

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

6:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Melissa Teixeira, Vice Chairperson
Kathy Clancy, Secretary
Tony Gross
Michelle Sweet
Jack O'Maley
Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken (6:48 p.m.)

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Assistant Superintendent
Hans Baumhauer, Director of Finance
and Operations (7:00 p.m.)
Erik Anderson, GHS Principal (6:50 p.m.)

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- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 6:02 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** – Kathy Clancy recognized the eighth graders who graduated from O'Maley today, and Ms. Teixeira recognized the sixth and seventh grade students who received academic awards. Dr. Safier recognized the preschool for their chorale festival yesterday.
- VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – None present.

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

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Interview with Candidate for Director of Finance and Operations Position** – Dr. Safier introduced Tom LaFleur to the committee, and the committee members introduced themselves. Dr. Safier asked Mr. LaFleur a series of questions, and the committee followed up with some questions of their own.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. School Committee and Executive Session of June 10, 2015
2. Building & Finance Subcommittee of June 17, 2015

3. Special School Committee Meeting (Executive Session) of June 17, 2015
4. School Committee Public Hearing of June 3, 2015

B. Approval of Warrants – Cover Sheets

C. Approval of Transfers

D. Referrals

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

**VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT
(Continued)**

- A. Interview with Candidate for Director of Finance and Operations Position (Continued)** – Dr. Safier reviewed Mr. LaFleur’s references, all of which were extremely complimentary and all of them stating that he would be very successful in the position.

(Mayor Theken and Principal Anderson joined the meeting at 6:50 p.m.)

Dr. Safier recommended that Mr. LaFleur be approved for the position of Director of Finance and Operations.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor zero opposed, to direct the superintendent to enter into contract negotiations with Thomas LaFleur for the position of Director of Finance and Operations.

(Ms. Teixeira left the meeting at 6:54 p.m.)

- B. End-of-Year Literacy Benchmark Report** – Gregg Bach presented the end-of-year K-5 Assessment Data Review, reminding the committee of the difference between former and recommended goals. His report included a description of the DIBELS and GRADE measures, results, reports by school, notable individual school indicators, and feedback from teachers on the number of assessments students are required to take.

(Mr. Baumhauer joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m.)

There was a discussion about whether the results can be attributed to any of the district’s initiatives, such as BSRI, professional development, or the new curriculum. Mr. Bach stated that the district is seeing strong sustained growth and that a number of factors may be at play, such as interventions, support from BSRI, and dedicated literacy coaches.

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

1. Evaluating Educator Impact Implementation Update Due June 30
2. School Finance Commission Outlines Early Recommendations
3. Accelerated Improvement Plan Update
4. High School Technology Consultant Update
5. O'Maley Innovation Middle School Closing Ceremony
6. Leadership Retreat – June 26, 2015

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.

(Mr. Anderson left the meeting at 7:39 p.m.)

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of June 17, 2015 – Mr. Gross reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee reviewed an "Option C" sketch prepared by architect Jason Gove to address the need for a timeout room at Plum Cove. He stated that the estimate for this work is \$74,000 and that the plan eliminates removal of the stage, thereby removing the possibility of disturbing hazardous materials.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 1 present (Mayor Theken) to approve the plan developed by Jason Gove known as "Option C" and request that the city move forward with the project.

Chairman Pope stated that the subcommittee discussed the possibility of using school building use funds for this project and that a letter of explanation and support of the project will be submitted to the mayor. Dr. Safier reported that the Special Education Director does not see a need for a learning center at Plum Cove at this time. However, he feels there is a need for privacy for students with behavioral issues and he recommends going forward with this project.

Kathy Clancy reported that the subcommittee also discussed planned summer facilities work by the DPW, student meal balances, and FY15 year end at its meeting of June 17, 2015. Chairman Pope stated the need for another meeting to approve final transfers, and a full School Committee meeting was scheduled for July 14, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Finally, Kathy Clancy reported that the subcommittee reviewed the FY16 budget at its meeting. Dr. Safier reviewed the final offsets and reductions to the budget to cover the difference between the figure received from the city and the budget approved by the School Committee.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 1 present (Mayor Theken) to approve the adjustments to the FY16 school budget as presented.

On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

Mayor Theken – present

Kathy Clancy – yes

Mr. Gross – yes

Mr. O’Maley – yes

Chairman Pope – yes

Ms. Sweet – yes

To approve a school budget for FY16 in the amount of \$39,188,748.00.

X. ACTION

A. Approval of “Option C” Plan for Plum Cove School – See Item IX.A.

B. Approval of Adjustments to FY16 Budget – See Item IX.A.

C. Approval of FY16 School Budget – See Item IX.A.

D. Approval of Santander Contract – Mr. Baumhauer reported that the lease of the buses came in lower than he had anticipated and that the contract needs to be approved by the committee.

On a motion by Chairman Pope, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was

VOTED: 5 in favor, 1 present (Mayor Theken) to approve the contract between Santander Bank and the Gloucester Public School District for the lease of school buses.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

A. MSBA Project Update – Dr. Safier updated the committee on construction at the site, including ongoing grading, pouring of floors, insulation and brick work, interior framing, window and stair installation, and roof work. He indicated that the laminated beams for the front lobby are scheduled for delivery on June 22nd. Room identification and labeling is being coordinated with the fire department and discussion is ongoing about the sign design. Dr. Safier noted that he has not yet received a response to his request for another tour of the site. Chairman Pope reminded the committee about the furniture expo on June 29th in the O’Maley cafeteria.

- B. Email from Richard Weissman, Director of Endicott College Gloucester – FYI**
- C. Letters to Senator Tarr and Representative Ferrante Regarding House Bill 340 – FYI**

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

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

To enter into Executive Session at 8:17 p.m. for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining with administrative staff and the GTA and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of adjournment only.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by Chairman Pope, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of June 24, 2015 at 8:46 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*