

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, June 28, 2017

District Office Conference Room  
2 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930  
7:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

Jonathan Pope, Chairman  
Kathy Clancy, Vice Chairperson  
Joel Favazza, Secretary  
Melissa Teixeira  
Tony Gross (7:46 p.m.)  
Michelle Sweet

**Administration Present**

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent  
James Cook, GHS 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** – Chairman Pope stated that there are a number of issues with tonight’s agenda and, as such, the committee will need to meet on July 12, 2017 to wrap up all outstanding business.
- V. **RECOGNITIONS** – Dr. Safier introduced Gregg Bach, who will be taking over the position of Assistant Superintendent on July 1st, and spoke about Mr. Bach’s background and experience. Mr. Bach stated that it is a pleasure to be back in the district and commended Dr. Unobskey for making the transition a smooth one.
- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – None present.
- VII. **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. **Approval of Minutes**
    - 1. School Committee Minutes of May 10, 2017
    - 2. Building & Finance Subcommittee Minutes of May 17, 2017
    - 3. School Committee Minutes of May 24, 2017
  - B. **Approval of Warrants** – Cover Sheets
  - C. **Approval of Transfers** – June 5 to June 16, 2017

**D. Referrals**

**E. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations**

1. \$344.74 from Ahold Financial Services “Stop & Shop New England” to Beeman Memorial Elementary School
2. \$9.59 from ASD.com, Inc. to Plum Cove Elementary School

On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, 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. GHS Student Handbook Approval** – Mr. Cook reviewed and the committee discussed the proposed changes to the GHS handbook, which will be made in time for approval at the next School Committee meeting on July 12th.

*(Mr. Gross joined the meeting at 7:46 p.m.)*

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

1. Leadership Retreat June 26-27
2. Revised Bus Accident Protocol
3. Letter to Senators Markey and Warren Regarding Concern for the American Health Care Act

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the Superintendent’s Report.

**IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of June 21, 2017** – Chairman Gross reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed student food service debt and ongoing projects at the schools at its meeting of June 21, 2017.

**X. ACTION**

- A. Second Reading of Meal Charge Policy, File EFD** – Dr. Safier reported that no significant changes have been made since the first reading of the policy but suggested that a non-discrimination statement be added at the end of the policy.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed, to amend the Meal Charge policy, File EFD, to include the following statement:

“The School Committee is committed to a policy of non-discrimination in relation to race, color, religion, creed, sex, age, marital status, national origin, mental or physical disability, political belief or affiliation, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, and any other class of individuals protected from discrimination under state or federal law in any aspect of the access to, admission or treatment of students in its programs and activities or in employment and application for employment.”

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Meal Charge policy, File EFD, as amended.

- B. Approval of Student Handbooks** – Chairman Pope stated that there were some suggested revisions to the handbooks at the last meeting; however, the handbooks included in the packet do not reflect those changes. Therefore, this matter was tabled until the July 12th meeting. Ms. Sweet noted that since the new Meal Charge policy has now been approved, that policy should also be included in the handbooks.
- C. Vote to Accept School Choice Students** – Dr. Safier reported that he received an email from the Department of Education about this matter, asking him to let them know if the School Committee votes on this matter. He noted that the assumption has always been that the district would accept choice students at any time.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept school choice students for the 2017-2018 school year.

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

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

1. GHS Roof – Chairman Pope reported that the building committee met today and that work has been begun. He indicated that when the contractor started on the field house roof, they discovered that it was not what they had assumed it was. However, the result is that they will leave what is there and add insulation to it, which is expected to result in a savings on the project. Dr. Safier stated that there was also a discussion about putting cameras on the roof for time lapse photos that can be viewed on the website.

2. East Gloucester/Veterans School – Dr. Safier reported that he is working on the enrollment projection for this project.

- B. Changes to Operating Protocols and Rules of Procedure** – Tabled until July 12, 2017.
- C. Approval of Superintendent’s Contract** – Chairman Pope reported that Dr. Safier accepted the School Committee’s proposal. However, since this matter was not included on the agenda, it was tabled until the July 12th meeting.
- D. Marijuana Presentation** – Ms. Teixeira distributed a handout that was presented to the City Council by Karin Carroll, Director of the Gloucester Health Department. Ms. Teixeira reported that Ms. Carroll offered to make this presentation at a School Committee meeting. Ms. Teixeira stated that she will update the committee on the meeting of the Marijuana Task Force at the next meeting.
- E. Stove at Veterans** –Mr. Favazza reported an issue with the pilot lights going out on the relatively new stove at Veterans, which the staff reported happens a couple of times a year. Chairman Pope stated that there is a safety feature on the stove that automatically shuts off the gas after a few minutes if the pilot light goes out.
- F. Parent Teacher Conferences** – Dr. Safier stated that the evening conferences will be moved from November 9 to October 26, 2017.
- G. Grade 8 Chromebooks** – Dr. Safier reported that he is talking to the IT Department and O’Maley administration about including a session for parents and students on back-to-school night about expectations with respect to 1:1 Chromebooks.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of June 28, 2017 at 8:33 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*