

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

District Office Conference Room

2 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Kathy Clancy, Vice Chairperson
Joel Favazza, Secretary
Melissa Teixeira
Tony Gross (7:41 p.m.)
Michelle Sweet
Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Tom Lafleur, CPA, Director of Finance
and Operations

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** – Dr. Safier recognized Athletic Director Julie Smith and GHS Principal James Cook for arranging for nationally recognized speaker Elliot Hopkins to talk about community building, sportsmanship and respect at GHS this week. Mr. Hopkins is director of the NFHS Student Leadership Summit and is a board member of the hazing prevention organization. He has also been conducting workshops with small groups at the high school and middle school. GHS Student Council member Jarrod Martin indicated that the feedback was very positive.
- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Jarrod Martin reported that Sierra Rudolph competed in the high jump at the state championship last weekend and will be going to the international championship. He and Roy Kirwa updated the committee on other events at Gloucester High School, including the intramural volleyball league, underclassmen course selection, the upcoming trip to Spain and Portugal, and the NHS induction ceremony. Jarrod also reported that the GHS cheerleaders just became grand champions and will be competing at the regional tournament in Wilmington on Sunday.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. School Committee Minutes of January 25, 2017
2. Building & Finance Subcommittee Minutes of February 1, 2017
3. Program Subcommittee Minutes of February 2, 2017

B. Approval of Warrants – Cover Sheets

C. Approval of Transfers – January 24 to February 3, 2017

D. Referrals

Mr. Favazza removed Item A.1 from the Consent Agenda and requested that more detail be included in the minutes with respect to his comments on the life sciences grant.

On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Ms. Sweet, 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. FY18 Draft Budget Presentation – Chairman Pope stated that the Building & Finance Subcommittee will be reviewing the draft budget at its meeting on March 15th and that the School Committee will then vote on March 22nd on the budget to be presented at the public hearing on April 5th. He stated that the committee will then take a final vote on the budget on April 12th, after taking into consideration the input received from the community at the public hearing.

Dr. Safier presented a slide show on the proposed FY18 operating budget, including the budget calendar, and stated that it is designed to provide unification and coherence, meet individual student needs, strengthen higher order thinking, and support effective use of data, the increase in English language learners, the increased need for social and emotional support, and absorption of annual increases and grant reductions. Mayor Theken spoke about the potential increase in health insurance.

Dr. Safier reported that the proposed budget totals \$41,288,895, an increase of \$1,119,742 (2.79%) over this year’s approved budget. He discussed the cost increases to the budget, including an increase in health insurance costs (estimated at 8%) of \$302,501, Track and Step increases of \$451,893, and an increase in special education costs of \$40,678. He also discussed cost offsets to the budget and anticipated grant reductions and reviewed substitute data.

Dr. Safier reviewed additions to the FY18 budget, including two ELL teachers, an at-risk program coordinator at the high school, an elementary science program, a 1:1 Chromebook refresh, and additional Chromebook carts. Requests not included in the draft budget include math interventionists at each of the elementary schools, a special

education teacher at Plum Cove, a second program leader at the high school, and technology upgrades at East Gloucester School.

(Mr. Gross joined the meeting at 7:41 p.m.)

Finally, Dr. Safier reviewed the FY18 budget by department, noting that the School Committee contingency account includes cost of living adjustments for staff. He stated that the supply line items at each of the elementary schools have been equilibrated. Dr. Safier also reviewed salaries funded by grants and revolving accounts (i.e. not included in the operating budget).

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

1. O’Maley Music Room – Dr. Safier reported that Kevin Buckley is simultaneously working on the additional room at Plum Cove, hoping to get a better price on bids from combining the projects.
2. Elementary Principals Curriculum Meeting
3. March 7 Professional Development
4. REALIZE Training
5. Safety Care
6. CPR Press Release (Interview Invitations)
7. Transgender Guidance
8. Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to Meet
9. Governor’s Budget Would Boost General Aid by 3.9%, Chapter 70 by 2%

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 15, 2017** – Mr. Gross reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed the FY18 draft budget, student meal balances, and the need for some new kitchen equipment at its meeting of February 15, 2017. Kathy Clancy noted that there has been tremendous improvement in terms of DPW tickets being addressed, and Mr. Gross commended Curtis Wightman for his work in that regard. Finally, Chairman Pope reported that the subcommittee discussed how to better deal with acceptance of grants.

X. ACTION

A. Acceptance of Grants

1. Gloucester Education Foundation Grants – Dr. Safier reported that the grant for O’Maley is to upgrade the software of thirty 3D printers and the purchase of equipment to be able to recycle used filaments. Teacher Amy Donnelly discussed the 3D printers and Dr. Safier stated that she has been exceptional in helping to raise funds for the entire science program at O’Maley.

Dr. Safier reported that the grant for the high school is to enable it to deepen its approach to inquiry by placing 3D printers in several classrooms there.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to accept two grants from the Gloucester Education, one in the amount of \$4,625.97 for the O’Maley 3D printer program and one in the amount of \$20,997.98 to GHS for 3D printers.

2. Healthy Gloucester Collaborative Grant – After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a grant from Healthy Gloucester in the amount of \$10,500.00 for curriculum supplies and professional development for health teachers at O’Maley and GHS.

- B. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding** – Kathy Clancy reported that there are no substantive changes to the MOU. She made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding, and Ms. Teixeira seconded the motion. Dr. Safier reviewed paragraph 4 of the MOU, and after a lengthy discussion of the process of accepting grants, it was the consensus of the committee to replace the words “School Committee” with the word “Superintendent.” The motion was withdrawn.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to amend paragraph 4 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Gloucester Public Schools and the Gloucester Education Foundation by replacing the words “School Committee” with the word “Superintendent.”

On a motion by Mayor Theken, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Gloucester Public Schools and the Gloucester Education Foundation, as amended.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

A. MSBA Project Updates

1. East Gloucester School – Dr. Safier reported that the SOI for East Gloucester School has been invited into the Eligibility Period by the MSBA. Chairman Pope reviewed the deliverables and deadlines with respect to the Eligibility Period, which begins on April 3, 2017. He reported that he presented this information to the City Council last night, as well as the site based council at East Gloucester. He and Ms. Teixeira will be meeting soon with the Veterans site based council. Mayor Theken requested that anyone interested in serving on the school building committee send a letter of interest and resumes to her office.
2. GHS Roof – Dr. Safier reported that the building committee voted to continue on with the schematic design with the funds that had already been allocated by the City Council. He stated that Mr. Dunn submitted a request for full funding of the project. He reiterated that 36% of the roof was apparently constructed in 2005 without MSBA reimbursement, and since that portion of the roof is less than 20 years old, it is not eligible for MSBA reimbursement. Dr. Safier indicated that there are negotiations taking place as to whether there is any flexibility with respect to that portion of the roof, which is over the vocational wing and the back of the cafeteria. In any event, with the city's endorsement, the full project is going forward over the summer. Any activities that were scheduled to take place at the high school this summer will be moved to O'Maley.

- B. Meeting Scheduled for March 8th** – Chairman Pope stated that this meeting may need to be cancelled. Ms. Teixeira indicated that the approval of contracts can wait until the March 22nd meeting.
- C. Promotional Videos** – Chairman Pope reported that he will be meeting with Maggie Rosa and Tina Raimo of the Gloucester Education Foundation on Friday to discuss making promotional videos of the schools.
- D. School Committee Operating Protocols and Rules of Procedure** – Chairman Pope stated that these documents are supposed to be reviewed by the committee once a year. It was the consensus of the committee to schedule a workshop to review the documents.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

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

To enter into Executive Session at 9:05 p.m. for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with the GTA and to enter back into regular session only for the purpose of adjournment.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of March 1, 2017 at 9:33 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*