

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

District Office Conference Room

2 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

7:00 p.m.

Members Present

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

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent
Tom Lafleur, Director of Finance
and Operations
James Cook, GHS Principal

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** – None.
- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Caroline Enos updated the committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: boys’ hockey team in the playoffs, course selections for next year, and Youth Advisory Council project. She also noted that *The Gillnetter* is now on Instagram and Facebook.
- VII. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **Approval of Minutes**
 - 1. Personnel Subcommittee of December 11, 2017
 - 2. School Committee of December 13, 2017
 - 3. Building & Finance Subcommittee of December 20, 2017
 - 4. School Committee and Executive Session of January 10, 2018
 - B. **Approval of Warrants** – Cover Sheets
 - C. **Approval of Transfers**

D. Referrals

E. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip – GHS Cheerleading Nationals in Florida from Thursday, March 22 to Monday, March 26, 2018

F. Acceptance of Gifts

1. \$27.87 from Coca Cola to Beeman Memorial Elementary School
2. Hockmeyer Studios, Inc.
 - a. \$385.58 to Gloucester Preschool
 - b. \$814.87 to Beeman Memorial Elementary School
 - c. \$815.81 to Veterans' Memorial Elementary School
 - d. \$925.82 to Plum Cove Elementary School
 - e. \$2,072.85 to O'Maley Innovation Middle School
3. \$570.00 of building materials from Nick Polland to the GHS carpentry program

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

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

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. SAT/Advanced Placement Report – Principal Cook presented a slide show on the MCAS, PSAT participation, the new SAT and scores, the benefits of the AP program, current AP course offerings, the number of test takers, and AP Scholar Award recipients. He noted the increase in the percentage of students who scored proficient or higher on the math MCAS, which put GHS above the state average. The committee discussed SAT prep courses at GHS and through Kahn Academy.

B. Summative Evaluation of the Superintendent – Chairman Pope distributed a complete copy of the final evaluation and reminded the committee that the consensus was to include all comments in the summative evaluation.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the Summative Evaluation of the Superintendent.

Ms. Teixeira thanked Dr. Safier for his service and stated that it is a pleasure to work with him. Ms. Sweet thanked Dr. Safier for his hard work, and Kathy Clancy commended his professional approach to his job.

Ms. Teixeira suggested that Dr. Safier be permitted to prepare a response to the evaluation, as is customary with evaluations in general, and that it be part of the evaluation document if anyone requests to see it.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to request that the superintendent prepare a response to the summative evaluation and attach it to the evaluation document if there is a request for it.

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

1. Student Learning Experience Data
2. Automatic Translations on District and School Websites
3. O’Maley Theater Sound System
4. New FAFSA Tool
5. School Shooting Preparedness
6. Athletic Director Resignation/Search Process
7. 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 of January 30, 2018** – Mr. Gross reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed the FY19 budget and possible cuts at its meeting of January 30, 2018.
- B. Program Subcommittee of February 1, 2018** – See Item X.B.

X. ACTION

A. Acceptance of Grants

1. Gloucester Education Foundation – After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Teixeira, 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 \$18,725.00.

2. Massachusetts Cultural Council “Big Yellow School Bus” Grant – On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the Massachusetts Cultural Council “Big Yellow School Bus” grant in the amount of \$200.00 to Beeman Memorial Elementary School.

3. ExxonMobil 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 ExxonMobil Foundation in the amount of \$500.00.

- B. First Reading of Use of Therapy Dogs in Schools Policy** – Kathy Clancy reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed this policy at its meeting of February 1, 2018. Mr. Bach reviewed the policy.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to waive the reading of the Use of Therapy Dogs in Schools policy.

After discussion, 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 Use of Therapy Dogs in Schools policy.

Ms. Teixeira suggested asking the city’s legal department whether the additional insured should be the City of Gloucester or the Gloucester Public Schools.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

A. MSBA Project Updates

1. East Gloucester/Veterans School – Dr. Safier reported that the city has been voted into the Feasibility by the MSBA Board of Directors today and he has received a packet of information containing various templates. Chairman Pope spoke about the designer selection process.

B. Letter from Rockport School Committee Chairperson Colleen Coogan to Chairman Pope – FYI.

- C. Draft Letter to Senator Tarr and Representative Ferrante from Tony Gross Regarding School Choice Payment Formula** – After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the letter from Mr. Gross to Senator Tarr and Representative Ferrante regarding the school choice payment formula.

- D. West Parish Fifth Grade Play** – Kathy Clancy reported that the West Parish fifth graders are presenting *101 Dalmatians, The Play*, on February 27 and 28 and March 1 at 7:00 p.m.
 - E. West Parish Traffic Issue** – Dr. Safier reported that last night the City Council approved the one way on Concord Street on a trial basis from the school towards Essex Avenue.
 - F. Circuit Breaker Reimbursement Rate** – Dr. Safier read Senator Tarr’s email regarding the Circuit Breaker reimbursement rate.
 - G. Wellness Policy** – Dr. Safier reported that he met with members of the Student Council last week, who are asking that the committee review the Wellness Policy, specifically with respect to the school store. He referred this matter to the Program Subcommittee.
 - H. Report on Vaping** – Ms. Teixeira requested a report from the administration regarding vaping and that SRO Scola report on his experience, specifically how often there are violations, the consequences of same, and whether the School Committee is involved in the determination of discipline procedures.
- XII. ADJOURNMENT** – On a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously
- VOTED:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of February 14, 2018 at 8:23 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*