be helpful if the teachers could leave in June with their manuals so they can review them over the summer. She suggested ordering the teachers' manuals first. There was a discussion of turnaround time once the materials are ordered and what needs to be done once the materials are received.

Principal Sibley stated that BSRI is going to work with Beeman and Veterans again, and they would not be able to take on anyone else until January. A discussion was held on whether West Parish and Plum Cove would meet the BSRI benchmark of low income students.

Principal Sibley stressed the importance of having building-based literacy coaches. Dr. Trubisz agreed and stated that there will also be professional development this summer and next fall for the schools that are getting the reading program.

Mrs. Gilman reported on her "multiage field study" visit to the Saltonstall School in Salem and their "Friday Club," during which community members come to the school and do sessions with the kids (i.e. golf, pottery, drama, computers). The

purpose is twofold. First, it allows teachers to attend professional development and have additional time to collaborate. Second, it fosters community involvement with interested volunteers who are eager to share their talents with students. There was a discussion about implementing such a program in the Gloucester elementary schools, calling upon the PTOs to apply for enrichment grants, and possibly consider the use of Title I funds and the Race to the Top grant. Dr. Safier thought that this might be worth investigating because it would also reduce substitute teaching expenses if we had trained volunteers offering enrichment sessions to our students. Dr. Trubisz felt it would be worth looking into and volunteered to get in touch with her contact at the Saltonstall School.

Principal Sibley indicated that a complete set of comparison data for Beeman will be available very soon and that there has definitely been an upward swing in students' performance. However, she stated that data results from fall to winter are not a good measure of the success of the BSRI program.

- B. School Choice Advertising and Promotion** – Mrs. Gilman asked Principal Sibley for her opinion on the date for admission requests for school choice in from other districts. She indicated that per our intra-district transfer policy, we need to accept our choice students by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Trubisz recommended that the principals be able to weigh in on that date.

Mrs. Gilman encouraged Dr. Safier to address the fact that Rockport is aggressively pursuing Gloucester students in order to achieve their revenue needs. Dr. Safier will meet with their superintendent as part of his entry plan. Mrs. Gilman would also like him to determine how many places are available at each of our schools in each grade level and report back to the full School Committee at the next meeting so that the public will know that there are in-district and school choice openings. There was a discussion of holding another open house at O'Maley School.

After discussion, on a motion by Mrs. Gilman, seconded by Mrs. Sweet, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 3 in favor zero opposed, to support the Superintendent's initiative to develop a "My View" column and/or advertisement in the Gloucester Daily Times to communicate to the community school choice availabilities for the next school year.

**A. Strategic Development Review**

1. Discussion of Preliminary Results – Chairman Garberg reported on progress in analysis of GPS *Community Satisfaction Survey 2011* (CSS 2011). He noted that stakeholders in the survey sample are particularly interested in curriculum (including foreign language in the middle and elementary schools),

student learning, engagement and attitudes, and teaching quality. Analysis and interpretation of these and other data from CSS 2011 will be taken up at the next meeting of the subcommittee.

2. Developing a Communication Plan to Share Results with Stakeholders –  
A discussion was held on addressing the perceptions (and perhaps misconceptions) that the community has about curriculum, etc. Mrs. Gilman suggested that Chairman Garberg do a “My View” column after it has been discussed with the staff to show that the Superintendent’s goals are a reflection of the feedback we have received from the community.

There was a discussion about scheduling a special Programs meeting to discuss the data. Chairman Garberg indicated that he will provide a draft report for discussion at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

#### **D. Policy Review**

**At this time, the Agenda was taken out of order.**

2. Review of Policies on Oversight and Responsibilities of Volunteers and Part-Time Persons Working in and for the Schools – This item was tabled to the next meeting. Dr. Safier requested that the subcommittee itemize exactly what they are looking for, and Mrs. Gilman stated that she will get Naomi Stonberg’s thoughts the next time she talks to her.
1. After School Policy – The subcommittee reviewed and made recommendations on a revised amendment to the “Participation” section of the after school policy. Dr. Safier indicated that state law was silent as to charter school student participation in programming offered by a public school district. Mrs. Sweet recalled public testimony offered by GPS middle school parents who complained that their children would be denied ice time when players who were Gloucester residents but unenrolled in GPS were recruited to play on the team. She suggested that MIAA rules should be reflected in all sports programming, not just programming at the high school. Since we currently have an eighth grader from O’Maley participating in a varsity sport at GHS, this suggestion was further discussed as a viable alternative to our current policy.

After discussion, the following language was proposed for the “Participation” section of the after school policy:

“After-school programs shall be open to all students at the appropriate grade level who are enrolled in the Gloucester Public School District.

For a student to practice with or represent a Gloucester Public School in athletic competition, the student must be duly enrolled in that school.

After-school programs shall be open to students not enrolled in the district where required by state law.

Participation in both middle and high school interscholastic athletics shall be in accordance with the regulations and recommendations of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Any non-Gloucester Public School District student participating in any after-school activity at the middle school level as of the date of adoption of this policy may continue to participate in that activity until they graduate from eighth grade.

In light of the longstanding relationship between St. Ann's School and the Gloucester Public Schools in the Mad Hot Ball activity, St. Ann's School students are eligible to participate in that activity.

In the case of students attending schools outside of the Gloucester Public School District, written proof of parental approval must be provided for their participation in any after school activity.

In order to train or compete or participate, students must be in good standing academically and socially, attend school on the day in question, and have paid any applicable participation fees.”

After discussion, on a motion by Mrs. Gilman, seconded by Mrs. Sweet, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 3 in favor zero opposed, to recommend to the full School Committee the approval of the revision to policy File IHC entitled “After School Activities” by substituting the above text for the section entitled “Participation.”

#### **E. Planning for Next Meeting**

**At this time, the Agenda was taken out of order.**

3. Meeting with GEF Programs – Mrs. Gilman would like to find out what the participation has been for all of the after school activities. She recommended that the GEF come to a full School Committee meeting and indicated that she will talk to Maggie and Joe Rosa about it.

*Note: Mrs. Gilman left the meeting at 12:25 p.m.*

2. Math Graduation Requirements – A discussion was held on requiring four years of math for graduation and the staffing implications of doing so.

**III. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mrs. Sweet, seconded by Mr. Garberg, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 2 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the Program Sub-Committee Meeting of May 13, 2011 at 12:30 p.m.

*Maria Puglisi*  
*Recording Secretary*