

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 12, 2015

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Melissa Teixeira, Vice Chairperson
Kathy Clancy, Secretary
Tony Gross
Michelle Sweet

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Tom Lafleur, Director of Finance
and Operations

-
- 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** – Wendy Rose Kotob of 369 Essex Avenue presented a letter that was originally submitted to Mayor Kirk and the City Council in October of 2014 regarding safety issues on Concord Street between Essex Avenue and West Parish School. Specifically, Ms. Kotob stated that the existing sidewalk is not up to code and many accidents have occurred in the area. She indicated that she has not heard from anyone in response to her letter and is resubmitting it at the suggestion of Mayor Theken. Chairman Pope stated that the committee will forward her letter to Ward 5 Councilor Bill Fonvielle with the suggestion that now is the perfect time to resolve the issue.
- IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON** – Chairman Pope welcomed the committee members back from the summer break.
- V. RECOGNITIONS** – Dr. Safier introduced Tom Lafleur, the district's new Director of Finance and Operations, and discussed his background and experience.
- VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – None present.
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA**
- A. Approval of Minutes**
1. School Committee and Executive Session of June 24, 2015
- B. Approval of Warrants** – Cover Sheets
- C. Approval of Transfers**
- D. Referrals**

- E. Acceptance of Donation** – 2002 Prius automobile to the GHS Mechanics Department from Peter A. Goodwin
- F. Acceptance of Gloucester Education Foundation Grant** – \$20,787.00 to the Electrical Technology Program at Gloucester High School – Dr. Safier stated that this grant is for a program to educate students in solar technology.

Chairman Pope removed Item C.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- A. Preliminary Attendance Review of Class Sizes** – Dr. Safier distributed and reviewed an enrollment report and stated that the number of children at the preschool is closer to 92 than 72 and that more can be expected once school starts. He stated that all class sizes are well balanced at this point in time. Finally, he reviewed the withdrawals of students from Gloucester High School. Kathy Clancy reminded the committee of the upcoming “Countdown to Kindergarten” event.

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

X. ACTION

- A. Approval of Student Handbooks** – Joanne Maino distributed a packet containing information regarding Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) and a revised version of the O’Maley code of conduct and behavioral interventions to be included in the handbook. Mr. Gross requested that contact information be included in the O’Maley handbook, and Ms. Teixeira requested that the food service payment procedures be included, as well. There was also a discussion about the dress code policy.

Dr. Safier stated that the new physical restraint language in all of the handbooks was prepared by Attorney Joyce. Ms. Teixeira noted that Gregg Bach’s name is contained in the elementary schools’ and high school handbooks, and she requested that the policy prohibiting electronic cigarettes be included in the high school handbook. Ms. Sweet noted that the computer use policy needs to be updated in the handbooks, and Chairman Pope requested that food service payment procedures be included in all of the handbooks.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Elementary Schools, O'Maley Innovation Middle School, and Gloucester High School Student Handbooks as presented and revised.

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

- B. Review of Policies Regarding Catchment Areas and Potential and Future Development of "Swing" Areas** – Chairman Pope referred these policies to the Program Subcommittee. He noted that IT Director Grant Harris is working with the city engineering department to produce maps for the committee's use in connection with these policies and the masterplan of the elementary schools. Finally, Chairman Pope indicated that the city will be conducting a review of all city buildings in the near future.
- C. Update on Assistant Superintendent Search** – Dr. Safier thanked Gregg Bach for his years of dedication to the district and wished him the best of luck. He then reported that the search committee had an organizational meeting last week and started preliminary interviews this morning. Dr. Safier stated that there are seven candidates and that he expects that the search committee will come up with two or three finalists for the position. He hopes to interview those finalists in a public meeting on September 24th and then make a recommendation to the School Committee on September 26th.
- D. Superintendent's Report** – Dr. Safier updated the committee on the following matters:
1. Preliminary 2015 MCAS Results
 2. Updated Medical Emergency Response Plans Due Sept. 1 – Dr. Safier indicated that the district's emergency management plans are also being reviewed with Lt. Gossom, including the incorporation of ALICE in the event of an active shooter.
 3. Kindergarten Grant
 4. High School Technology Consultants and STEM for Girls – Dr. Safier reported that a second group of businesses will be visiting O'Maley in late September and stated that he will keep the committee informed about that visit.
 5. Y13 Initiative
 6. Accelerated Improvement Plan

7. Leadership Retreat

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

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Superintendent's Report.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – None.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. MSBA Project Update** – Dr. Safier indicated that there will be a meeting of the school building committee tomorrow. He reported that drywall is currently being installed and that the project is on schedule and on budget.
- B. Plum Cove – Capital Request for Additional Space** – In response to a question from Kathy Clancy about the status of this request, Chairman Pope indicated that he, Dr. Safier and Principal Tammy Morgan met with the mayor about a month ago and that she was very enthusiastic about the project. He has heard nothing since that time. Chairman Pope stated that he will discuss the matter with Jim Destino, and Dr. Safier stated that he believes Ms. Morgan had a conversation with Jim Hafey about the project. He will follow up with Ms. Morgan on this matter.
- C. Paving at Beeman** – Dr. Safier reported that Principal Ellen Sibley has expressed concern about the need for paving the area where the modulars were placed. He reported that the cost of the paving is about \$30,000 and that it was not included in the RFP for the West Parish/St. Ann's project. He stated that he will suggest at tomorrow's school building committee meeting that any remaining contingency money after the project is finished be used for that purpose.
- D. Family Member Pass for Athletic Events** – Ms. Teixeira referred this matter to the Building & Finance Subcommittee.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

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

To enter into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of adjournment only.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – A motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn the School Committee meeting of August 12, 2015.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*