

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Kathy Clancy, Vice Chairperson
Joel Favazza, Secretary
Melissa Teixeira
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

-
- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:01 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. Unobskey recognized the JROTC high school students, who reportedly played a pivotal role in serving breakfast at the senior center on February 12th. He also mentioned that ten senior citizens from Seacoast Nursing and Rehabilitation Center will be going to O'Maley on March 2nd to see the dress rehearsal of *The Lion King, Jr.*
- Mayor Theken stated that the city will be holding an event called "One Billion Rising" at 12:30 p.m. tomorrow at City Hall, the purpose of which is to stand together to oppose violence against women. She reported that some high school students will also be doing a flash mob at the event.
- Finally, Chairman Pope reported that the Docksiders will be having a coffeehouse in the GHS cafeteria on Friday at 7:00 p.m.
- VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Lucas Struppe and Victoria Flavin updated the committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: basketball playoffs, intramural volleyball, upcoming blood drive, junior class talent show, hockey team Senior Night, and spring sports.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Building & Finance Subcommittee of January 26, 2016
2. School Committee and Executive Session of January 27, 2016
3. School Committee of February 11, 2016

B. Approval of Warrants – Cover Sheets

C. Approval of Transfers – January 14 to February 17, 2016

D. Referrals

E. Out-of-State Field Trip Requests

1. GHS ROTC to Aston, Pennsylvania from Friday, March 18 to Saturday, March 19, 2016 to participate in the MCJROTC Regional-1 Youth Physical Fitness Competition
2. GHS ROTC to Orlando, Florida from Thursday, April 21 to Monday, April 25, 2016 to participate in the 2016 JROTC Olympiad at Gaylord Resort

Chairman Pope removed Item A.3.

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.

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. Elementary Master Plan and Statement of Interest Considerations – Chairman Pope stated that the March 23rd School Committee meeting will be held at West Parish, after which the committee will need to formulate some options for the elementary schools. He stated that if the committee is able to come up with some options by September, spends the fall vetting those options, and decides on one by December, the superintendent should be able to put together a persuasive statement of interest for the elementary schools by next April.

Mayor Theken stated that the city is looking to hire someone to determine what city-owned land is viable to build on, including Swinson’s Field in East Gloucester. Ms. Teixeira expressed concern about waiting another year to start the MSBA process in light of the condition of the schools, particularly Beeman. Chairman Pope recognized the sense of urgency but stated that he does not have any reports from the DPW stating that the modulars are in danger of failing in the immediate future.

In addition, Chairman Pope noted that any project that the committee puts forward will require a debt exclusion, which makes it important for the committee to come up

with a cohesive plan that covers everything in order to build community support for it. To get to that point, the committee needs input from the DPW on the current facilities and mechanical systems, as well as site options and information on cost. Mr. Gross suggested forming an ad hoc subcommittee to gather all of that information, and Chairman Pope suggested the possibility of bringing in a representative of each elementary school's site-based council to sit on that subcommittee.

Chairman Pope made a referral to the Building & Finance Subcommittee to develop questions for the DPW and Dore & Whittier to address at the presentation on the elementary master plan in April.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to refer the elementary master plan and statement of interest considerations to the Building & Finance Subcommittee to develop questions for the DPW and Dore & Whittier to address at the presentation on the elementary master plan in April.

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

1. Calendar for the Proposed FY17 Budget
2. Digital Literacy and Computer Science (DL&CS) Standards, K-12
3. Gloucester High School Technology Integration Plan
4. MSBA Statement of Interest – GHS Roof
5. O'Maley Drama Club's Presentation of Disney's *The Lion King, Jr.*

On a motion by Kathy Clancy, 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 Meeting of February 23, 2016 – Chairman Gross reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its meeting of February 23, 2016:

- Student meal balances
- FY17 budget review
- Appropriation of funds for repayment of \$150,000 to DESE

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

VOTED: 7 in favor 0 opposed, to authorize the CFO to appropriate \$150,000 from the Main Office contingency account for possible repayment to the DESE of funds paid to Gloucester in error during 2014.

- B. Program Subcommittee Meeting of February 24, 2016** – Chairperson Clancy reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed the Burnham Field catchment area at its meeting earlier tonight, which will be on the next School Committee agenda, and the Admission of Students to Elementary Schools policy.

X. ACTION

- A. Motion on the Recommendation of the Program Subcommittee Regarding the Burnham’s Field Catchment Area** – Tabled.

- B. Approval of District Improvement Plan** – Dr. Safier reviewed the changes to the District Improvement Plan.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor 0 opposed, to approve the District Improvement Plan as presented.

- C. Motion to Appropriate Funds for Repayment of \$150,000 to DESE for Funds Paid to Gloucester in Error During 2014** – See Item IX.A.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. MSBA Project Update** – Chairman Pope stated that the building committee discussed the industry standards regarding the number of custodians for the new West Parish facility. He indicated that the building committee requested that the School Committee support the DPW’s budget to supply sufficient custodians for that facility. Chairman Pope referred this matter to the Building & Finance Subcommittee.

- B. Resolution on Education Funding** – Kathy Clancy stated that the Suburban Coalition recommended that communities pass a resolution asking the state to fully fund the Foundation Budget Review Commission’s recommendations. She made the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Sweet:

Whereas the Massachusetts Foundation Budget Review Commission identified two areas (employee health insurance and special education) where the Massachusetts Foundation Budget significantly understates the true cost of educating students in the Commonwealth and has failed to keep pace with rising costs;

Whereas this underfunding means the cost of providing a quality education has increasingly been borne by local communities, most often at the expense of other vital municipal operations;

Whereas investing in education today leads to higher incomes and thus less investment in police, prisons, subsidized health care, low income housing, welfare, etc. in the future;

Whereas state and local economics are most effectively strengthened “by investing in education and increasing the number of well-educated workers.”

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Gloucester School Committee calls on the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor of Massachusetts to fully fund and adopt the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission in the immediate future.

Kathy Clancy suggested that the resolution be sent to Representative Ferrante and Senator Tarr, as well as the Ways and Means Committee and the governor. She also asked the committee to think about requesting the City Council to adopt the resolution, as well.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the committee to table this matter until all members have had a chance to review the Foundation Budget Review Commission’s recommendations.

- C. Joint Meeting with City Council** – Chairman Pope reported that he has been talking to City Council President Ciolino about a joint meeting. He will attempt to schedule the meeting for Thursday, March 24th at 6:00 p.m.

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 8:25 p.m. for the purpose of discussing real estate lease negotiations and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of adjournment only.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of February 24, 2016 at 8:57 p.m.

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

Maria Puglisi, Recording Secretary