

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 13, 2019
District Office Conference Room
2 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA
7:00 p.m.

Members Present

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

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gary Frisch, Director of Finance
and Operations
James Cook, GHS Principal
Lynne Beattie, O'Maley Principal
Jeff Strong, O'Maley Asst. Principal
Jeff Destino, O'Maley Asst. Principal
Bryan Lafata, Athletic Director (8:00)

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 provided an excerpt from the transcript of the April 3, 2012 Rockport Selectmen's meeting, which he indicated illustrates why he said he is a disenfranchised Rockport voter. He requested that the transcript be put in the public record so that the committee knows where he is coming from when he says that he believes that the future of democracy lies in some of our students' hands and they need adequate knowledge of previous embarrassing incidents.
- IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON** – Chairman Pope reminded everyone that tomorrow is the anniversary of the Parkland school shooting and it is a good time to reflect on what has happened over the past year.
- V. **RECOGNITIONS** – Kathy Clancy recognized the leadership and teachers at O'Maley for the biolab open house, which she stated is quite impressive. Dr. Safier showed a video of the open house produced by The Bridge Cape Ann, which had over 8,000 views.
- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Elizabeth Schuster updated the committee on the following events at GHS: Secret Pals (teacher appreciation week), course selections, sophomore event, junior event, and the NHS induction ceremony. She also thanked Dr. Safier and Mr. Bach for letting the students open the school store three days a week for the last 15 minutes of lunch.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. School Committee Executive Session Minutes of November 28, 2018
2. School Committee Executive Session Minutes of December 12, 2018
3. Building & Finance Subcommittee of December 19, 2018
4. Special School Committee and Executive Session of January 2, 2019

B. Approval of Warrants

C. Approval of Transfers

D. Referrals

E. Acceptance of Donation – \$170.85 from Ohiopyle Prints, Inc.

Ms. Teixeira Prince removed the Executive Session minutes of January 2, 2019 from the Consent Agenda and requested that those minutes be discussed and approved at the next Executive Session.

On a motion by Ms. Teixeira Prince, seconded by Kathy Clancy, 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. Northshore Education Consortium Report – Fran Rosenberg presented a slide show on the Northshore Education Consortium, including its mission and history, membership, Gloucester statistics for FY18, professional development, tuition rates and membership savings, and schools and transition programs. There was a discussion about funding of capital projects, state funding, enrollment, and Recovery High School.

B. O’Maley Vaping Diversion Program – Mr. Destino presented a slide show on the O’Maley vaping diversion program, including what vaping is, types of vaping devices, vaping suspensions at O’Maley, National Youth Tobacco Survey, statistics on the prevalence of nicotine vaping by teens, administrative practices to address vaping, the five-week diversion program, and proposed changes to protocol and the student handbook. Mr. Destino also showed some actual vaping devices that were confiscated from students and reported that there are close to 8,000 different vape flavors that contain nicotine. There was a discussion about police involvement, where students are being caught vaping, and how they are able to purchase vaping products. Mr. Strong suggested that the School Committee send a letter to Congressman Seth Moulton to encourage action at the federal level. Mayor Theken suggested contacting the DA’s Office for program ideas and funding.

- C. Community Collaborative Initiative (CCI) Update** – Mr. Destino discussed the Community Collaborative Initiative, its bimonthly meetings, and who attends those meetings. He stated that the primary purpose of the meetings is to talk about students that are in the court system, the status of their cases, and the progress they are making. He noted that from time to time the DA’s Office provides professional development. He also indicated that the next CCI meeting is scheduled for March 15th. There was a discussion about the flow of information from CCI meetings to the superintendent. The committee also discussed “Shelters in Place,” what that actually means, and the possibility of using a different term to reduce parent stress.
- D. Update on Athletic Conference Changes** – Mr. Lafata reported that the district is in the third year of a five-year pilot program in which four schools from the Greater Boston League (GBL) were put into the Northeast Conference (NEC). Those schools are Everett, Somerville, Malden and Medford. He indicated that those schools did not receive a vote to stay in the NEC and requested that they be allowed to leave the NEC now rather than waiting two more years. Mr. Lafata believes that request will be granted and indicated that there would then be 12 teams in the NEC rather than 16. He reported that he will be realigning all of the schedules.
- E. Superintendent’s Goals** – Dr. Safier reviewed his Professional Practice, Student Growth, and District SMART Goals and action steps for calendar year 2019. Ms. Teixeira Prince requested that he revise his Professional Practice SMART Goal to indicate that he will attend *at least* 3 meetings per month across the schools.

The committee discussed the GHS Turnaround Plan and the three-year financial plan for same. Ms. Teixeira Prince expressed her hope that Dr. Safier will add a goal regarding the vocational program to the District Improvement Plan. Mr. Cook discussed some of the efforts that are being made to get more students enrolled in the vocational program.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the superintendent’s goals as amended.

Ms. Teixeira Prince asked Dr. Safier if he foresees any obstacles to meeting his goals. Dr. Safier responded that he does not necessarily expect to reach the numbers in District SMART Goal 3 but he believes it is important to concentrate on them to produce results in a year or two.

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

1. Community Health Needs Assessment Grant Letter of Intent
2. Wellness and Breakfast Options – Dr. Safier reported that the discussion regarding “Breakfast after the Bell” which was on the agenda for yesterday’s

Wellness Committee meeting was cancelled because of the weather. He indicated that the Wellness Committee will be meeting again on February 28th and he expects that that topic will be discussed at that meeting.

3. Police Chief Finalist Interviews
4. 2018 School and District Report Cards
5. Request for Full Special Education Funding for FY20

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

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

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Program Subcommittee of February 7, 2019** – Kathy Clancy reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed public relations, drug awareness curriculum, summer programs providing GHS credits, and the high school start time at its meeting of February 7, 2019.

Dr. Safier discussed the School Choice policy, File JFBB, that was also reviewed at the subcommittee meeting. Mr. Gross suggested that the phrase “will not be accepted” in paragraph 7 be changed to “may not be accepted.” Mr. Cook expressed concern that that language would allow the high school to pick and choose which students they will accept and recommended that the committee get an opinion from Attorney Michael Joyce on that.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the first reading of the School Choice policy, File JFBB.

- B. Personnel Subcommittee of February 11, 2019** – Ms. Teixeira Prince reported that the Personnel Subcommittee discussed teacher absences, a request for an increase in the IT Operations Manager’s salary, and guidelines for salary ranges of nonunion employees at its meeting of February 11, 2019.

Ms. Teixeira Prince made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sweet, to increase the salary of the IT Operations Manager from \$68,978.52 to \$75,478.52. Mayor Theken requested more information and, after discussion, the motion was withdrawn and the matter was referred to the Building & Finance Subcommittee.

After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Teixeira Prince, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was

VOTED: 5 in favor, 1 present (Mayor Theken) to approve a salary range of \$88,000 to \$95,000 for the O’Maley Innovation Middle School assistant principal position.

- C. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of February 12, 2019** – This meeting was cancelled.

X. ACTION

- A. Acceptance of Grant from Gloucester Education Foundation** – 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 \$75.00 for Veterans’ Memorial Elementary School’s transportation cost to the Cape Ann Museum.

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

- C. Approval to Increase Salary of IT Operations Manager** – See Item IX.B.

- D. Approval of Salary Range for O’Maley Assistant Principal** – See Item IX.B.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. MSBA Project Update** – Dr. Safier reported that the educational leadership group is talking about the programmatic needs of the building and how they will relate to the space. He also reported that the working group is looking at the work that needs to be done on the East Gloucester site, the Veterans site, and the Green Street site.

Chairman Pope indicated that all of the sites are made up of multiple parcels, some of which may have restrictions on them, and the building committee has asked the city to conduct title searches on the properties. He also reported that there was a meeting last night with the East Gloucester PTO at which Dore & Whittier gave a formal presentation, and there will be a presentation for the Veterans PTO on February 25th.

Finally, Kathy Clancy reported that some members of the building committee toured a few elementary schools in other districts to see examples of more recently built schools.

- B. Preschool Location and GHS Fieldhouse Floor** – Chairman Pope reported that he has been informed that Dore & Whittier is reviewing both of these issues and will be coming up with recommendations.

- C. Letter from Mass. Nurses’ Association** -- FYI.

D. School Choice Policy, File JFBB – See Item IX.A.

E. CORI Requirements – Ms. Teixeira Prince reported that the CORI law changed in October 2018 from a five-year period to a three-year period. She requested that Dr. Safier check with Attorney Naomi Stonberg or MASC to find out if the district’s CORI policy needs to be amended and report back to the committee.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

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

To enter into Executive Session at 9:52 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Tentative Agreement with the bus monitors and to enter back into regular session to vote on the Tentative Agreement and to adjourn.

X. ACTION (Continued)

B. Approval of Tentative Agreement with Bus Monitors – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira Prince, seconded by Chairman Pope, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Tentative Agreement between the Gloucester School Committee and Gloucester Bus Monitors.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of February 13, 2019 at 9:59 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*