

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, April 12, 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  
Michelle Sweet  
Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken

**Administration Present**

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

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

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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** – Chairman Pope recognized the fifth grade students at Veterans for their wax museum program on Monday. Kathy Clancy recognized the GHS drama department for their impressive production of *Seussical* this past weekend and thanked Dr. Stockman and his wife Linda, as well as other members of the community, for volunteering their time. Mr. Lafleur thanked retired employee Karen Cunha for coming back to help out in the HR Department over the last several months. Finally, Mr. Favazza recognized GHS history teacher Shaun Goulart for his weekly scavenger hunt assignments.

Dr. Imel introduced the following West Parish students, who each read one of their original poems: Isabella Tarantino, Maddison Goodhue, Aly LoPiccolo, Jenna Rowe, Emma Alves and Savannah Mackie.

- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – None present.

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

- 1. Building & Finance Subcommittee Minutes of February 15, 2017

2. School Committee and Executive Session Minutes of March 1, 2017
3. Program Subcommittee Minutes of March 6, 2017

**B. Approval of Warrants – Cover Sheets**

**C. Approval of Transfers**

**D. Referrals**

**E. Acceptance of Donations**

1. Donation from the University of Michigan to GHS in the amount of \$500.00
2. Donation from Intel Corporation Charitable Match Trust to Veterans' Memorial Elementary School in the amount of \$130.00
3. Donation of 25 yoga mats and a DVD to West Parish Elementary School

**F. Acceptance of Scholarship – Stone Family Scholarship Award to Gloucester High School in the amount of \$1,000.00 – Kathy Clancy conveyed the committee's appreciation for this scholarship.**

Chairman Pope removed the Executive Session Minutes of March 1, 2017 from the Consent Agenda because the date was incorrect.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

**VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. Kops 'N Kids Program – Interim Police Chief McCarthy spoke about this volunteer program that started in January in which officers go to the elementary schools to serve and eat lunch with the students to build positive relationships with them. He indicated that both the Mayor's Office and the police department tried to come up with a logo for the program but were not able to do so. Eric Cameron, a senior at GHS, came up with the logo, which will be unveiled at the kickoff event.**

Sergeant Jeremiah Nicastro, the program coordinator, spoke about what takes place at the school visits and noted that both the kids and the officers have a lot of fun. They would like to visit each school four times a year starting in September. Several members of the committee thanked the officers for volunteering for this program.

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

1. Board of Education Adopts Revised English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics Standards
2. MCAS Administration

3. Department of Education Submits its Plan to Meet Requirements of ESSA

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the Superintendent’s Report.

## IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

**A. Program Subcommittee Meeting of April 6, 2017** – Kathy Clancy reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its meeting of April 6, 2017:

- O’Maley Innovation Plan Renewal
- Revised Wellness Policy, File ADF – Dr. Safier stated that the policy has been streamlined and that members of the Wellness Committee will come before the School Committee before the end of the school year to discuss the Wellness Plan.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to waive the actual reading of the Wellness Policy, File ADF.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the revised Wellness Policy, File ADF, as presented.

- Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Guidelines, File EBCF – Kathy Clancy read the policy into the record and made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sweet, to approve the first reading of the policy. Ms. Teixeira requested that language be added to the policy indicating that coaches are trained to use AEDs. The motion was withdrawn. Mr. Favazza suggested that the 911 dispatch center have a list of the locations of AEDs in each school.

On a motion by Chairman Pope, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to amend the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Guidelines, File EBCF, to add the phrase “including but not limited to nurses and coaches” at the end of the first sentence of the second paragraph.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the first reading of the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Guidelines, File EBCF, as amended.

**X. ACTION**

- A. Acceptance of Gloucester Education Foundation Grant** – Dr. Safier discussed the purpose of the grant and how the funding will be used.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a grant from the Gloucester Education Foundation in the amount of \$9,600.00 to support the development of O'Maley's new Biolab facility and programming.

- B. FY18 Budget Proposal** – There was a discussion about the increase in Central Office staff salaries and Chapter 70 reimbursement. Kathy Clancy noted that many of the speakers at the public hearing were requesting more money for the school budget but did not specify where they would like that money added.

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

**VOTED:** By Roll Call Vote

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

To approve the FY18 budget proposal in the amount of \$41,288,895.00, as presented at the School Committee Public Hearing of April 5, 2017.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 1 present (Mayor Theken) to approve the FY18 budget proposal for submission to the Mayor and the City Council.

**C. Approval of Policies**

1. Wellness Policy, File ADF – See IX.A.
2. Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Guidelines, File EBCF – See IX.A.

**XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

**A. MSBA Project Updates**

1. GHS Roof – Chairman Pope reported that the City Council voted to approve the bonding for the roof. He noted that the spring musical was able to go forward with no leaks in the auditorium and thanked the DPW for doing what they could to keep the water out. He reported that the architects are in the process of developing bid documents and stated that the project is on schedule to be done this summer. Any work that needs to be done after the start of school will be done with minimal disruption to students. Mr. Favazza stated that it has been brought to his attention that a roof with a slight pitch to it will help prevent ponding. Chairman Pope stated that requesting this change would likely add to an already high cost of the project.
2. East Gloucester School – Chairman Pope reported that the administration is in the process of putting together a number of things that are required by the state, including the formation of a building committee. He stated that anyone interested in being on the committee should send their letter of interest and resume to the mayor. Dr. Safier noted that there are specific positions that must be on the committee (i.e. purchasing agent, CFO, etc.). Ms. Teixeira requested that the mayor consider new people that were not on the West Parish building committee.
3. West Parish School – Mr. Lafleur reported that the contractors will be on the roof on Tuesday and that the punch list is still being worked on. Chairman Pope noted that the building committee only meets every two to three months.

**B. Letter to East Gloucester Elementary School, March 27, 2017** – FYI. Chairman Pope requested that a letter be sent to West Parish thanking their students for reading their poetry at tonight's meeting.

**C. GHS End-of-Year Calendar/Events** – FYI.

**D. Donations** – Dr. Safier stated that the \$500.00 donation from the University of Michigan to GHS is the result of participation in a survey that included questions about wellbeing, job plans, substance abuse, etc. He also explained the \$130.00 donation from Intel Corporation Charitable Match Trust to Veterans and reported that the donation of yoga mats to West Parish is for directed stretching exercises for a kindergarten class at the beginning of the day.

**E. School Visit** – Mr. Favazza reported that he visited the Bresnahan School in Newburyport last week, which is a consolidated lower elementary school (Pre-K through Grade 3) with 740 students. He stated that it was a very impressive school with a very similar design to West Parish. He invited other members of the committee to take a tour of the school.

**XII. 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 April 12, 2017 at 8:17 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*