

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Amended School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

District Office – Conference Room

2 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Kathy Clancy, Vice Chairperson
Joel Favazza, Secretary
Melissa Teixeira
Tony Gross (7:40 p.m.)
Michelle Sweet
Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Dr. Arthur Unobskey, Asst. Superintendent
Tom Lafleur, CPA, Director of Finance
and Operations
James Cook, GHS Principal

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Vice Chairperson Clancy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**
- III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** – None.
- IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON** – None.
- V. RECOGNITIONS** – Dr. Safier introduced students from the West Parish *Wizard of Oz* ensemble, who performed four songs from their recent production.
- VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Roy Kirwa introduced himself and updated the committee on events happening at Gloucester High School.
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Approval of Minutes**
 - 1. Building & Finance Subcommittee of December 21, 2016
 - 2. School Committee & Executive Session of January 11, 2017
 - 3. Building & Finance Subcommittee of January 18, 2017
 - B. Approval of Warrants** – Cover Sheets
 - C. Approval of Transfers** – December 21, 2016 to January 6, 2017
 - D. Referrals**

E. Donations

1. \$310.91 from Hockmeyer Studios to the Gloucester Preschool
2. Donation of laptops and desktops from NOAA
3. \$100.00 from John & Janis Bell to the GHS Chorus Program

Vice Chairperson Clancy removed Item A.3 from the Consent Agenda.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- A. SAT/Advanced Placement Report** – Principal Cook presented a slide show on the PSAT, SAT participation and scores, the benefits of AP testing, current AP course offerings, the number of test takers, and AP Scholar Award recipients. The committee discussed the number of students in AP classes and the promotion of SAT prep courses via Kahn Academy.
- B. Superintendent’s Goals for 2017** – Dr. Safier reviewed his Professional Practice, Student Growth, and District SMART Goals for calendar year 2017.

(Mr. Gross joined the meeting at 7:40 p.m.)

After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Sweet, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the Superintendent’s Goals for 2017.

- C. Superintendent’s Report** – Dr. Safier updated the committee on the following matters:

1. Slow Revenue Growth Expected for Remainder of FY17 and FY18
2. FY18 Draft Budget Deliberations – Dr. Safier corrected his report to state that the draft budget will be presented to the committee at the March 1st meeting. Ms. Teixeira, Mr. Favazza and Ms. Sweet stated that they would like an electronic version only of the budget book.
3. Northshore Education Consortium Capital Fund
4. English Language Learners – Mr. Cook spoke about the difficulty of meeting the needs of the recent influx of ELL students. Ms. Teixeira expressed concern with the number of students and suggested we need more than one additional ELL teacher.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the Superintendent’s Report.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of January 18, 2017** – Chairman Gross reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed raising the preschool revolving fund spending limit at its meeting of January 18, 2017.

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor, 1 present (Mayor Theken), to authorize the CFO to request permission from the City Council to raise the preschool revolving fund spending limit to \$125,000.00.

- B. Program Subcommittee Meeting of November 10, 2016** – Chairperson Clancy reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed the GHS start time at its meeting of November 10, 2016, and it was not the will of the subcommittee to move forward with a recommendation at that time.

X. ACTION

A. Approval of Grants

1. Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance Energy North, Inc. Grants – GHS Science teacher Eric Leigh discussed the posters that were placed at the high school in connection with the grant and recognized John Porter and his wife for continuing to apply for these grants.

After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept two Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance Energy North, Inc. grants to Gloucester High School in the amount of \$500.00 each (\$1,000.00 total).

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

VOTED: 0 in favor, 6 opposed to reconsider the vote to accept the above-referenced grants. The motion failed.

2. Massachusetts Life Science Center Equipment Grants – Mr. Favazza stated that there was very little information in the packet about these grants but that they were mentioned in the Gloucester Education Foundation newsletter. Mr. Favazza asked what the collaboration was with the district, and Dr. Safier respectfully stated that he cannot comment on it at this time.

After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Sweet, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was

VOTED: 5 in favor, 1 opposed (Mr. Favazza) to accept two Massachusetts Life Science Center Equipment grants, one to Gloucester High School in the amount of \$109,153.77 and one to O’Maley Innovation Middle School in the amount of \$56,933.53.

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

VOTED: 0 in favor, 6 opposed to reconsider the vote to accept the above-referenced grants. The motion failed.

3. Gloucester Education Foundation Grant – Dr. Safier reported that this grant is designed to provide the district with an educational instructional technology specialist at the high school for two years and includes funds for a STEM coordinator, professional development, and a consultant to continue to work with staff on integrating technology in the classroom.

Mr. Favazza stated that he is thrilled that the GEF is willing to raise funds and make donations to the district but expressed concern about their funding of a salaried position that should be included in the school budget. Dr. Safier responded that the district had an opportunity with the GEF to come to a collaborative agreement on where the district’s priorities lie. He stated that, in certain instances, if the GEF is in a position to facilitate the district’s ability to move these initiatives forward, then we do so and have two years to think about how to bring that position into the budget, which we have been able to do with other positions in the past.

After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Sweet, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a grant from the Gloucester Education Foundation in the amount of \$212,000.00 to support technology integration at Gloucester High School.

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

VOTED: 0 in favor, 6 opposed to reconsider the vote to accept the above-referenced grant. The motion failed.

B. Preschool Revolving Fund Spending Limit – See Item IX.A.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. MSBA Project Update** – Dr. Safier reported that the MSBA has appointed an Owner’s Project Manager and designer for the GHS roof project and that the MSBA is currently reviewing the project budget in order to give its formal approval. He indicated that the city’s projected share of the cost is approximately \$2 million. The OPM and designer are continuing to work on developing the schematic design while we are awaiting MSBA approval.

Dr. Safier reported that he received a phone call from the MSBA asking about the city’s readiness to request an appropriation for the feasibility study with respect to the East Gloucester/Veterans consolidation project if we are invited into the eligibility phase. The estimated cost of the feasibility study is between \$500,000 and \$800,000. Dr. Safier informed the MSBA that the city is prepared to move forward.

XII. ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of January 25, 2017 at 8:37 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*