

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

District Office – Conference Room

7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Kathy Clancy, Vice Chairperson (7:28 p.m.)
Joel Favazza, Secretary
Melissa Teixeira (7:44 p.m.)
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
Tammy Morgan, Plum Cove Principal
Amy Pasquarello, East Gloucester Principal

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:04 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** – Mayor Theken recognized the JROTC students who received awards last Friday night and noted that Senior Awards Night is this Saturday. Chairman Pope stated that Academic Recognition Night was held on May 26th, that the prom is tomorrow night, and that graduation is on Sunday. Finally, Ms. Sweet recognized the students who graduated from the Compass program last night.
- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Sierra Rudolph and Lexi introduced themselves and updated the committee on events at GHS. Mayor Theken reported that the track team just had their banquet. She also offered to work with the students on permits for fundraisers.
- VII. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **Approval of Minutes**
 - 1. School Committee & Executive Session of May 11, 2016
 - 2. Building & Finance Subcommittee of May 18, 2016
 - 3. School Committee & Executive Session of May 25, 2016
 - B. **Approval of Warrants** – Cover Sheets

C. Approval of Transfers

D. Referrals – Venue of School Committee Meetings referred to Building & Finance Subcommittee

E. Acceptance of Gift – To accept a gift in the amount of \$1,200.00 from the Plum Cove Parent Teacher Co-Op to Plum Cove Elementary School for the purchase of ukuleles for Grade 4

Chairman Pope removed Items A.3.

On a motion by Ms. Sweet, seconded by Mr. Gross, 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. School Improvement Plans

1. East Gloucester Elementary School – Principal Amy Pasquarello reviewed the East Gloucester School Improvement Plan and discussed the Second Step program.
2. Plum Cove Elementary School – Principal Tammy Morgan reviewed the Plum Cove School Improvement Plan and discussed the PBIS program. She stated that the program will reduce behavioral referrals and increase academic achievement. There was a discussion about platooning, which allows teachers to concentrate on one field that they really love.

(Kathy Clancy joined the meeting at 7:28 p.m.)

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the School Improvement Plans of East Gloucester and Plum Cove Elementary Schools.

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

1. Senior Awards Night and the GHS Commencement Ceremony
2. FY17 Budget Proposal
3. Board of Education Accountability and Assistance Advisory Council to Meet

(Ms. Teixeira joined the meeting at 7:44 p.m.)

4. Massachusetts Senate Votes to Eliminate DESE’s “DDM Mandate”
5. Preview of Education Items in the FY17 Budget Conference Committee

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 June 2, 2016** – Chairperson Clancy reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed the O'Maley and GHS attendance policies at its meeting of June 2, 2016. Dr. Safier reviewed the changes that were made to the policies in order to bring them into compliance with the law. The reference to the I-Pass system was removed from the high school policy.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the O'Maley Innovation Middle School Attendance Policy, File JE, as presented.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Gloucester High School Attendance Policy, File JE, as amended.

Dr. Safier stated that he will present attendance data at a School Committee meeting in August. Ms. Teixeira requested that data also be presented on how many students dropped out of school.

X. ACTION

A. Approval of Amended Policies

1. O'Maley Innovation Middle School Attendance Policy, File JE – See Item IX.A.
2. Gloucester High School Attendance Policy, File JE – See Item IX.A.

- B. Acceptance of Grant** – To accept a Mass. Cultural Council Big Yellow School Bus grant in the amount of \$200.00 to Beeman Memorial Elementary School

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

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a Mass. Cultural Council Big Yellow School Bus grant in the amount of \$200.00 to Beeman Memorial Elementary School.

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

VOTED: 0 in favor, 7 opposed to reconsider the vote to accept the above-referenced Mass. Cultural Council Big Yellow School Bus grant in the amount of \$200.00. The motion failed.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. MSBA Project Update** – Dr. Safier reported that the MSBA has now approved the paving work at Beeman, the estimate for which is \$35,000. There was a discussion about the status of the Concord Street sidewalk adjacent to West Parish.

Mr. Favazza inquired about the status of Swinson’s Field, and Chairman Pope stated that they are trying to get some estimates from Dore & Whittier. Dr. Safier indicated that Brad Dore stated that we should have some monetary ranges for the different options at tomorrow’s building committee meeting.

Chairman Pope reported that he has opened up conversations with the GFAA about fundraising for the GHS field house floor. He believes the cost will be close to \$1 million.

With respect to the GHS roof repair, Dr. Safier stated that there are a series of actions that need to take place between now and August 23rd. He indicated that the mayor has already signed the initial compliance certification. There needs to be a letter from the city indicating how funding is going to take place, followed by documentation of the appropriation of funds. We will also need to complete a maintenance and capital system planning form.

- B. Review of Athletic User Fees** – Chairman Pope referred this matter to the Building & Finance Subcommittee.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor 0 opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of June 8, 2016 at 8:18 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*