

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

7:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

Jonathan Pope, Chairman (7:57 p.m.)

Kathy Clancy, Vice Chairperson

Joel Favazza, Secretary (7:57 p.m.)

Tony Gross

Michelle Sweet

Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken

**Administration Present**

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent

Dr. Arthur Unobskey, Asst. Superintendent

Tom Lafleur, Director of Finance and  
Operations

**Also Present**

Erik Anderson, GHS Principal

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Vice Chairperson Clancy called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.
- II. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**
- III. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** – None.
- IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON** – None.
- V. **RECOGNITIONS** – Vice Chairperson Clancy recognized the O'Maley staff for their fun Flash Mob during a recent student assembly.
- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – None present.
- VII. **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. **Approval of Minutes**
    1. School Committee of January 13, 2016
    2. Building & Finance Subcommittee of January 20, 2016
  - B. **Approval of Warrants** – Cover Sheets
  - C. **Approval of Transfers** – December 8, 2015 to January 12, 2016
  - D. **Referrals**

**E. Out-of-State Field Trip Requests**

1. GHS ROTC to Reading, Pennsylvania from Wednesday, February 24 to Saturday, February 27, 2016 to participate in Marksmanship and Drill Competition
2. GHS Cheerleading COA Ultimate National Cheerleading Championship from Wednesday, March 23 to Monday, March 28, 2016

Vice Chairperson Clancy removed Items A.1 and A.2.

On a motion by Mayor Theken, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 4 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

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

- A. SAT/AP Report** – Principal Anderson presented a slide show on PSAT participants, SAT and ACT scores, the benefits of AP testing, AP scoring, current AP course offerings, the number of test takers, scoring, and AP Scholar Award recipients. He also distributed a list showing the percentage of AP test takers who qualified for free or reduced lunch over the last three years, the total number of exams taken by academic year, the total number of AP classes taken by academic year, the total percentage of the graduating class to score a 3 or higher on one or more AP exams, and the percentage of the graduating class that has taken one or more AP exams over the last three years. The committee discussed the weight colleges put on SAT scores, the need for SAT prep courses, and the intent to have all tenth graders take the PSAT in October.

**(At this time, the agenda was taken out of order.)**

- C. Superintendent’s Goals 2016** – Dr. Safier reviewed his Professional Practice, Student Growth, and District SMART Goals for calendar year 2016. The committee discussed the need to assess keyboarding skills at O’Maley in connection with online testing.

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

**VOTED:** 4 in favor 0 opposed, to accept the Superintendent’s Goals for 2016.

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

1. Safety Issues
2. Governor Proposed \$83.5 Million for Career Vocational Technical Education

*(Chairman Pope and Mr. Favazza joined the meeting.)*

3. Educator Evaluation Results to be Released – Dr. Safier reported that the educator evaluation results were released yesterday and then quickly removed from the website because there was a potential for identification of individual teachers.
4. 2015 Cohort Graduation Rates
5. 2014-15 Dropout Data Summary Report for Gloucester
6. Seafood Case Study Series
7. Action Item: Request to Move K-12 Early Release from March 9 to March 1 on the School Calendar – After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor 0 opposed, to move the K-12 early release day from Wednesday, March 9 to Monday, March 1, 2016 in recognition of the presidential primary taking place on March 1.

8. Calendar – There was a discussion about the “Why Whales” presentation taking place at O’Maley tonight.

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

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

- B. Elementary Master Plan Study – Statement of Interest** – Chairman Pope reported that it has been recommended by KBA and Dore & Whittier that a statement of interest (SOI) be submitted to the MSBA this year for the elementary schools. He stressed that an SOI does not require a capital commitment and is simply a way to get our project in the queue. Dr. Safier reviewed the process of completing an SOI and stated that it is somewhat time sensitive.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the committee to direct the superintendent to complete an SOI with respect to the elementary schools. Kathy Clancy suggested that School Committee members contact their City Council liaisons about the SOI.

## **IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meetings of January 20, 21, 25 and 26, 2016** – Chairman Gross reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee reviewed the proposed department budgets at the four meetings listed above. Mr. Lafleur stated that he spoke with the city treasurer today, who suggested including an 8% increase in health insurance in the budget.

**X. ACTION**

- A. Acceptance of Grant** – Massachusetts DESE District and School Assistance Grant in the amount of \$15,837.00 (Fund Code 323-B FY16) and \$6,063.00 (Fund Code 220-E) – Dr. Unobskey discussed the purpose of these grants.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor 0 opposed, to accept a Massachusetts DESE District and School Assistance Grant in the amount of \$15,837.00 (Fund Code 323-B FY16) and \$6,063.00 (Fund Code 220-E).

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

**VOTED:** 0 in favor 6 opposed, to reconsider the Committee's vote to approve the above-referenced grants. The motion failed.

- B. Change to School Calendar 2015-2016** – See Item VIII.D.

(At this time, the agenda was taken out of order.)

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

- A. MSBA Project Update** – Chairman Pope stated that there will be a walk-through of the West Parish site at the next building committee meeting on February 11, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. He will send an invitation to city councilors.
- B. Massachusetts ESE Letter Dated 1/11/16 – 2015 State Assessment Results** – FYI.
- C. Referral to Program Subcommittee** – Chairman Pope referred the policies regarding catchment areas and intradistrict school choice to the Program Subcommittee for review.
- D. Winter Weather** – Kathy Clancy inquired about enforcing the requirement of shoveling of sidewalks by residents, with exceptions for people who are not able to shovel. Mayor Theken stated that the city is doing the best it can and that there are difficulties with enforcement and ticketing of residents.
- E. High School Start Time** – Mr. Favazza referred this matter to the Program Subcommittee for review.
- F. Representative to Essex Tech School Committee** – Mayor Theken commended Ms. Teixeira for doing a great job as the city's liaison on this committee.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – On a motion by Mayor Theken, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** By Roll Call Vote

Mayor Theken – yes  
Kathy Clancy – yes  
Mr. Favazza – yes  
Mr. Gross – yes  
Chairman Pope – yes  
Ms. Sweet – yes

To enter into Executive Session at 8:48 p.m. for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of voting on the nurses' contract.

*(The meeting reconvened at 9:16 p.m.)*

**X. ACTION (Continued)**

**C. Ratification of Nurses' Contract** – On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was

**VOTED:** 5 in favor, 1 present (Mayor Theken) to approve the modifications to the current collective bargaining agreement between the Massachusetts Nurses Association and the Gloucester School Committee, as revised.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT** – On a motion by Ms. Sweet, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor 0 opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of January 27, 2016 at 9:16 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*