

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, August 26, 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  
Jack O'Maley

**Administration Present**

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

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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. RECOGNITIONS** – Kathy Clancy recognized the efforts of the many organizations and the district in particular for their efforts with respect to the Countdown to Kindergarten, which was extremely well attended. Chairman Pope recognized the O'Maley summer theater program for their musical presentation.
- VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – None present.
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA**
- A. Approval of Minutes**
1. School Committee and Executive Session of August 12, 2015
- B. Approval of Warrants** – Cover Sheets
- C. Approval of Transfers**
- D. Referrals**
- E. Acceptance of Gloucester Education Foundation Grant** -- \$2,560.00 for the repair of the wind turbine at the O'Maley Innovation Middle School

Chairman Pope removed Item C.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

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

**X. ACTION**

- A. Consideration of the Superintendent’s Recommendation for the Position of Assistant Superintendent** – Dr. Safier reviewed the comprehensive search committee and interview process. He introduced Arthur Unobskey as the successful candidate and recommended that the committee approve his appointment. Mr. Unobskey introduced himself, provided some background on his experience, and stated that he is excited to have the opportunity to work in Gloucester.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to direct the superintendent to enter into contract negotiations with Arthur Unobskey for the position of Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning.

**VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

- A. Special Committee for the Purpose of Reviewing Awards and Commemorations** Chairman Pope referred this matter to the Program Subcommittee. Kathy Clancy reminded the committee of her previous recommendation of Jacqueline Underwood for an Extraordinary Service Award, which was tabled.
- B. Back-to-School Readiness** – Dr. Safier reviewed the recent hirings and remaining openings in the schools.
- C. Superintendent’s Report** – Dr. Safier updated the committee on the following matters:
1. Countdown to Kindergarten – Kathy Clancy noted that the representative from the Department of Early Education and Care is a Gloucester resident.
  2. Updated Medical Emergency Response Plans
  3. ALICE
  4. Teacher Orientation

5. Leadership Retreat – Dr. Safier indicated that the new physical restraint law becomes effective on January 1, 2016 and stated that Attorney Joyce provided him with new language for our Physical Restraint of Students policy, File JKAA. Dr. Safier referred that policy to the Program Subcommittee. He stated that professional development for all staff will be necessary in connection with the new law, which will be done through a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Teixeira requested that the PowerPoint be provided to the committee members, as well.
6. Welcome Back Letter to Parents and Guardians
7. Request for Annual Report – Dr. Safier stated that he will put the report together and present it to the committee for their review. He noted that the committee will need to decide whether to put on a State of the Schools presentation this year or an educational forum with the GEF.
8. Building Walkthroughs – Mr. Lafleur noted that the buildings are in better shape than he expected.

Finally, Dr. Safier reported that he received notice yesterday from the Department of Education that DSAC intends to conduct a full program review of the district. He will follow up to find out the basis for the review.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Superintendent's Report.

## **IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of August 26, 2015** – Chairperson Clancy reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee reviewed the following matters at its meeting of August 26, 2015:

1. Outstanding FY15 Costs – Mr. Lafleur distributed and reviewed the list of outstanding costs, and Kathy Clancy noted that it is somewhat common to have unpaid expenses from the prior year.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to request permission from the city to pay FY15 invoices with FY16 funds, as set forth in Tom Lafleur's letter to Mayor Theken dated August 17, 2015.

2. Family Member Pass for Athletic Events – Kathy Clancy noted that for the past two years, the committee has granted a family member a pass for hockey and basketball games and that football games were not included because of

the timing of the votes. She stated that this vote includes all sports that charge a gate fee.

After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Chairman Pope, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to grant one free pass per family for home non-playoff games, to be distributed to the player upon receipt of user fees paid in full.

3. Setting Bus and Athletic Fees for 2015/2016 – Kathy Clancy reviewed the current athletic fees and stated that there is a family cap of \$1,200.00 per family per year. There was a discussion about whether the O’Maley and GHS hockey teams have the same access to ice time at the rink. Chairman Pope reviewed the current bus fees and noted that there is a family cap of \$200.00.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to keep athletic and bus fees the same for the 2015-2016 school year.

4. Ticket Order System Update on Maintenance Issues – Kathy Clancy reported that the fieldhouse curtains at the high school still have not been installed, despite the committee’ expectation that that would be done this summer. She stated that Jim Hafey reported a problem with the vendor and suggested that the committee keep an eye on this issue to ensure that it happens as soon as possible.
5. Health Insurance Issue – Chairman Pope reported that the Mass. Retirement Board is now allowing employees who work 20 hours per week to enter into the retirement program, which then makes them eligible to enter the GIC health insurance program. He stated that this will likely result in an increase to the budget.

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

- A. **MSBA Project Update** – Chairman Pope reminded the committee that there is walk-through at the West Parish site at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow. Dr. Safier noted that the site will be paved on September 9<sup>th</sup> and that some of the contingency funds may be used to pave the basketball court at Beeman, which was removed as a result of the installation of modular units. He indicated that there is a chance that the Beeman paving can be done at no additional cost but that the city administration is comfortable with using contingency for this purpose.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT** – On a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of August 26, 2015 at 7:57 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*