

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 30, 2019
District Office Conference Room
2 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA
7:00 p.m.

Members Present

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

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent
Gary Frisch, Director of Finance
and Operations

Also Present

City Councilor Val Gilman (7:07 p.m.)

Recorded by 1623 Studios

- 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** – Zenas Seppala of 92 Granite Street in Rockport addressed the committee about civic engagement in the schools. He stated that the new law promoting civic education involves students being mandated to take part in projects to learn about the civic process. He asked the committee to consider whether it will look at situations that took place in the community and allow them to be put forth in a public forum where students act out what happened and consider different points of view.
- IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON** – None.
- V. **RECOGNITIONS** – Dr. Safier recognized the West Parish community for its production of *The Lorax*, which he stated was very well done. Chairman Pope noted that the play was directed by Heidi Dallin and supported by the Gloucester Education Foundation. Mr. Bach recognized O’Maley students for development of the aquaponics lab, which he stated is incredibly impressive. He noted that there will be an open house on February 7th from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Finally, Mayor Theken recognized “Change is Simple” for bringing their STEM workshops the schools.
- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Elizabeth Schuster, Caroline Muniz, Willow Phoenix, Emma Saputo and Katherine Bevins introduced themselves and updated the committee on the following events at GHS: Chipotle fundraiser, sophomore event, junior event, and the ROTC ball. Katherine reported that the junior class is designing a Gloucester-themed Monopoly board game called “Glousteropoly” to raise money for their class. Local

businesses can buy a space on the board for \$300.00, and the games will be sold for \$25.00 at the Brass Monkey during the summer.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Amended School Committee Executive Session Minutes of November 14, 2018
2. Program Subcommittee of December 6, 2018
3. School Committee of December 12, 2018

B. Approval of Warrants

C. Approval of Transfers

D. Referrals

E. Acceptance of Donations

1. \$1,024.00 from Sullivan's Studios to Plum Cove Elementary School
2. \$1,846.40 from Sullivan's Studios to West Parish Elementary School
3. \$729.04 from Hockmeyer Studios, Inc. to Veteran's Memorial Elementary School
4. \$1,310.00 from the O'Maley PTO to replace the stage curtains
5. \$463.34 from Hockmeyer Studios, Inc. to Gloucester Preschool

F. Approval of Scholarship – Cape Ann Savings Bank, Sandra L. Tucker Memorial Scholarship – Three (3) scholarships in the amount of \$1,500.00 each

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.

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School (ENSATS)/Laborers' Local 22/Gloucester Public Schools Pilot Vocational Program – Dr. Safier reported that this pilot program began this past Monday with seven students. He showed some photographs of the students at ENSATS and stated that they will be learning landscaping, masonry and carpentry. He noted that the union provided the students with jackets, hardhats and boots. Dr. Safier reviewed the students' schedule, the contract they are required to sign, and the curriculum and materials. He also spoke about recruitment for the program.

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

1. State Board of Education Re: Automated Test Scoring
2. Athletic Conference Composition – Dr. Safier stated that he will invite Athletic Director Bryan Lafata to a future meeting to provide more specific information and answer questions.
3. Breakfast after the Start of Instruction – Kathy Clancy reported that the Wellness Committee will be discussing the different models at its meeting on February 12th.
4. Governor’s FY20 Chapter 70 and Educational Budget Recommendations
5. OSHA Safety for Public Sector Highlights of Updated Law M.G.L. c.149, §6-1/2

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.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Building & Finance Subcommittee of January 15, 16, 17 and 24, 2019** – Chairman Pope reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee reviewed the department heads’ budgets at its meetings of January 15, 16, 17 and 24, 2019. He stated that the budget will be presented to the full School Committee on February 27th.

Chairman Pope reported that the subcommittee also discussed a trust held by Bank of America for the schools and the Artsonia website fundraiser at its meeting of January 24, 2019. He indicated that the subcommittee is seeking legal advice regarding the trust and will be reviewing a draft policy regarding online fundraising at its next meeting.

- B. Personnel Subcommittee of January 22, 2019** – Ms. Teixeira Prince reported that the Personnel Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its meeting of January 22, 2019:

- Increasing employees’ pay to minimum wage (\$12/hour) (to be discussed in Executive Session)
- Staff Absence Report
- Request for increase in IT employee’s salary (tabled)
- Assistant Principal salary range

X. ACTION

A. Acceptance of Grants

1. \$500.00 from C.A.S.IT., Inc. to GHS World Language Department – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira Prince, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a grant from C.A.S.IT., Inc. to the GHS World Language Department in the amount of \$500.00.

2. \$500.00 from Energy North Inc. – Ms. Teixeira Prince made a motion, seconded by Kathy Clancy, to accept this grant. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn and the following motion was made.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to waive review by the Building and Finance Subcommittee of the advertising required by this grant.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to allow advertising in the auto shop for the Exxon Mobil poster.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a grant from Energy North Inc. in the amount of \$500.00.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. MSBA Project Update** – Chairman Pope reported that Dore & Whittier visited both sites last week. He stated that there are 13 different possibilities that MSBA will require us to look at with respect to the site and that there are issues with the deeds to all of the sites, specifically the Green Street site which is made up of 23 different lots. Therefore, title searches are being done on all of the properties.

Kathy Clancy reported that the building committee will be touring schools in other districts, as well as West Parish, to see examples of more recently built schools and indicated that anybody is welcome to join. Finally, Dr. Safier reported that there will be a leadership group meeting on February 5th to discuss specific programming to be included in a space summary.

- B. Review of School Committee Rules of Procedure** – Ms. Puglisi noted that the Rules of Procedure included in the packet are from 2015 and stated that she has a version from 2016. Chairman Pope requested that she circulate that document to the school committee members.
 - C. Review of Gloucester School Committee Operating Protocols 2017** – Chairman Pope noted that the committee is required by its Operating Protocols to review them once a year. It was the consensus of the committee that this be done in a workshop setting facilitated by an MASC representative. Chairman Pope reported that Dorothy Presser from MASC is available on February 12th, and the workshop was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. that day.
 - D. GHS Fieldhouse Floor** – Chairman Pope stated that this matter will always be on the agenda so that the committee does not lose sight of it. He reported that he met with Jim Destino last week, who stated that they are waiting for the result of the Dore & Whittier study on all of the city’s properties, and he assured Chairman Pope that this item and the location of the preschool will be priorities.
 - E. Preschool Location** – See Item XI.D.
 - F. GTA Letter of 1/15/19** – Dr. Safier reported that some of the information requested has already been provided, Ms. Puglisi is working on some of the information, and some of the requests were referred to the city. Ms. Teixeira Prince requested that she be copied electronically with the information sent to the GTA.
 - G. Community Collaborative Initiative** – Ms. Teixeira Prince requested a report on whether this initiative is taking place in Gloucester, who is attending the meetings, and how it is working. Dr. Safier reported that the next meeting of the CCI is scheduled for March 15, 2019 at O’Maley. He indicated that he will have some of the administrators that are involved come to a future School Committee meeting to provide more detail.
 - H. Superintendent’s Goals** – Ms. Teixeira Prince asked when the committee will be reviewing the superintendent’s goals. Dr. Safier stated that he will be able to present his goals to the committee next month.
- XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira Prince, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

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

To enter into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with crossing guards, bus monitors, noon supervisors and food service workers and to review a number of grievances and to enter back into regular session only to adjourn.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of January 30, 2019 at 9:24 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*