

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

District Office – Conference Room

2 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

7:00 p.m.

Members Present

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

Administration Present

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

Also Present

Mike Hale, DPW Director
Larry Durkin, DPW Engineer
Karin Carroll, Gloucester Health Dept.

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** – None.
- V. RECOGNITIONS** – Dr. Safier recognized Ann Grasseti, DECA adviser at the high school, and congratulated the students in that program for qualifying for the state competition in March. He spoke about the DECA program and stated that the following students will be participating in the competition: Kyle Aquipel, Jacob Belcher, Delaney Benchhoff, Victoria Carini, Ryan Gabriele, Rosie Giambanco, Dakota Girard, Emily Kenyon, Maria Karol, Baylee Kirk, Brianna Fernandes, Makenzie Lovasco, Lizzie Luster, Chris MacDonald, Lucas Melanson, Ruby Melvin, Emilie Orlando, Tyler Parisi, Peter Russo, and Zoe Venetsanakos.

Ms. Grasseti distributed information about the DECA program, which she established in 1988, and stated that she is excited to still be involved with it. Two of the students, Chris MacDonald and Tyler Parisi, spoke about their experience in the DECA program and the competition.

VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Jarrod Martin and Roy Kirwa introduced themselves and updated the committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: DECA competition, mid-year exams, girls’ hockey, and new online athletics registration system.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. School Committee and Executive Session of November 30, 2016
2. School Committee of December 14, 2016
3. Building & Finance Subcommittee of December 21, 2016

B. Approval of Warrants – Cover Sheets

C. Approval of Transfers – November 8, 2016 to December 14, 2016

D. Referrals

E. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trips

1. JROTC to Irving, Texas for Marine Corps JROTC National Drill Team Championship from Wednesday, April 19 to Sunday, April 23, 2017 (during Spring Recess)
2. Annual O’Maley Innovation Middle School Grade 8 Trip to Washington, DC from Wednesday, March 29 to Saturday, April 1, 2017

F. Acceptance of Gifts

1. \$400.00 from Shaw’s of East Gloucester to O’Maley Innovation Middle School
2. \$150.00 from Jessica C.E. Gienow-Hecht & Heiko Hecht to O’Maley Innovation Middle School
3. \$648.00 from Hockmeyer Studios, Inc. to O’Maley Innovation Middle School
4. \$50.00 from Lueders Environmental, Inc. to the Gloucester Public Schools
5. \$1,000.00 from John and Paula Axelrod to the GHS Vocational Program
6. \$3,000.00 from Cape Ann Savings Bank for the Athletic Program

Chairman Pope removed Item A.3, and Ms. Teixeira removed Item A.2 from the Consent Agenda.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

Ms. Teixeira requested that the School Committee minutes of December 14, 2016 include the text of the petition referred to by GTA members under Oral Communications.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the School Committee minutes of December 14, 2016 as amended.

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

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

- B. Report on Lead Sampling Testing** – Dr. Safier reviewed the Report on School Water Samples, including the Assistance Program for Lead in School Drinking Water, action levels, sources of lead, sample results, response to the results, and Board of Health recommendations.

DPW Director Mike Hale reported that new drinking water fountains have been installed in all of the schools. He indicated that the action items in the elementary schools will be addressed by the end of the week and will then be resampled and brought back online.

Mr. Hale explained that the testing process is designed to test the systems under normal conditions, meaning that they were used the previous day. However, many of them had not been used for a lengthy period of time and therefore had a high result. He stated that all of the flush samples (after being flushed for 30 seconds) came back under actionable levels. Mr. Favazza expressed concern that fixtures that are rarely used are going to be replaced when there are other things that teachers use everyday that need to be fixed. He suggested that those fixtures could be turned off and the money could be used to fix other things.

In response to a question from Chairman Pope, Ms. Carroll indicated that lead cannot be absorbed by washing your hands or showering with water containing lead.

Ms. Teixeira requested that staff be notified and signs be placed on the fixtures with high results indicating that they are not to be used for drinking water.

- A. Budget Update (Current and Future)** – Mr. Lafleur distributed and reviewed the FY17 YTD Expenditure Report. He stated that the FY18 budget process is well underway and that the Budget & Finance Subcommittee will be reviewing the proposed budget on January 18th at 4:30 p.m. and January 24th at 4:00 p.m. Dr. Safier stated that he is looking for a level service budget for next year and reviewed some of the increases to the budget, such as an influx of English language learners and the new elementary science program.

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

1. English Language Arts (ELA) & Literacy and Mathematics Standards Review
2. Commonwealth Commitment
3. Booster Packets – Ms. Teixeira requested that the packet include information on how to become a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.
4. New Public Records Regulations 950 CMR 32
5. Calendar

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

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

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of December 21, 2016** – Chairman Gross reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed district expenditures and student meal balances at its meeting of December 21, 2016, as well as the matters listed under Items X.B, C and D.

X. ACTION

A. Approval of Grants

1. Massachusetts DESE Special Education Program Improvement Grant – After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a Massachusetts DESE Special Education Program Improvement grant increase in the amount \$24,144.00.

On a motion by Kathy Clancy, 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.

2. Gloucester Education Foundation Grant – After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a grant from the Gloucester Education Foundation in the amount of \$887.00 for Math Fact Fluency with Reflexmath at East Gloucester Elementary School.

On a motion by Kathy Clancy, 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. West Parish Elementary Before School Program** – After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to authorize the CFO to request permission from City Council to establish a revolving fund for the West Parish Before School Program with an initial yearly spending limit of \$35,000.00.

- C. Building Use Fees** – Dr. Safier stated that the current fee schedule does not work for community groups that use the schools frequently and for a long period of time (i.e. community basketball leagues) and does not reflect the actual cost to use the building. The proposed fees were drafted together with the DPW, and the application indicates that the building use fees for community youth leagues will be negotiated to cover costs (minimum of \$250, maximum of \$500). Chairman Pope pointed out that the schools are public facilities and should be made available to the community.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the new building use fees as presented.

- D. Advertising at the Softball Field** – After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was

VOTED: 5 in favor, 1 abstained (Mr. Favazza) to approve the GHS Softball Boosters' application to sell advertising at the softball field, with the condition that no signs will be placed on the backstop.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. MSBA Project Update** – Dr. Safier reported that the most recent leak at the high school was due to a cracked pipe and not the roof. Chairman Pope indicated that he received a letter stating that the MSBA rejected the Beeman project this year and that he has not yet heard about East Gloucester School. He also stated that the MSBA is holding a workshop in Charlton, MA on February 6th.

B. Snow Removal – Kathy Clancy reported that many parents have expressed their strong request that the ordinance regarding shoveling of sidewalks be enforced. She stated that she would support the city allocating resources to enforce that ordinance.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

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

To enter into Executive Session at 8:31 p.m. for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with the GTA and to enter back into regular session only for the purpose of adjournment.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by Ms. Sweet, seconded by Chairman Pope, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of January 11, 2017 at 8:57 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*