

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 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
Joel Favazza (7:44 p.m.)
Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent
Gary Frisch, Director of Finance
and Operations
Amy Pasquarello, EGS Principal

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** – None.
- IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON** – None.
- V. **RECOGNITIONS** – Dr. Safier recognized the exceptional production of *Mary Poppins* by O’Maley students, and Mayor Theken reported that East Gloucester School’s production of *Alice in Wonderland* is coming up soon. Dr. Safier also reported that the Power of Play will be taking place on March 24th at GHS and College and Career Night will be taking place tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. at GHS. Finally, Dr. Safier recognized the high school for its award of continued accreditation in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). He read a portion of the letter from NEASC.
- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Elizabeth Schuster and Delaney Benchoff updated the committee on the following events at GHS: Docksiders’ wine and beer tasting fundraiser, junior event, tryouts for spring sports, sophomore event, DECA conference in Boston, DECA international competition in April, blood drive, the production of *Mama Mia* April 4-6, 2019, and the presentation regarding coastal flooding.
- VII. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Personnel Subcommittee of January 22, 2019
2. Building & Finance Subcommittee of January 24, 2019
3. School Committee & Executive Session of January 30, 2019

B. Approval of Warrants

C. Approval of Transfers

D. Referrals

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. Dore & Whittier Presentation – East Gloucester Building Project – Michelle Rogers from Dore & Whittier presented a slide show on the East Gloucester building project, including the Dore & Whittier team, education program and district goals, options, work to date, MSBA space summaries, working groups, programming, spatial relationships, guiding principles for design, site constraints, existing conditions, functional use of the buildings, code compliance, presentations to the community, and the project schedule.

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

1. Cape Ann College and Career Fair
2. Kindergarten - Grade 5 ELA Review Dates
3. Resilience

(Mr. Favazza joined the meeting at 7:44 p.m.)

4. EL Home Language Survey and Reclassification Procedures
5. School Bus Audio/Video Footage
6. School Improvement Plans
7. O’Maley Production of “*Mary Poppins, 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 – None.

X. ACTION

A. Approval of Guiding Principles of Design for East Gloucester Building Project –
No vote needed.

B. Approval of FY20 Budget for Public Hearing – Dr. Safier presented a slide show on the level service FY20 budget in the amount of \$43,372,214, representing an increase of \$1,433,317 (3.42%) over this year's approved budget. He discussed significant increases to the budget, including cost of living adjustments, an increase in health insurance costs of \$398,438, Step increases of \$415,825, and lane changes of \$250,500. Mr. Frisch indicated that the increase to health insurance will be reviewed again after open enrollment ends in early May.

Dr. Safier reviewed three options for additional staff requested by principals. Option A would add \$133,000 to the level service budget (3.74% increase), Option B would add \$254,000 (4.02% increase), and Option C would add \$335,500 (4.22% increase). Mr. Frisch reviewed potential budget figures from the city and the required reductions to get to those figures under each option. Mr. Gross pointed out that about 80% of the increase in the technology budget is for safety related items, such as phones in every classroom.

Kathy Clancy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sweet, to approve an FY20 level service budget in the amount of \$43,372,214.00 to be published for the public hearing scheduled for April 3, 2019. After discussion, Mr. Favazza amended the motion by including Options A, B and C, as presented. Dr. Safier indicated that that figure expresses the needs of the district but he does not believe it is a realistic figure in terms of what the city will provide.

Kathy Clancy pointed out that the special education position listed in Option C is not supported by the special education director and therefore should not be included. She also believes the \$16,000 figure for a .2 math coach should either be eliminated or increased to cover at least a .5 math coach. Mr. Bach strongly encouraged additional math coaching and indicated that .2 is not a realistic number.

Mr. Favazza revised his amendment to the motion as follows:

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

Mayor Theken – present
Kathy Clancy – yes
Mr. Favazza – yes

Mr. Gross – yes
Chairman Pope – yes
Ms. Sweet – yes
Ms. Teixeira Prince – yes

To include Options A and B as presented and a 1.0 math coach in the FY20 budget to be published for the public hearing scheduled for April 3, 2019.

Amended Motion

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Favazza, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

Mayor Theken – present
Kathy Clancy – yes
Mr. Favazza – yes
Mr. Gross – no
Chairman Pope – yes
Ms. Sweet – yes
Ms. Teixeira Prince – yes

To approve an FY20 budget in the amount of \$43,728,214.00 to be published for the public hearing scheduled for April 3, 2019, which includes Options A and B as presented and a 1.0 math coach.

Dr. Safier stated that he understands the decision to put forward a budget for public hearing that shows what is needed to run the district but cautioned the committee to be cognizant of the fact that reductions will most likely be required, which will be a difficult process and have repercussions throughout the district.

C. Reauthorization of School Committee Operating Protocols and Rules of Procedure – On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to reauthorize the School Committee Operating Protocols and Rules of Procedure.

D. Recommendations by B&F Subcommittee

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

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to authorize the CFO to appropriate \$5,611.00 from the Main Office contingency account for FY18 back pay to an administrative professional to rectify her placement on the incorrect step.

2. On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to authorize the CFO to request approval from City Council to pay an FY18 settlement payment in the amount of \$5,611.00 from FY19 funds.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

A. MSBA Project Update – See VIII.A.

B. Preschool Location – Dr. Safier reported that there was a meeting today with the preschool staff and Dore & Whittier.

C. Annual School Committee Calendar – Chairman Pope reported that the annual calendar was developed by the committee in 2013 and that it has not been changed since then. He indicated that he consults the calendar when preparing agendas. He suggested that committee members review it and discuss it at a future meeting.

D. Regionalization – Mr. Favazza requested an update on regionalization with Rockport. Chairman Pope reported that he has been going back and forth with the chair of the Rockport School Committee on the criteria of a study that will be done.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of March 13, 2019 at 8:51 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*