

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Special Program Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 16, 2011

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

9:00 a.m.

Members Present

Roger Garberg, Chairman

Val Gilman

Kathy Clancy (alternate)

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Garberg called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

Chairman Garberg stated that he was attending today's meeting only in his role as chairman and that he had already made it clear to School Committee Chairperson Gilman that he was not in support of the amended after school policy that included two-tiered fees unless it included the Cooperation Agreement for participating schools that he had presented at last week's Program Subcommittee meeting.

Mrs. Gilman thanked Mr. Garberg for attending to fulfill his role as chairman. (Note: This MOU was not approved for recommendation to the full committee.)

II. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS/DISCUSSION

A. Continuation of After-School Policy/Next Step – Mrs. Gilman presented drafted language to be included in the after school activity sign-up form for Gloucester residents not attending the GPSD, which reminds parents that most of our after school programs are subsidized and/or funded by the GEF and the GFAA and asks them to promote those non-profit organizations and their fundraising efforts. This was information that she took from Chairman Garberg's proposed memorandum of understanding.

The subcommittee compared policy File IHC adopted by the School Committee on January 12, 2005 with the language drafted by Chairman Garberg that was reviewed at the last Program Subcommittee meeting. Revisions were made to the original policy, and the revised policy is attached hereto.

Chairman Garberg left the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Dr. Safier left the meeting at 10:07 a.m. to attend another meeting.

After discussion, on a motion by Mrs. Gilman, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was

VOTED: 2 in favor zero opposed, to recommend to the full School Committee a first reading of policy File IHC entitled “After School Activities” as revised by the Program Subcommittee on 9/16/11.

After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Mrs. Gilman, it was

VOTED: 2 in favor zero opposed, to recommend to the full School Committee that the determination of appropriate participation fees for after school programs for non-GPSD students who are residents of Gloucester be referred to the Building and Finance Subcommittee.

Kathy Clancy and Mrs. Gilman reviewed and revised the draft language provided by Mrs. Gilman to be included in the after school activity sign-up form for Gloucester residents not attending the GPSD. (See attached.)

Stephanie Delisi joined the meeting at 11:24 a.m. for five minutes.

Mrs. Gilman requested that Mrs. Puglisi email the revised language to Mrs. Delisi to be incorporated into the after school program sign-up form(s) for non-GPSD students and presented to the full School Committee at the next meeting.

The subcommittee will ask Dr. Safier to share the revised after school policy with the administrative team and Athletic Director and share any feedback at the next School Committee meeting. Mrs. Gilman also requested that Dr. Safier work with Debra Lucey and John Madama to identify the specific after school programs that are curriculum related and to present that information at the next School Committee meeting when this policy is discussed.

Kathy Clancy reiterated that if the full committee approves this amended policy, she would recommend that Chairperson Gilman send letters to the other schools in the community (Faith Christian School, St. Ann’s School, Eastern Point Day School, and the Gloucester Community Arts Charter School) communicating the approved policy so that their students may be aware of the opportunities available in the Gloucester Public Schools.

Dr. Safier rejoined the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

Mrs. Gilman stressed the importance of communicating to parents the repertoire of the after school programs, clubs and sports available to students.

III. ACTION – None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Gilman, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was

VOTED: 2 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the Program Sub-Committee Meeting of September 16, 2011 at 11:41 a.m.

Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Purpose

The School Committee believes that participation in after school programs provides students with important opportunities for extending their learning after the formal school day.

After school activities typically involve the extension and acquisition of personal and team knowledge and skills, including critical thinking and problem solving and the development of social and emotional intelligence through participation in collaborative and team pursuits. After school activities provide students with opportunities for exploring new interests, disciplined commitment, creativity, leadership, citizenship, the practice of ethical behavior, and accountability to their peers.

After school activities also provide an opportunity for students to relate to adults in a less formal setting than the classroom. Sponsors of after school activities and athletic coaches have opportunities to be significant role models, to share enthusiasms, knowledge and skills, and to enable students to work together towards common purposes and shared goals.

Success in competition or excellence in performance should not be the sole criterion of quality. Opportunity for student participation and development are also important goals of after school programs.

Participation

With certain exceptions, all after school programs shall be open to students at the appropriate grade level who are residents of Gloucester, subject to their meeting all the eligibility criteria that must be satisfied by students attending the Gloucester Public School District (GPSD) and payment of the appropriate participation fees. Restricted programs shall be available only to students enrolled in the GPSD and to others where required by state law.

After school and summer programs that directly support GPSD curriculum are restricted to enrolled GPSD students at the appropriate grade level. A list of those after school curriculum-related programs will be identified by the superintendent at the time of program offerings.

Restricted athletic programs are as follows:

1. High school (MIAA) interscholastic athletics
2. Middle school cut-sports (those competitive sports in which a team/squad representing the school is selected by its coach, e.g. hockey)
3. No-cut sports in which a limited number of students are on a middle school team/squad (e.g. field hockey)

Students who do not attend the GPSD may participate in no-cut competitive athletic events (e.g. track and field and cross country) as individuals but not represent a Gloucester public school.

Gloucester students who are home-schooled and are therefore considered the responsibility of the GPSD are entitled to participate in all activities, including cut sports if there are insufficient GPSD students to make up a team/squad.

All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that GPSD-enrolled students will have first priority for programs that are over-subscribed. Programs that are routinely over-subscribed should be considered for designation as “restricted.” In addition, the superintendent, in consultation with the School Committee, shall designate any other after school program restricted if he/she believes that opening the program to students outside the GPSD will impact the opportunities of the program for GPSD students.

Theatrical productions at GPSD schools, unless they are under-subscribed, are restricted to GPSD students.

Middle school extracurricular after school programs will first be open to enrolled GPSD students. If openings are available after the initial enrollment period, students attending schools outside the GPSD may participate on a first come/first served basis.

In addition, the GPSD elementary/middle school band will be open to students outside the GPSD who reside in Gloucester.

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

Participation in interscholastic athletics shall require the presentation of written proof of parental approval, medical insurance, and fitness to participate signed by a certified physician prior to participation.

Written proof of parental approval must be provided for a student’s participation in any after school activity. In the case of students attending schools outside the GPSD, written proof of parental approval must be provided for participation in any after school activity. The note of approval must be countersigned by the Principal of the school attended by the student to confirm the school’s awareness of the participation.

In order to train, 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 fee.

Participation Fees

The School Committee shall set annual participation fees for different activities. Fee schedules may differ for GPSD enrolled versus non-GPSD enrolled participants and will be updated annually.

Principals have discretion to waive participation fees for GPSD students who would otherwise be prevented from participating in the program.

Activity sponsors and coaches shall be responsible for the timely collection of participation fees.

Principals will be responsible for the timely banking of participation fees in appropriate revolving accounts.

Activity Sponsors and Athletic Coaches

The appointment of activity sponsors and athletic coaches shall be recommended to the superintendent by the relevant school principal, who shall also be responsible for evaluation arrangements at the conclusion of each athletic season or activity year.

Coaches will be paid a stipend for each season for which they are responsible after the end of the season.

Sponsors of an after school activity will receive payment at the end of the school year.

In order to secure progression in opportunities and expectations, the principal of O'Maley Middle School will consult with the Athletic Director of GHS on the scope of the middle school program and the appointment of coaches.

School Committee Funding and Support

Within the overall budget available, the School Committee will endeavor to provide funding support for after school activities, taking account of projected participation fees and other revenue generated by the activity.

The School Committee appreciates the opportunities for after school activities that are provided by volunteers.

After School Extracurricular Sign-Up Form 2011/2012

For Gloucester residents not attending the Gloucester Public School District

Thanks for your interest in participating in after school programs offered by the Gloucester Public School District (GPSD)!

Your student may be eligible to participate in a variety of non-restricted after-school programs offered by the GPSD. Restrictions and conditions for participation, in addition to eligibility requirements and fees, are contained in the GPSD policy found at www.gloucesterschools.com.

Most of our after school programs are subsidized and, in many cases, funded by two important non-profit school district partners, the Gloucester Education Foundation, www.thinkthebest.org, and the Gloucester Fisherman Athletic Association, www.gloucesterathletics.org.

So that the Gloucester Public School District can continue to offer these wonderful enrichment programs for all of Gloucester's students, even during difficult budgetary times, we ask that your family actively promote our two non-profit partners and their respective fund-raising efforts.