

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

District Office Conference Room

2 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Kathy Clancy, Vice Chairperson
Tony Gross, Secretary
Melissa Teixeira
Michelle Sweet
Joel Favazza
Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent
Tom Lafleur, CPA, Director of Finance
and Operations

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:00 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** – Chairman Pope stated that he is going to try to have more orderly meetings this year and asked the committee members to observe general courtesy, be recognized before they speak, and not interrupt people while they are speaking.
- V. **RECOGNITIONS** – Dr. Safier thanked the Department of Public Works for their work during and after the storm and reported that there was no major damage inside the high school. Chairman Pope thanked Mayor Theken for the wonderful inauguration ceremony.
- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Caroline Enos, Henry Hardy and Gabriella Machado introduced themselves and updated the committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: flooding of the high school parking lot, support for families who lost their cars in the flooding, and the Snow Angel Challenge to help restore Newell Stadium and the equipment that was lost in the flooding. Donations can be made at the high school or at www.thegfaa.org.
- VII. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **Approval of Minutes**
 1. Program Subcommittee of November 2, 2017

2. School Committee of November 8, 2017
3. Building & Finance Subcommittee of November 15, 2017
4. Special School Committee of November 16, 2017

B. Approval of Warrants – Cover Sheets

C. Approval of Transfers – November 2 to November 29, 2017

D. Referrals

E. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trips – O’Maley Innovation Middle School eighth graders to Washington, DC from April 4 to April 7, 2018 – Dr. Safier reported that there will be a change in curriculum prior to the trip.

F. Acceptance of Gifts

1. \$150.00 from Catherine Spanks to Beeman Memorial Elementary School/Food Service Department
2. \$1,207.69 from Sullivan’s Studio to East Gloucester Elementary School
3. \$50.00 from Lueders Environmental, Inc.

Mr. Gross removed Item F.1 from the Consent Agenda.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

Chairman Pope discussed the purpose of the \$150.00 gift from Catherine Spanks, and Mr. Lafleur stated that the money will be used at the discretion of Beeman principal Jodi Gennodie.

On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a gift in the amount of \$150.00 from Catherine Spanks to the Food Service Department to be used for outstanding balances for needy families at Beeman Memorial Elementary School.

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. Northshore Education Consortium Annual Report 2016-2017 – Dr. Safier reviewed and the committee discussed the annual report.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Northshore Education Consortium Annual Report for 2016-2017.

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

1. Post-Storm Conditions of the Schools
2. Newly Created Career/Vocational Technical Education Coordinator Position – Ms. Teixeira stated that she hopes one of the priorities of this new position will be to put together advisory groups for each of the vocational programs.
3. MCAS Field Test Assignments
4. Circuit Breaker Concern – Mr. Gross expressed concern about the inequity of the GPSD being financially responsible for school choice students who are placed out of district, especially if those students could be serviced by the GPSD. Kathy Clancy requested that Dr. Safier draft a letter to our representatives regarding this issue, to be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.
5. Gloucester Biotechnology Academy Recruitment Efforts for 2018-19
6. Mass. Municipal Association Report: New E-Cigarette Products Prove Popular with High Schoolers – Kathy Clancy requested that information on vaping be sent out to parents.
7. North Shore Superintendent’s Roundtable Annual Legislative Breakfast
8. Program Reconstruction Meetings about Approved Private Schools
9. Serving Students from Post-Hurricane Puerto Rico

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

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the Superintendent’s Report.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Building & Finance Subcommittee of December 20, 2017** – Chairman Gross reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed two policies regarding building use at its meeting of December 20, 2017.

X. ACTION

- A. Acceptance of Youth Mental Health First Aid Training Grant** – Dr. Safier reviewed the purpose of the grant and discussed the workshops that are conducted.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a Youth Mental Health First Aid Training Grant in the amount of \$5,895.00 for all GHS faculty.

B. Approval of Revised Policies

1. Social Networking Policy, File IJNDD – Dr. Safier reviewed the changes to the policy.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the revised Social Networking Policy, File IJNDD, as presented.

2. Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest Policy, File GBEA – Dr. Safier reviewed the changes to the policy. The policy was referred back to the Personnel Subcommittee for clarification of language regarding employees of the School Committee and to add a reference to state law.

3. Community Use of School Facilities Policy, File KF – Mr. Gross distributed and reviewed a marked-up version of the policy.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the revised Community Use of School Facilities policy, File KF, as presented.

4. Community Use of School Facilities – Procedures, File KF-R – Mr. Gross reviewed the changes to the procedures.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the revised Community Use of School Facilities – Procedures, File KF-R, as presented.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

A. MSBA Project Updates

1. East Gloucester/Veterans School – Chairman Pope reported that this project is going before the MSBA Board of Directors on February 14, 2018.
2. West Parish – Chairman Pope reported that he has not heard back from Katie Loeffler whether we can use funds to bring back the designer to look at parking issues at the site. He noted that his next discussion would be with the city administration to find out if they are willing to spend some money on this if we are not going to get reimbursed by MSBA. Ms. Teixeira stated that it is

her understanding that the project is not complete yet so we should be able to make changes and adjustments.

3. GHS Roof – Chairman Pope reported that the roof is substantially complete and that there is still some money being held for installation of RTUs in the spring.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

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

To enter into Executive Session at 8:12 p.m. for the purpose of discussing arbitration of the Plum Cove GAEP secretarial position and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of adjournment only.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of January 10, 2018 at 8:39 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*