

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

District Office Conference Room

2 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

7:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

Jonathan Pope, Chairman  
Kathy Clancy, Vice Chairperson (7:55 p.m.)  
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  
James Cook, GHS Principal  
Debra Lucey, O'Maley Principal  
Ellen Sibley, Beeman Principal  
Tammy Morgan, Plum Cove Principal

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** – GHS art teacher Emily Harney presented a photograph taken by junior Marcos Trejo, who received a regional Gold Key and a national silver medal in the 2017 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards from over 300,000 applicants. Chairman Pope read and presented Marcos with a special citation recognizing his outstanding performance.  
  
Chairman Pope congratulated Lara Lepionka and Backyard Growers, who received a \$100,000 grant from the Cummings Foundation to continue their work.  
  
Mr. Gross recognized the students who took part in the city-wide arts festival, noting that the artwork was great, the O'Maley band was phenomenal, and the Gloucester Public Schools were very proudly on display.
- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Caroline Enos updated the committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: presentation on substance abuse for student athletes, Senior Spirit Week, senior cookout, Docksiders and chorus final performance, and honors art show.

## **VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **A. Approval of Minutes**

1. School Committee Minutes of April 12, 2017
2. Building & Finance Subcommittee Minutes of April 19, 2017

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

### **C. Approval of Transfers – April 24 to May 9, 2017**

### **D. Referrals**

### **E. Acceptance of Donations from Hockmeyer Studios, Inc.**

1. \$136.52 and \$216.09 to the Gloucester Preschool
2. \$366.82 to Beeman Memorial Elementary School
3. \$420.38 to West Parish Elementary School
4. \$361.41 to Plum Cove Elementary School

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**

**(At this time, the agenda was taken out of order.)**

**B. College/Career Plans for Graduating Class** – GHS principal James Cook reviewed a preliminary list of where students will be attending school next year, which will be updated when seniors come in to pick up their caps and gowns. He does not yet have data on how many students are entering the military after graduation.

### **A. School Improvement Plans**

1. Beeman Memorial and Plum Cove Elementary Schools – Plum Cove principal Tammy Morgan stated that three of the four goals are common goals among the elementary schools. She and Beeman principal Ellen Sibley reviewed the common goals. Ms. Morgan then reviewed Plum Cove’s individual goal and Ms. Sibley reviewed Beeman’s individual goal. There was a discussion about access to online keyboarding lessons at home. Mayor Theken thanked Ms. Sibley for her years of dedication to the Gloucester Public Schools.
2. O’Maley Innovation Middle School – Principal Debra Lucey presented a slide show on the O’Maley School Improvement Plan and reported that the teachers have approved the innovation school renewal plan. There was a discussion about MCAS and other assessments.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the School Improvement Plans of Beeman Memorial Elementary School, Plum Cove Elementary School and O'Maley Innovation Middle School.

- C. Advertising at GHS Softball Field** – Tim Wood, President of the GHS Softball Boosters, requested that the School Committee reconsider its vote taken on January 11, 2017 against placing signs on the backstop at the softball field. Mr. Wood noted that the income from the sale of those banners will help maintain and make improvements to the field, which will benefit not only the GHS softball teams but youth and summer leagues, as well.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to allow the GHS Softball Boosters to place banners on the upper section of the backstop and the street side of the home team dugout at the softball field.

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

1. Presentation on Internet Safety
2. Gloucester Biotechnology Academy Graduation
3. Academic Recognition Night
4. Guidance on Immigration Enforcement Requests
5. Summit on Leading Student-Centered Digital Learning Initiatives
6. State Budget Comparisons

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 May 17, 2017** – Chairman Gross reported that the B&F Subcommittee discussed district expenditures, DPW open and closed tickets, food service debt, and revolving accounts at its meeting of May 17, 2017.

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

### **A. MSBA Project Updates**

1. GHS Roof – Dr. Safier reported that the building committee will be meeting next week to review the bids received, a number of which have come in under the original estimate.

2. East Gloucester/Veterans School – Dr. Safier reported that he has formally submitted the educational profile questionnaire along with excerpts from Dore & Whittier’s master plan study. He stated that he is working on an enrollment projection and indicated that the building committee needs to be formed by June 2nd.
3. West Parish School – Chairman Pope reported that the West Parish building committee met last week.

**B. Letter to Beeman Memorial Elementary School – FYI.**

**C. Liquor License Hearing** – Chairman Pope reported that he received a letter from the Licensing Board informing the committee that there will be a hearing on a liquor license application for 115 East Main Street. The hearing will be held on May 31, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall if anyone is interested in attending.

**D. Recreational Marijuana** – Kathy Clancy noted that the City Council recently had a presentation on recreational marijuana and she believes it is important for the School Committee to stay on top of this issue. Chairman Pope indicated that a committee is being formed and that they are looking for a volunteer from the School Committee. Mayor Theken reported on the presentation and indicated that the committee will be focusing on edibles that target children.

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

**VOTED:** By Roll Call Vote

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

To enter into Executive Session at 8:56 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the nurses’ proposed contract, the superintendent’s proposed contract, collective bargaining with the GTA and GAEP, and a class action Level 3 grievance from the GTA, and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of voting on the contracts.

*(The meeting reconvened at 10:27 p.m.)*

**X. ACTION**

**A. Approval of Nurses' Contract** – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mayor Theken, it was

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 1 present (Mayor Theken) to approve the modifications to the current collective bargaining agreement between the Gloucester School Committee and the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA), as presented, subject to ratification by the MNA.

**B. Approval of GAEP Contract** – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 1 present (Mayor Theken) to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Gloucester School Committee and the Gloucester Association of Educational Paraprofessionals, as revised.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of May 24, 2017 at 10:28 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*