

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

District Office Conference Room

2 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Kathy Clancy, Vice Chairperson
Tony Gross, Secretary
Michelle Sweet
Joel Favazza

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent
Tom Lafleur, CPA, Director of Finance
and Operations
Patty Wegmann, Special Education Director
Grant Harris, IT Director
James Cook, GHS Principal
Jodi Gennodie, Beeman Principal
Amy Pasquarello, EGS Principal
Tammy Morgan, Plum Cove Principal
Matt Fusco, Veterans Principal
Dr. Telena Imel, West Parish Principal

Recorded by 1623 Studios

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 introduced Lynne Beattie, the new principal of O'Maley Innovation Middle School, who spoke about her background and stated that she is thrilled to be here and excited to start. In response to a question by Kathy Clancy, Ms. Beattie indicated that she has a communication ready to go out to parents on July 1st and noted that she will be around as much as possible this summer.

Dr. Safier showed two short promotional videos that were produced and posted to YouTube by parent volunteers John Sarrouf and John McElhenny. Kathy Clancy thanked Messrs. Sarrouf and McElhenny for donating their time to showcase our schools. Mr. Favazza stated that he would like the committee have a discussion about minimum standards before any official videos go out.

Finally, Kathy Clancy reported that there was an information session for O'Maley parents regarding the ALICE drill on Monday and stated that parents were pleased about the training and the thoughtfulness with which the staff and police were approaching the drill.

VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Samantha Gross updated the committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: AP testing, JROTC second place in drill nationals, senior banquet, and the new Student Council executive board. She also reported briefly on the ALICE training, noting that the class she was in learned how to barricade the door.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Program Subcommittee of March 1, 2018
2. Program Subcommittee of March 19, 2018
3. Building & Finance Subcommittee of March 22, 2018
4. School Committee of March 22, 2018

B. Approval of Warrants

C. Approval of Transfers

D. Referrals

E. Acceptance of Gift – \$20.36 from Ohiopyle Prints, Inc. to GHS

Chairman Pope removed Items A.3 and A.4 from the Consent Agenda.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Access to and Regulation of Information/Sites on the Internet – Dr. Safier noted that the School Committee policy entitled “Curriculum and Instruction, Access to Electronic Media,” File IJND, governs appropriate procedures regarding access to electronic media and addresses issues such as the ethical use of electronic media. He also noted that the district has acceptable use policies for both staff and students.

Mr. Harris spoke about Internet security (firewalls) and content filtering and indicated that the IT Department has a process for approving sites that are blocked but are not necessarily harmful. He noted that they can also block sites requested by teachers, such as games. Mr. Favazza stated that the proper names of illegal drugs (e.g. cocaine) are blocked but that the drugs' street names are not. Mr. Harris indicated

that a teacher can notify the IT Department that their students are doing a report on a certain subject and that category can be approved beforehand. He also noted that filters can also be applied by grade level.

- B. School Improvement Plans – Elementary Schools** – Dr. Imel stated that there are three shared goals among the elementary schools and that each school has an individual goal. She, Ms. Gennodie and Ms. Pasquarello reviewed the common goals and then all of the principals reviewed the individual goal for their school.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the 2018-2019 School Improvement Plans of the elementary schools.

- C. Coordinated Program Review Progress Report Update** -- Dr. Safier, Ms. Wegmann and Mr. Bach presented a slide show on the CPR progress report update with respect to civil rights, special education, and ELL. Mr. Bach and Mr. Cook reviewed the progress report on the vocational program.

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

1. Florida International University Research on School-Based Mental Health Services
2. Update from Cape Ann Communities for Safe and Healthy Children (CACSHC)
3. Gloucester High School Journalism
4. GHS JROTC Drill Team
5. O’Maley Academy
6. New Massachusetts Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Law – Ms. Sweet noted that the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Guidelines (File EBCF) may need to be updated due to the new law.
7. Summer 2018 Jobs
8. ALICE/Armed Intruder Simulation Drills

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the Superintendent’s Report.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – None.

X. ACTION

- A. Acceptance of Grants from Gloucester Education Foundation –** Chairman Pope reviewed the purpose of the grants totaling \$13,192.00.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a grant from the Gloucester Education Foundation in the amount of \$13,192.00.

With respect to the portion of GEF’s letter that refers to their approval of a \$5,000.00 grant to support the district’s marketing program with The Bridge, Mr. Favazza again expressed the importance of the committee discussing the acceptable minimum standards for its public relations campaign and stated that he does not believe The Bridge is capable of successfully promoting the district, based on what they are currently producing. Dr. Safier clarified that the grant application was sent to GEF **after** he and Chairman Pope had met several times with Kory Curcuru to discuss his ideas. Mr. Gross expressed concern that the committee did not see the grant application before it was submitted in order to provide input on it. He believes there is a lot of local knowledge that could be tapped to add to the conversation. Chairman Pope referred this matter to the Program Subcommittee.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

A. MSBA Project Updates

1. East Gloucester/Veterans School – Chairman Pope reported that the Request for Services (RFS) for the Owner’s Project Manager is out. The responses to the RFS will be received next week and the selection committee will then narrow down the responses to two or three firms to be interviewed.
2. GHS Roof – Chairman Pope reported that there are still some issues with the coating on the roof top units, which are in the process of being resolved.

B. End-of-Year Calendar of Events – FYI.

- C. Gift for Top 5% of Class of 2018 –** Chairman Pope stated that traditionally, the School Committee gives a maroon Cross pen to the top 5% of the graduating class. There was a discussion about other ideas for a gift, such as a book or something practical for college, like a thumb drive.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of May 9, 2018 at 9:22 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*