

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 13, 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
Melissa Teixeira (7:31 p.m.)
Michelle Sweet
Joel Favazza

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent
Shana Goldwyn, K-8 ELA Coordinator
James Cook, GHS Principal
Debra Lucey, O'Maley Principal
Jodi Gennodie, Beeman Principal
Amy Pasquarello, EGS Principal
Tammy Morgan, Plum Cove Principal
Dr. Telenia Imel, West Parish Principal

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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** – Kateri Grammas of 139 Western Avenue read a prepared statement containing questions regarding Essex Tech (see attached). Chairman Pope stated that he will pass her questions on to Ms. Teixeira and suggested that she email them to Ms. Teixeira, as well. Mr. Favazza noted that Essex Tech has its own School Committee that may be able to answer her questions.
- IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON** – None.
- V. RECOGNITIONS** – Chairman Pope reported that he attended the performances of *The Wizard of Oz* at Beeman and *Schoolhouse Rock* at Veterans, both of which were wonderful. Mr. Bach noted the recent performance of the O'Maley band and chorus, and Kathy Clancy reported that both the middle school and high school choruses performed at the Universalist Unitarian church a few weeks ago. Dr. Safier recognized the following events at Gloucester High School: Academic Awards Night on May 24th, JROTC Awards Night on June 5th, Senior Awards Night on June 8th, and graduation on June 10th. Mr. Favazza recognized everyone who spoke at the graduation ceremony.

Kathy Clancy recognized the girls' softball team, who are playing in the semifinals in Lowell tonight, and Mr. Bach recognized the volunteers working with our eighth graders at the Essex

Shipbuilding Museum and thanked Amy Donnelly and Dave Brown for organizing the program.

VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – None present.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Building & Finance Subcommittee of March 22, 2018
2. School Committee of March 22, 2018
3. School Committee of March 28, 2018
4. School Committee Public Hearing of April 4, 2018
5. School Committee of April 11, 2018
6. School Committee Workshop of April 24, 2018
7. Building & Finance Subcommittee of April 25, 2018
8. School Committee of April 25, 2018

B. Approval of Warrants

C. Approval of Transfers – March 1 to April 30, 2018

D. Referrals

E. Acceptance of Gifts

1. \$88.82 from Arcadia Publishing, Inc. to Gloucester High School
2. \$5,000.00 from Lowe's Charitable & Education Foundation to GHS for Garden Improvement and Irrigation Project
3. \$488.35 from Retail Business Service to Plum Cove Elementary School
4. \$368.93 from Retail Business Service to Beeman Memorial Elementary School

F. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trips

1. GHS JROTC to College Station, Texas from July 8 to July 14, 2018 for Nationals Drill Camp
2. GHS Girls' Track Team to Greensboro, North Carolina from June 14 to June 17, 2018 to attend New Balance Nationals

Kathy Clancy removed Item A.7 from the Consent Agenda and requested that those minutes be amended to state that lunch prices remain the same for the next school year and that Mr. Lafleur was unexpectedly absent from that meeting so some questions could not be answered.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Building and Finance Subcommittee Minutes of April 25, 2018 as amended.

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. GHS School Improvement Plan – Principal James Cook reported that this fall, as part of the revised NEASC accreditation process, the high school will have a school growth plan that will include feedback from a consultation visit that will take place on October 9 and 10, 2018. He presented a slide show on the GHS School Improvement Plan and the committee discussed site-based meetings.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Gloucester High School 2018-2019 School Improvement Plan.

B. O’Maley School Improvement Plan – Principal Debra Lucey gave a recap of what was done this year and presented a slide show on the O’Maley School Improvement Plan, noting that the goals remain essentially the same but that there may be some changes made by the new principal.

(Ms. Teixeira joined the meeting at 7:31 p.m.)

The committee members congratulated Ms. Lucey on her retirement and thanked her for her eight years of service and for her work in implementing the first innovation school in Massachusetts.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the O’Maley Innovation Middle School 2018-19 School Improvement Plan.

C. College/Career Plans for Graduating Class -- Mr. Cook reviewed the Student Outcome Statistics Summary, noting that more than 50% of the Class of 2018 will be attending four-year colleges next year. There was a discussion regarding dual enrollment at North Shore Community College.

D. Student Handbooks – Chairman Pope reported that Part II is the same in all of the handbooks, and Mr. Bach noted the cost savings for translation services.

1. Elementary Schools – Ms. Pasquarello demonstrated the links in the electronic version of the handbook. She noted that the handbooks were not printed last year and she did not receive any complaints. She stated that the handbook is

posted on all of the school websites and reported that the signature page was printed and sent home for signature.

There was a discussion about consequences for certain behaviors, and Kathy Clancy stated that withholding recess as a form of discipline is not allowed under the district's Wellness Policy. The elementary principals indicated that withholding recess for entire classes rarely happens. Dr. Safier indicated that this matter will be discussed at the leaders' retreat.

2. Middle School – Ms. Lucey reported that there are no changes to the O'Maley handbook this year except for formatting and name changes.
3. High School – Mr. Cook reviewed the changes to the handbook for next year. There was a discussion about interventions for students caught with vaping products, confiscation of vaping products from adults, and cell phone use in school.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the student handbooks for the elementary schools, O'Maley Innovation Middle School, and Gloucester High School.

E. Work Done in Elementary After-School Hours, 2017-18 – Dr. Safier presented a report and the principals discussed the work being done at the elementary schools in the after-school meetings held this year.

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

1. Circuit Breaker Reimbursement
2. Revised Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Frameworks
3. Grade 8/Kindergarten Mentoring – Ms. Goldwyn spoke about the mentoring program.
4. Project-Based Learning/Inquiry – Mr. Bach spoke about project-based learning at the high school, specifically highlighting the drone that was designed and built by Austin Monell using equipment he made from scrap materials he found.

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 of May 16, 2018** – Mr. Gross reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed a proposed Little Free Library at East Gloucester School and the Girls' JV hockey team at its meeting of May 16, 2018. He reported that the Little Free Library is now going to be located inside the school, so no action needs to be taken on that matter. With respect to the hockey team, the recommendation of the Athletic Director was to maintain the status quo because of safety concerns, and no action was taken on this matter.
- B. Program Subcommittee of June 7, 2018** – Kathy Clancy reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed the vocational program, the Student Discipline policy, and public relations initiatives at its meeting of June 7, 2018.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the revised Student Discipline policy, File JK.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 1 opposed (Mr. Favazza) to approve the ongoing public relations initiatives with The Bridge Cape Ann and parent volunteers with support from the Gloucester Education Foundation.

Mr. Favazza expressed concern that the committee is heading into this initiative without a plan and believes that The Bridge Cape Ann is not qualified to properly market the district. He indicated that he would rather hire a marketing professional and set a three-year goal. Ms. Sweet stated that the initiatives of The Bridge and parent volunteers are a good first step to an overall marketing plan. Ms. Teixeira stated that she supports the recommendation from the subcommittee but would also like the committee to discuss a marketing plan at the same time. Finally, there was a discussion about the scope of work to be done by The Bridge Cape Ann, and Kathy Clancy noted that Cory Curcuru is very open to suggestions.

X. ACTION

A. Acceptance of Grants

1. Gloucester Education Foundation Grants
 - a. \$210.00 for transportation costs for a student in Helen Duncan's Clayworks 2 class at GHS to attend an exhibit at Parsons Gallery in Lexington, Massachusetts

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a grant from the Gloucester Education Foundation in the amount of \$210.00 for transportation costs for a student in Helen Duncan’s Clayworks 2 class to attend the “State of Clay” exhibit at Parsons Gallery in Lexington, MA.

- b. \$300.00 to Amy Donnelly for O’Maley Career Initiative

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a grant from the Gloucester Education Foundation to Amy Donnelly in the amount of \$300.00 for the O’Maley Career Initiative.

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

- 3. DESE FY18 Continuation Grant administered by the Office of Student and Family Support in the amount of \$10,000.00 – Dr. Safier discussed the purpose of the grant.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a continuation grant from the DESE Teen Dating Violence Prevention & Intervention Program in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Ms. Teixeira requested a report on the staff training to be provided with this grant.

- 2. Grant from the Center for Collaborative Education in the amount of \$25,000.00 – Mr. Bach discussed the purpose of the grant.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a grant from the Center for Collaborative Education in the amount of \$25,000.00.

4. Grant from Cell Signaling Technology totaling \$7,938.92 (check and lab material)

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a grant from Cell Signaling Technology totaling \$7,938.92 (check for \$2,954.59 and lab material).

- B. Approval of Little Free Library at East Gloucester Elementary School – See IX.A.**

- C. Approval of AFSCME-A Ratified Agreement –** Kathy Clancy made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sweet to approve the ratified Agreement between the Gloucester School Committee and AFSCME Clerical, Unit A. After discussion, Ms. Teixeira made a motion to amend that motion.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to amend the motion to state that the approval of the agreement is subject to receipt of a signed Memorandum of Agreement.

Amended Motion

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 1 opposed (Mr. Favazza) to approve the ratified Agreement between the Gloucester School Committee and AFSCME Clerical, Unit A, subject to receipt of a signed Memorandum of Agreement.

- D. Approval of Revised Student Discipline Policy, File JK – See Item IX.B.**

- E. Approval of Ongoing Public Relations Initiatives – See Item IX.B.**

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

A. MSBA Project Updates

1. East Gloucester/Veterans School – Chairman Pope discussed the top three candidates for Owner’s Project Manager and reviewed the next steps in the process.
2. West Parish – Chairman Pope reported that he received paperwork to close out this project but stated he would not sign it until the building committee received a report from the OPM.

3. GHS Roof – Chairman Pope reported that the rooftop units are going to be recoated onsite.

- B. Communication from Bill Melvin Regarding Athletics** – FYI. Kathy Clancy referred the condition of the track in the field house to the Building & Finance Subcommittee.
- C. Modular Units** – Mr. Favazza requested that the committee consider a way to take the modular units offline without replacing them (or replacing less of them) by redistricting among the elementary schools.
- D. Regional Consolidation with Rockport** – Mr. Favazza requested that Chairman Pope attempt to start a conversation with the Chairman of the Rockport School Committee regarding regionalization.
- E. Effect of Staff Reductions on Course Selections** – Mr. Favazza requested a brief report from the high school administration on how the reduction of staff has affected the availability of courses.
- F. Preschool Location** – Mr. Favazza suggested that the committee prepare an outline of what is needed for the preschool decision-making process.
- G. Grant Writing** – Ms. Teixeira requested a report on the grant-writing process.
- H. West Parish Traffic** – Ms. Teixeira reported that the Concord Street one-way was approved and asked if it is being enforced. She also asked if a crossing guard was hired or assigned to implement what is supposed to be happening. Her understanding is that parents are still parking on Essex Avenue and crossing the street with their children. She requested a report prior to the start of the next school year on what is happening and what needs to be done. Chairman Pope stated that the problem is that people are parking illegally and it is not the district’s job to enforce that. Ms. Teixeira would like someone to find out whose job it is and for the committee to take a position to enforce it before someone gets hurt.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

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

To enter into Executive Session at 10:07 p.m. for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with bus monitors, noon supervisors and crossing guards and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of voting on those contracts and adjourning.

X. ACTION (Continued)

F. Approval of MOA between School Committee and Crossing Guards – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Gloucester School Committee and Crossing Guards.

G. Approval of MOA between School Committee and Noon Supervisors – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Gloucester School Committee and Noon Supervisors.

H. Approval of Tentative Agreement between School Committee and Bus Monitors – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Tentative Agreement between the Gloucester School Committee and Gloucester Bus Monitors.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of June 13, 2018 at 10:18 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*