

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

7:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

Jonathan Pope, Chairman  
Melissa Teixeira, Vice Chairperson  
Kathy Clancy, Secretary  
Tony Gross (8:08 p.m.)  
Michelle Sweet  
Jack O'Maley  
Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken

**Administration Present**

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent  
Gregg Bach, Assistant Superintendent  
Hans Baumhauer, Director of Finance  
and Operations

**Also Present**

City Council President Paul McGeary (7:04)

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools, and welcomed Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken to the committee.
  - II. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**
  - III. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** – None.
  - IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON** – None.
  - V. **RECOGNITIONS** – Mr. O'Maley and Ms. Teixeira welcomed Mayor Theken to the committee. Ms. Teixeira stated that she is looking forward to working with the new city leadership team. Dr. Safier welcomed Mayor Theken on behalf of the school district and thanked the Gloucester Education Foundation for their efforts in obtaining a technology grant for the high school.

*(City Council President Paul McGeary joined the meeting at 7:04 p.m.)*

Chairman Pope noted that Dr. Safier, Mr. Baumhauer and Michelle Harvey were commended by Douglas MacArthur, Chairman of the Gloucester Retirement Board, and Ms. Teixeira reported that Mr. MacArthur visited her at work to make sure she knew how wonderful they were to work with.

- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – None present.
- VII. **CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

1. Building & Finance Subcommittee of December 10, 2014
2. Special School Committee and Executive Session of December 17, 2014
3. School Committee and Executive Session of December 17, 2014

**B. Approval of Warrants – Cover Sheets**

**C. Approval of Transfers**

**D. Referrals**

**E. Acceptance of Gloucester Education Foundation Grants**

1. \$3,059.40 for subscription to Mastering Chemistry at GHS
2. \$30,000.00 to Bay State Reading Institute's program

**F. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip Request – GHS Junior ROTC to Youth Physical Fitness Competition in Aston, Pennsylvania from Friday, March 27, 2015 to Sunday, March 29, 2015**

**G. Approval of Request for Site Use – Letter from Mark L. Nestor, Commander of American Legion Post #3**

**H. Acceptance of Gifts**

1. \$1,200.00 from Donald and Jean Lodge to the GHS Wrestling Program
2. \$400.00 from Lahey Health Shared Services to GHS Impact Testing

**I. Acceptance of Clifton “Cliff” Jermyn Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$500.00**

**J. Acceptance of Exxon Mobil Grants – Two (2) grants in the amount of \$500.00 each to Gloucester High School**

Ms. Teixeira removed Item G from the Consent Agenda.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

Mark Nestor, Commander of the American Legion Post, made a new request for use of the Fuller School property for “The Wall That Heals” traveling exhibit this summer, due to the limitations of the O’Maley parking lots and fields, specifically issues with handicap accessibility. He acknowledged that he may also need the approval of the Mayor/City Council for use of the Fuller property.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the request for use of the Fuller School property for “The Wall That Heals” traveling exhibit from July 6, 2015 through July 13, 2015.

## **VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**A. STEM in our Port Economy** – Susanne Altenburger presented a slide show on the background and work of Phil Bolger & Friends, Inc. and videos showing her late husband and the building of a boat at Maritime Gloucester. She requested that the committee consider providing vocational training for students on boat building.

*(At this time, a five-minute break was taken.)*

*(Mr. Gross joined the meeting at 8:08 p.m.)*

**B. Superintendent’s Evaluation** – Chairman Pope reviewed the process of evaluating the superintendent and read the summative evaluation of Dr. Safier by the School Committee. Members of the committee commended Dr. Safier for his leadership, commitment and hard work, the steady progress he has made in the district, his engagement of parents and the community, and his improvement of the culture in the district. Mr. Gross read the letter from Douglas MacArthur, Chairman of the Gloucester Retirement Board, recommending Dr. Safier’s reappointment. Dr. Safier thanked the committee for taking the time to review his materials and for their dedication to the children of the district.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 1 present (Mayor Theken) to accept the Summative Evaluation of Superintendent Richard Safier by the Gloucester School Committee.

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

1. Gloucester 21C Initiative: Creating a 21st Century High School in Gloucester  
Dr. Safier reported that the amount of the grant is approximately \$195,000 and that it will be used to develop computer programming curriculum at the high school and the hiring of a consultant to develop a plan for technology in the district.
2. Learning Walks
3. FY16 Budget Update
4. FY16-20 Capital Plan Draft

5. FY15 Unanticipated Expenses Update – Dr. Safier distributed an updated spreadsheet of unanticipated special education expenses, showing a total of \$577,224.00. There was a discussion about the parity of DCF residential placements.
6. Food Service Letters regarding \$25 Cap – Dr. Safier reported that there are approximately 112 students at the high school and 137 students at O’Maley who owe more than \$25.00.
7. Employee Handbook
8. Fifth Annual School Breakfast Video Contest

*(Council President McGeary left the meeting at 9:05 p.m.)*

9. Educator Evaluation: ESE Model Student and Staff Feedback Surveys
10. Education Week Ranks Massachusetts First in Nation
11. Public Forum on Strengthening Civic Learning in the Commonwealth
12. DECA Results

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Superintendent’s Report.

**IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS** – None.

**X. ACTION** – None.

**XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

- A. MSBA Project Update** – Dr. Safier reported that the building committee will be reviewing the final amendments on the guaranteed maximum price at its next meeting.
- B. Letter from Douglas MacArthur, Chairperson of Gloucester Retirement Board (1/6/15)**
- C. Extended School Day** – In light of the recent news regarding extended school days in Boston, as well as 38 other communities that have successfully extended their school day, Ms. Teixeira requested that Dr. Safier reach out to other superintendents to explore this matter for the GPSD.
- D. 1:1 Technology Initiative** – Ms. Teixeira inquired as to the next steps with respect to this initiative. Dr. Safier reported that he made a request to the former mayor, who brought it forward to the City Council. He stated that he will be making a

presentation to the City Council Budget & Finance Subcommittee on February 5th with a request for free cash of approximately \$146,000 for this initiative.

- E. Joint City Council/School Committee Meeting** – Chairman Pope reminded the committee that there is a joint School Committee/City Council meeting scheduled for January 22, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the GHS library. The agenda will be forthcoming.

Susanne Altenburger returned to the meeting to retrieve her extension cord and continued speaking about her earlier presentation. Ms. Teixeira raised a point of order, and Chairman Pope stated that Ms. Altenburger already had her opportunity to speak to the committee.

- XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – On a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** By Roll Call Vote

Mr. Gross – yes  
Mr. O’Maley – yes  
Chairman Pope – yes  
Ms. Sweet – yes  
Ms. Teixeira – yes  
Mayor Theken – yes  
Kathy Clancy – yes

To enter into Executive Session at 9:24 p.m. for the purpose of discussing resolution of a GTA grievance and contract negotiations with bus monitors, noon supervisors, crossing guards and GAEP and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of adjournment only.

- XIII. ADJOURNMENT** – On a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Chairman Pope, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 7 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of January 14, 2015 at 9:57 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*