

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, July 12, 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 (7:07 p.m.)  
Michelle Sweet

**Administration Present**

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

**Also Present**

General Counsel Chip Payson  
City Councilor Val Gilman

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** – None.
- V. **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. **Approval of Minutes**
    - 1. School Committee Executive Session Minutes of May 24, 2017
    - 2. Program Subcommittee Minutes of June 1, 2017
    - 3. School Committee Workshop Minutes of June 1, 2017
    - 4. Special Building & Finance Subcommittee Minutes of June 8, 2017

Chairman Pope removed Item A.4.

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.

## **VI. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

### **A. Understanding the Health Risk of Legalizing Recreational Marijuana for Youth**

Joan Whitney, Director of the Healthy Gloucester Collaborative, introduced Dr. Sydney Hemenez of MGH and Crystal Contrino of Children’s Friend & Family Services and presented a slide show on the health risks and prevention of first use of marijuana by youth.

There was a discussion about the term “addiction” being used with respect to marijuana versus “marijuana use disorder.” Mr. Gross expressed concern that the committee is focused more on marijuana and less on alcohol and tobacco, which he stated are far more destructive. He believes the committee needs to focus on education of all three substances equally.

General Counsel Chip Payson discussed last fall’s ballot question that legalized the use, possession, sale and production of marijuana and marijuana accessories, including the tax rate, the creation of a Cannabis Control Commission (CCC), and the local control options. He noted that the Act passed last November requires that the issues of controlling consumption and limiting the number of establishments go to a ballot question.

Mr. Payson reported that the House passed its own bill several weeks ago raising the tax rate from 12 to 28% and expanded the CCC from three to five full-time commissioners. The bill also includes a provision that cities can prohibit the siting and operation of marijuana establishments through a vote of the City Council and approval by the mayor. He indicated that the Senate’s bill calls for a 12% tax rate and a five-member CCC and leaves local control options to go to a ballot question. He noted that it is still a very fluid situation.

Mr. Payson stated that if the Act passed last November is preserved, the CCC will be tasked with promulgating rules and regulations consistent with the Act. He indicated that the House wants to eliminate the Act that was passed as well as the medical marijuana law.

City Councilor Val Gilman reported that the City Council President has asked for a recommendation from the city’s Recreational Marijuana Task Force, which will be put on the Consent Agenda at the August 8, 2017 City Council meeting and will be presented to the full council on either August 8th or August 22nd. She noted that she and some of the other ward councilors would like to have ward meetings to explain the different options being discussed and to get some feedback from the community. Councilor Gilman indicated that in order to get the questions on the ballot in November, the wording has to be finalized by October 3, 2017. She noted that Police Chief John McCarthy expressed concern about what would happen in Gloucester if the neighboring communities opted out of having recreational marijuana retail shops.

Mr. Payson stated that the questions that could be put on the ballot are (1) a moratorium on zoning, (2) a limit on the number of recreational marijuana retail

shops, or (3) an outright ban of recreational marijuana retail shops. He reported that a person must be at least 21 years old to buy or possess recreational marijuana or work in a marijuana retail shop.

Finally, there was a discussion about the role of the schools in addressing the use of marijuana by youth.

## **VII. ACTION**

- A. Approval of Elementary, O'Maley and GHS Student Handbooks** – Chairman Pope indicated that the GHS handbook is completed but still needs to be formatted.

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

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

- B. Approval of Superintendent's Contract** – Chairman Pope reported that Dr. Safier accepted the committee's proposal and he reviewed the changes to the contract.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Contract between the Gloucester School Committee and Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent of Schools.

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

- A. School Committee Operating Protocols and Rules of Procedure** – Chairman Pope reviewed the changes to the Operating Protocols and Rules of Procedure.
- B. MASC Policy Newsletter** – Kathy Clancy would like to work with the administration to see if there are any new policies that should be included in the School Committee Policy Manual.
- C. MASC/MASS Joint Conference** – Chairman Pope requested that members let him know as soon as possible if they will be attending the conference in November so that tickets can be purchased.
- D. Education Forum** – Kathy Clancy reported that there is going to be an education forum on November 1, 2017 at Cruiseport. Dr. Safier indicated that Harvard University professor Dr. David Rose will talk about brain science and new technologies for learning.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT** – On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of July 12, 2017 at 8:35 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*