

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

7:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

Jonathan Pope, Chairman (7:01 p.m.)  
Melissa Teixeira, Vice Chairperson  
Kathy Clancy, Secretary (7:22 p.m.)  
Tony Gross  
Michelle Sweet  
Jack O'Maley

**Administration Present**

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent  
Hans Baumhauer, Director of Finance  
and Operations  
Patricia Wegmann, Director of  
Special Education  
Erik Anderson, GHS Principal

---

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Vice Chairperson Teixeira called the meeting to order at 6:59 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** – None present.
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA**
- A. Approval of Minutes**
1. School Committee Public Hearing of April 2, 2014
  2. Program Subcommittee of April 3, 2014
  3. Special Building & Finance Subcommittee of April 4, 2014
  4. School Committee of April 9, 2014
  5. Building & Finance Subcommittee of April 16, 2014
- B. Approval of Warrants** – Cover Sheets
- C. Approval of Transfers**, as recommended by the Building & Finance Subcommittee on April 16, 2014
- D. Out-of-State Field Trip Request** – Grade 5 Annual Trip to Nature's Classroom to Camp Cody, Freedom, New Hampshire from Tuesday, May 27, 2014 to Friday, May 30, 2014

- E. Acceptance of Gloucester Education Foundation Grant** – GHS 3-D Program to enhance the opportunities for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) in the amount of \$40,693.00

Vice Chairperson Teixeira removed Item A5 since the minutes are not included in the packet.

On a motion by Mr. O'Maley, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 4 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

*(Chairman Pope joined the meeting at 7:01 p.m.)*

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

- A. GHS School Improvement Plan (SIP)** – Principal Erik Anderson reviewed the Gloucester High School SIP, including the members of the site-based council and initiatives, goals and action steps, and noted that the SIP is aligned to the strategic objectives of the District Improvement Plan. The committee discussed the following matters:

- Standard template for lesson plans – Lesson plans will be developed based on what will be assessed. Teachers will be held to the same standard but may use different materials.
- Public service as a graduation requirement beginning next year – Chairman Pope reminded Mr. Anderson that graduation requirements must be approved by the School Committee.

*(Kathy Clancy joined the meeting at 7:22 p.m.)*

- Effect of a new schedule on the vocational program
- Working with ninth graders to increase attendance and GPA and engage them at a higher level

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Gloucester High School School Improvement Plan.

*(Mr. Anderson left the meeting at 7:53 p.m.)*

- B. Special Education Update** – Ms. Wegmann presented a report detailing budgetary considerations (students moving in and out of the district), commendations and specific findings by the Walker Institute after their weeklong assessment of the special education program, and an update on the Special Education Parent Advisory Counsel. The committee discussed the next steps to be taken after the final Walker Institute report is received.

Chairman Pope reiterated that the tuition costs for the six special education students who moved into the district is \$318,000 and the tuition costs for the two students who moved out of the district is \$101,000.00. Kathy Clancy noted that those costs do not include transportation.

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

1. April 28th Board of Education Meeting to Discuss PARCC
2. PARCC Field Testing
3. Fingerprint Background Checks – Dr. Safier indicated that a notice will be sent out tomorrow regarding the fingerprinting requirement.
4. New Educator Evaluation Data

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Superintendent's Report.

**IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of April 16, 2014** – Chairman Pope and Dr. Safier reported that the subcommittee discussed the following matters at its meeting on April 16, 2014:

- Draft Budget Timeline and Outline of Roles and Responsibilities
- Food Service Update
- Transfers
- Salary Adjustment for Confidential Executive Secretary

Mr. Gross reported that the subcommittee also discussed a new data management system for the transportation department, Versatrans School Transportation Management Systems. Dr. Safier stated that he is hoping to schedule a presentation by Versatrans in the near future.

**B. Personnel Subcommittee Meetings of April 28 and 30, 2014** – Chairperson Teixeira reported that the subcommittee negotiated with Food Service on April 28th and AFSCME-A and AFSCME-B today.

**X. ACTION**

**A. District Participation in School Choice for 2014-2015** – After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the district's participation in school choice for 2014-2015.

Dr. Safier stated that he believes the number of students choicing in next year is approximately 48.

**B. Acceptance of Gloucester High School School Improvement Plan** – See Item VIII.A.

**C. School Calendar** – Chairman Pope stated that he would like to reconsider the school calendar for next year to make Good Friday a half day. He reported that Gloucester would be the only district on the North Shore to have a full day of school on Good Friday, and he believes it is an important holiday for some people. Dr. Safier noted that making Good Friday a half day would be consistent with past practice.

Ms. Teixeira suggested making Good Friday a full day off from school and adding a day to the end of the year. It was the consensus of the committee that, educationally speaking, a half day of school in April is better than a full day in June.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to revise the 2014-15 School Calendar by making Good Friday a half day of school.

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

**A. MSBA Project Update** – Dr. Safier updated the committee on the following matters with respect to the West Parish project:

- Letters from KBA to moving companies describing the two phases of the moving process

- Moving schedule:

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Moving company hired                    | First week of May     |
| Boxes and labeling directions delivered | May 23                |
| Parent moving assistance day/picnic     | June 21, 8 am to 1 pm |
| Packing                                 | June 25-27            |
| Moving Phase I                          | June 30 – July 3      |
| Moving Phase II                         | Early August          |

- Meeting with new MSBA team on May 29th at 2:00 p.m.

- Modular setup at Beeman

**B. Essex Tech Budget Update** – Ms. Teixeira stated that since her report at the last School Committee meeting, the budget for the Essex Tech has gone down \$3 million. She reported that a vote was taken last week on the bonding process for the capital debt, which will save another \$1.25 million. She noted that the city’s assessment as reported at the last meeting was based on an enrollment of approximately 61 students. However, the most recent assessment is based on 88 students, and she is not yet sure

how the new numbers will play out. She will provide a further update at the next meeting.

Ms. Teixeira reported that there is not much competition with respect to enrolling at the Essex Tech this year because there are so many openings. However, future enrollment will be extremely competitive, and she is concerned that fewer students from Gloucester will be able to enroll. She requested that committee members familiarize themselves with the GHS vocational program because there is a likelihood that more students will be enrolling in that program in the future. She referred the vocational program to the Program Subcommittee for review.

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

**VOTED:** By Roll Call Vote

Kathy Clancy – yes  
Mr. Gross – yes  
Mr. O’Maley – yes  
Chairman Pope – yes  
Ms. Sweet – yes  
Ms. Teixeira – yes

To enter into Executive Session at 8:47 p.m. to discuss strategy regarding a grievance resolution and contract negotiations and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of voting on the grievance resolution and to adjourn.

**X. ACTION (Continued)**

**D. Grievance Resolution** – On a motion by Chairman Pope, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to authorize the Director of Finance & Operations to transfer \$12,500.00 from the Main Office contingency fund to the appropriate account for resolution of a grievance.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of April 30, 2014 at 9:20 p.m.

*All reference documents and reports are filed in the Superintendent’s office.  
Maria Puglisi, Recording Secretary*