

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 9, 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

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Dr. Arthur Unobskey, Asst. Superintendent
Tom Lafleur, CPA, Director of Finance
and Operations
Dr. Shana Goldwyn, K-8 Literacy Coordinator

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- 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** – Kathy Clancy reported that *The Lion King, Jr.* will be performed at O'Maley for the next two weekends on Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 1 p.m. and recognized Linda Stockman for the amazing costumes. She also recognized Cape Ann Savings Bank for sponsoring the Power of Play event that will be taking place on March 20th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the high school. Finally, Chairman Pope recognized the Docksiders and the high school chorus for their recent performance, which was great.
- VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Lucas Struppe and another student updated the committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: final playoff volleyball game, fundraisers for Guilherme and Olivia, including a black and white dance, tryouts for spring sports, the talent show on Thursday and Friday nights, and the blood drive on Friday.
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA**
- A. Approval of Minutes**
1. School Committee of February 10, 2016
 2. School Committee of February 11, 2016
 3. Building & Finance Subcommittee of February 23, 2016
 4. Program Subcommittee of February 24, 2016
 5. School Committee and Executive Session of February 24, 2016
 6. Special School Committee of March 2, 2016

- B. Approval of Warrants – Cover Sheets**
- C. Approval of Transfers**
- D. Referrals**
- E. Approval of Scholarship – Business Networking International Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00**
- F. Acceptance of Donation – Donation in the amount of \$400.00 from Addison Gilbert Hospital for the GHS ImPACT (Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing) software for student athletes**
- G. Approval of Grants**
 - 1. FY16 Essential School Health Services Grant Amendment in the amount of \$22,776.00
 - 2. Massachusetts DESE Final FY16 Title I, Parts A & D District Allocation to Gloucester in the amount of \$2,176.00

Mr. Favazza removed Item E from the Consent Agenda.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

With respect to Item E, Mr. Favazza reported that he is a member of Business Networking International and that this is their way of supporting education in the community.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Business Networking International.

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- A. Presentation of the Draft FY17 Budget –** Chairman Pope reviewed the budget process and stated that the budget that is presented and voted on tonight will be presented at the public hearing on March 30, 2016. He stated that the committee will vote on the budget again on April 13th, after taking into consideration input from the community at the public hearing.

Dr. Safier presented a slide show on the proposed FY17 operating budget and stated that it is designed to support continued growth in student achievement, the increase in English language learners, the increased need for social and emotional support,

technology, including continuation of the 1:1 Chromebook initiative, and absorption of annual increases.

Dr. Safier reported that the proposed budget totals \$40,225,057, an increase of \$1,036,309 (2.64%) over this year's approved budget. He discussed the cost increases to the budget, including an increase in health insurance costs (estimated at 8%), Track and Step increases of \$271,327, an increase in special education costs of \$95,651, anticipated grant reductions, and a need for kindergarten aides due to the number of potential enrollees.

Dr. Safier reviewed additions to the FY17 budget, including two ELL teachers, an additional preschool teacher and paraprofessional, paraprofessionals for the vocational program (2) and Plum Cove (1), a math coach for three of the elementary schools, a special education teacher and noon supervisor at Veterans, a math coordinator at O'Maley, adjustment counselors at Plum Cove and East Gloucester, and a board-certified behavior analyst.

Dr. Safier reviewed reductions to the FY17 budget, including retirements, reduced BSRI services, decreased transportation costs due to the new bus lease and a reduction in fuel costs, professional development, Internet service, out-of-district tuitions, and a teacher sabbatical.

Finally, Dr. Safier reviewed the FY17 budget by department, noting that \$600,000 of the Main Office budget is for cost of living adjustments. Mr. Lafleur reviewed the increases to the Special Education budget.

The committee discussed the structure of the vocational program, funding of unemployment, the status of worker's compensation, the possibility of changing school start times, and the need for a full-time adjustment counselor at Plum Cove.

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

Mr. Gross – yes
Kathy Clancy – yes
Chairman Pope – yes
Mr. Favazza – yes
Ms. Teixeira – yes

To approve a budget in the amount of \$40,225,057 to be published for the public hearing scheduled for March 30, 2016.

- B. Mid-Winter DIBELS** – Dr. Shana Goldwyn presented the Mid-Year Benchmark Data Report. The report included a description and explanation of the DIBELS composite scores, district data and growth from fall to winter, reports by grade and school, and a school by school comparison. Dr. Goldwyn stated that overall, the data

is trending the way we want it to trend. Mr. Favazza expressed concern about some of the numbers, and Melissa Francis stated that this is only one assessment that is used to measure student growth. Dr. Goldwyn added that many students are making huge growth even though they are not meeting the benchmark.

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

1. State Budget Update: Lawmakers Asking for Education Aid Increase Beyond Baker Budget Proposal
2. Update on MCAS 2.0
3. Coordinated Program Review

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

VOTED: 5 in favor 0 opposed, to accept the Superintendent's Report.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – None.

X. ACTION

A. Approval of FY17 Budget – See VIII.A.

B. Approval to Indefinitely Extend Redistricting of Burnham's Field Area – Kathy Clancy stated that the district is projected to have a large kindergarten class next year, particular at East Gloucester School, which is the same situation that happened last year. She reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed this matter and recommended that we continue the action that was taken last year in terms of the Burnham's Field area kindergarten students.

After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Chairman Pope, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to indefinitely extend the redistricting of the Burnham Field area kindergartners and new students to Veterans' Memorial Elementary School.

Dr. Safier indicated that the Program Subcommittee also discussed maximizing the available kindergarten slots at the new West Parish School to equilibrate the size of each kindergarten class across the district. Ms. Teixeira expressed empathy for families who buy homes in a certain area with the expectation of going to a certain school but acknowledged that this is the right thing to do so that there are not too many students in a classroom.

Finally, there was a discussion about neighborhood schools versus community schools, adjustments to the current catchment areas, move-ins, and intradistrict school choice.

- C. Approval of Resolution** – After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the resolution calling for full funding of the Foundation Budget Review Commission’s recommendations.

- D. Approval of 2016-2017 School Calendar** – Ms. Teixeira made a motion, seconded by Kathy Clancy to approve the 2016-2017 School Calendar. After discussion and at the request of Dr. Unobskey, the motion was withdrawn and this matter was tabled.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. MSBA Project Update** – Chairman Pope reported that there is a building committee meeting tomorrow and noted that the construction trailers have been removed from the site.

- B. Joint School Committee/City Council Meeting** – Chairman Pope reported that he and Council President Ciolino have agreed that both the School Committee and the City Council will vote on the MSBA Statements of Interest at the joint meeting on March 24th. He stated that Council President Ciolino requested that the Blackburn Drive and St. Ann’s buildings be addressed at that meeting. Chairman Pope suggested that a walk-thru of both buildings be scheduled for the City Council sometime before the joint meeting.

- C. PARCC Testing at O’Maley** – Kathy Clancy asked whether the PARCC exam would be taken online again at O’Maley this year. Dr. Safier reported that the administration determined that higher scores result from taking the test on paper. Therefore, the middle school will be taking the PARCC exam on paper this year.

XII. ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of March 9, 2016 at 9:05 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*