

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

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

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Kathy Clancy, Vice Chairperson
Tony Gross, Secretary
Michelle Sweet
Melissa Teixeira Prince (7:20 p.m.)

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent
Tom Lafleur, CPA, Director of Finance
and Operations

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- 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** – None.
- VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – None present.
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA**
- A. Approval of Minutes**
1. School Committee of May 9, 2018
 2. Building & Finance Subcommittee of May 16, 2018
 3. Special School Committee of May 16, 2018
- B. Approval of Warrants**
- C. Approval of Transfers** – May 1 to May 31, 2018
- D. Referrals**
- E. Acceptance of Gifts**
1. Hockmeyer Studios, Inc.

- a. \$314.88 to Beeman Memorial Elementary School
 - b. \$108.57 to Gloucester Preschool
 - c. \$191.70 to Gloucester Preschool
 - d. \$318.95 to West Parish Elementary School
2. \$250.00 from Harvard Medical School Teaching Hospital

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

VOTED: 4 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Consent Agenda as noted.

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

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

1. DPH Survey to Inform Comprehensive School Health Services Programs
2. E-Cigarettes and Vaping Devices
3. Openings on Racial Imbalance Advisory Council
4. Early Warning Indicator System (EWIS) Release Update

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

VOTED: 4 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the Superintendent’s Report.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Building & Finance Subcommittee of June 20, 2018 – Mr. Gross reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed the FY18 budget, Food Service student debt, and the FY19 budget at its meeting of June 20, 2018.

X. ACTION

A. Acceptance of Grant – After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Sweet, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 4 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the Essential School Health Grant Renewal for FY18 and FY19 in the amount of \$80,900.00.

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

C. Approval of Budget Reductions – Mr. Gross reported that the recommended reductions of \$454,846.00 consist of \$104,646.00 for a high school administration position and \$350,200.00 in special education out-of-district tuition prepayments. Chairman Pope noted that there is still \$200,000.00 in contingency funds in place.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

Mr. Gross – yes
Chairman Pope – yes
Ms. Sweet – yes
Kathy Clancy – yes

To approve the budget reductions in the amount of \$454,846.00 as presented.

Ms. Sweet expressed the importance of finding someone to help with the vocational program now that the administrator who handled that has been cut. Dr. Safier reported on the plan of action for the vocational program.

Kathy Clancy stated that she personally is sorry to have to cut the administrative position at the high school. She understands that there is a good plan in place to address all of the responsibilities for a year but she does not see it as a sustainable model. She hopes that next year the committee can find a different solution.

(Ms. Teixeira Prince joined the meeting at 7:20 p.m.)

B. Reconciliation and Approval of the FY19 Budget – After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

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

To approve a school budget for FY19 in the amount of \$41,938,896.00.

Kathy Clancy stated for the record that she is extremely disappointed that the City Council did not take into account comments made at the public hearing in support of our schools. She noted that the committee negotiated in good faith with teachers for a well-deserved contract and, unfortunately, it was not fully funded. Finally, she reported that she has heard from many people that the committee should be investing in our schools all the time and cuts do not help move things forward.

Ms. Sweet stated that she is also disappointed in the City Council for not offering something to help the schools. She believes it was irresponsible of them to cut our

budget knowing that 2% raises had already been given. She expressed concern about negotiating raises in the future.

Ms. Teixeira Prince stated that she is disappointed, as well, in the amount of money that was allotted to the schools by the city, knowing that schools are 80-85% percent service. She indicated that the committee relies on good faith negotiations to keep the district strong with good staff. She noted that discussions are held before negotiations begin to discuss salary increases and the mayor is part of those discussions. She stated that it is extremely disappointing not to have the support of the city administration, which puts the committee in a difficult position going forward. Finally, she noted that city contracts are settled for the same percentage and other benefits are often added.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

A. MSBA Project Update

1. West Parish School – Chairman Pope reported that a closeout meeting was held yesterday, which will trigger the final audit and the release of money. He stated that the project was approximately \$1.3 million under budget and that the city will be reimbursed approximately \$14 million.
2. East Gloucester School – Chairman Pope reported that the city has entered into a contract with CBRE/Heery (“Heery”) as the Owner’s Project Manager. The next step is for MSBA to approve the contract on July 16, 2018. Once it is approved, Heery will develop a Request for Services for a designer. Chairman Pope stated that we should have a designer on board by October.

B. School Committee Meeting Schedule, 2018-2019 – Chairman Pope stated that the next meeting will be held on August 8, 2018. He noted that there are no conflicts with school vacations except in December, so there will only be one meeting that month (December 12th).

C. MASC Conference – Chairman Pope reminded committee members to let Stephanie know ASAP if they are planning on attending the MASC Conference.

D. Retail Recreational Marijuana Facilities – Kathy Clancy reported that she attended the Zoning Board meeting where they were discussing retail recreational marijuana zoning guidelines. She indicated that she spoke as a parent against their reduction from 500 to 250 feet from schools. She also asked them to help parents send a consistent message that responsible use for adults is fine but they need to be aware of how the messaging is going to kids.

E. Recognition of Tom Lafleur – Kathy Clancy recognized Mr. Lafleur for his expertise, accomplishments and dedication to the district, praised the department he built, and wished him the best in the future. All of the other members present echoed those sentiments. Chairman Pope stated that the difference between what Mr. Lafleur walked into and what he is leaving is the most spectacular change he has ever seen.

Mr. Lafleur thanked the committee and stated that he enjoyed his time with the district.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of June 27, 2018 at 7:38 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*