

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Melissa Teixeira, Vice Chairperson
Tony Gross
Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent (7:15)
Hans Baumhauer, Director of Finance
and Operations
Erik Anderson, GHS Principal
Ellen Sibley, Beeman Principal
Carol Bratt, East Gloucester Principal
Tammy Morgan, Plum Cove Principal

Also Present

City Council President Paul McGeary

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

-
- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.
- II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**
- III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** – Susanne Altenburger recapped her presentation to the committee on January 14, 2015 and offered the members an opportunity to ask questions either by email or in person.
- IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON** – None.
- V. RECOGNITIONS** – Dr. Safier recognized the city, particularly the DPW, for its coordination in clearing snow from the schools, and Chairman Pope recognized Dr. Safier for being part of that team. Ms. Teixeira commended all those involved for their communication and collaboration.
- VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – None present.
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA**
- A. Approval of Minutes**
1. School Committee and Executive Session of January 14, 2015
 2. Building & Finance Subcommittee of January 21, 2015
 3. Joint City Council and School Committee of January 22, 2015

B. Approval of Warrants – Cover Sheets

C. Approval of Transfers – December 5, 2014 to January 19, 2015

D. Referrals

E. Acceptance of Gloucester Education Foundation (GEF) Grants

1. \$1,000.00 gift from Galen Gibson Foundation to GEF – \$500.00 to GHS Robotics Program and \$500.00 to GHS Theater Program
2. \$10,016.82 to GHS Chemistry
3. \$1,000.00 from a private donor to GEF for GHS Dating Violence Prevention
4. \$195,000.00 Gloucester 21C Initiative: *Creating a 21st Century High School in Gloucester* – In partnership with the GEF – Christina Raimo, Executive Director

F. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip Requests

1. GHS to New York, New York from Friday, October 9, 2015 to Monday, October 12, 2015 (tours, workshops, and Broadway shows)
2. GHS Junior ROTC to Aston, Pennsylvania to compete in National Youth Physical Fitness Test Qualifying Meet from Friday, March 27, 2015 to Saturday, March 28, 2015

G. Approval of Scholarships

1. Gloucester Democratic City Committee Scholarship in the amount of \$500.00
2. Peter Watson Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000.00

Chairman Pope removed Item E4 from the Consent Agenda.

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

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

Christina Raimo, Executive Director of the Gloucester Education Foundation, presented a check for \$195,000.00 to Chairman Pope for technology at GHS, specifically a study of the technology readiness and needs at the high school and a new curriculum in computer programming. Dr. Safier elaborated on the acquisition of the grant and what it will be used for.

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

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to accept a \$195,000.00 Gloucester 21C Initiative grant, *Creating a 21st Century High School in Gloucester*.

(Mr. Bach joined the meeting at 7:15 p.m.)

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- A. Use of Data in Elementary Literacy** – Four of the district’s literacy coaches, Alex Osburn (Plum Cove), Heidi Delisle (Veterans), Melanie Stansfield (Beeman), and Melissa Francis (East Gloucester), introduced themselves and described what they do on a daily basis. They also demonstrated what happens in data meetings, including the use of data cards and the “data wall.” There was a discussion about the various reading groups within the classroom and the books students are reading. Mr. Bach noted that the coaches are beginning to work together to build expertise and to bring coherence to the five elementary schools.

(Ms. Sibley, Ms. Bratt and Ms. Morgan left the meeting at 7:58 p.m.)

- B. SAT/AP Report** – Mr. 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, 2014 AP Scholar Award recipients, and challenges to be addressed. The committee discussed the ability for a student to take an AP exam without taking that AP course and whether the decline in the number of AP test takers was due to students having to pay for their exams.

(Council President McGeary left the meeting at 8:13 p.m.)

- C. Superintendent’s Goals 2015** – Dr. Safier reviewed his Professional Practice, Student Growth, and District SMART Goals for calendar years 2015 and 2016. Mr. Bach and Dr. Safier discussed the feedback from teachers regarding the “learning walks” and use of the data collected during those learning walks.

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

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Superintendent’s Goals, January 2015-December 2016.

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

1. Medical Emergency Response Plans – Dr. Safier discussed what is included in the emergency response plans and suggested that the Program Subcommittee take up the issue of AEDs. He noted that he has requested MASC’s version from Mike Gilbert. Mr. Gross suggested that that matter be referred to the Personnel Subcommittee. Finally, Dr. Safier reported on the status of ALICE training and its inclusion as an option in the emergency response plans.
2. Restraint Regulations
3. 2014 Preliminary Graduation and Dropout Rates – Mr. Anderson discussed the dropout prevention programs and protocols at the high school, including the GAP and Compass programs, exit interviews, and home visits.

4. January 27 Early Release Professional Development Day – Dr. Safier reported that this professional development day was cancelled due to snow. However, he included it in his report to show the committee what can be accomplished during such a professional development day.
5. School Year Requirements and the Waiver Process – Dr. Safier reported that there were five snow days built into the calendar and that the district has missed six days so far due to snow. Therefore, the last day of school is now Wednesday, June 24, 2015. The committee discussed several options for making up missed days.

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

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Superintendent’s Report.

(Mr. Anderson left the meeting at 8:56 p.m.)

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of January 21, 2015** – Chairman Pope reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its meeting of January 21, 2015:
 - Food Service Report
 - Custodial Reporting Lines
 - Unanticipated FY15 Expenses
 - Transfers
- B. **Building & Finance Subcommittee Meetings of February 3, 2015 and February 5, 2015** – Tabled.

X. ACTION

- A. **School Calendar 2015** – Mr. Bach requested that the school calendar be adjusted by moving the March 17 PreK-12 Professional Development Early Release Day to April 7 and moving the April 7 K-5 Early Release Day to June 2.

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

VOTED: 4 in favor zero opposed, to revise the 2015 School Calendar by moving the March 17, 2015 PreK-12 Professional Development Early Release Day to April 7, 2015 and by moving the April 7, 2015 K-5 Early Release Day to June 2, 2015.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. MSBA Project Update** – Dr. Safier reported that the building committee met on January 22nd and voted on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP). The total cost of the project is \$39,574,156 and the GMP is \$31,030,076 which includes the new West Parish School and the work done on St. Ann’s. The difference between the total cost and the GMP includes things such as furniture and fees for the designer and OPM. Dr. Safier stated that the GMP is the same figure as the original budget that was put before the City Council for a loan authorization. Finally, he indicated that the project was ahead of schedule before all of the snow and is now on schedule.

Mayor Theken stated that she has heard from constituents that the lights are always on at the building site and they inquired who is paying for that. Dr. Safier indicated that it is a security issue and he believes it is included in the project cost. He stated that he will get confirmation of that at the building committee meeting next week.

- B. B&F Budget Review Meetings** – The committee discussed the budget timeline and rescheduled the cancelled Building & Finance Subcommittee meetings to February 23 and 24, 2015 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- B. Rules of Procedure** – Mr. Gross reported that the School Committee Rules of Procedure need to be updated with respect to elections. Chairman Pope requested that he revise the document and bring it back to the committee for review.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

Chairman Pope – yes
Ms. Teixeira – yes
Mayor Theken – yes
Mr. Gross – yes

To enter into Executive Session at 9:27 p.m. for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations 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: 4 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of February 11, 2015 at 9:40 p.m.

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

Maria Puglisi, Recording Secretary