

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, August 8, 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

Joel Favazza (7:14 p.m.)

Melissa Teixeira Prince (7:20 p.m.)

**Administration Present**

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent

Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent

Gary Frisch, 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** – Chairman Pope welcomed the members back from the summer break.
- V. RECOGNITIONS** – Chairman Pope recognized and welcomed new CFO, Gary Frisch.
- VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – None present.
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA**
- A. Approval of Minutes**
1. Special School Committee Executive Session of May 16, 2018
  2. School Committee of June 13, 2018
- B. Approval of Warrants**
- C. Approval of Transfers** – May 1 to May 31, 2018
- D. Referrals**
- E. Acceptance of Gifts from Hockmeyer Studios, Inc.** – \$188.84 and \$181.46 to Veterans' Memorial Elementary School

**F. Acceptance of Kay Ellis Memorial Scholarship – Amount TBD**

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

**VOTED:** 5 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Consent Agenda as noted.

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

**A. West Parish Dismissal Issue Update** – Chairman Pope reported that Brad Dore of Dore & Whittier looked at the issues with traffic at dismissal time and made some suggestions, which would all involve substantial cost. The City Council asked that the committee explore other less costly alternatives, and Councilor Nolan suggested making Concord Street one way from the school to Essex Avenue for a half hour at dismissal. This proposal is scheduled for public hearing before the City Council on August 14th.

Chairman Pope stated that another alternative would be to prohibit left turns into the school from Concord Street, and he asked the committee members to authorize him to request at the public hearing that the proposal be amended from the one-way proposal to a no left turn into the school from Concord Street. Chairman Pope reported that Principal Imel and the PTO parents have also requested implementing a “right turn only” out of the school driveway onto Concord Street.

Ms. Teixeira Prince reported that the City Council Ordinance and Administration Committee is willing to enforce illegal parking on Concord Street and Essex Avenue. Dr. Safier stated that he sent some sample letters requesting that enforcement to Attorney Chip Payson for review.

Dr. Safier reported that he is looking into offering school choice parents the option of picking up their children at other locations (i.e. Wellspring, Stage Fort Park, Nichols Candy). Mr. Favazza suggested mandating that school choice students at West Parish take the bus.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the committee that Chairman Pope will present to the City Council at the public hearing a proposal for no left turn into West Parish from Concord Street and no left turn out of West Parish onto Concord Street for a half hour at dismissal time.

**B. School Committee Goals 2018-2019** – Chairman Pope stated that he would like the committee to determine its priorities this year. The committee discussed the following:

Modular Units – There is a concern that the modulars will fail before they can be replaced. Chairman Pope suggested that the administration look into the educational soundness and what the catchment areas would look like if the district went from 12 classes per grade to 11 classes per grade.

Plan for the Preschool – Chairman Pope stated that the committee needs to make an official request to the City Council to either buy the Blackburn building or renovate other space for the preschool.

Course Offerings at GHS – Dr. Safier can report on this a few weeks after school starts.

Substitute Costs – Same as other districts?

Exploration of the Vocational Programs

**C. Capital Requests to the City Council** – Chairman Pope referred the matters of the preschool/administration building, repair of the fieldhouse floor, and replacement of modular units to the Building and Finance Subcommittee to draft letters to the City Council.

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

1. Beeman Memorial Summer STEAM Camp – Dr. Safier also reported on the Gloucester Biotechnology Academy’s summer STEM courses.
2. Back to School Notifications – Dr. Safier reported that opening day for staff will likely be held at GHS instead of O’Maley because of the issue with the air conditioning at O’Maley.
3. Sheltered English Immersion Requirements for Career Vocational Teachers
4. Administrative August Retreat – Mr. Bach spoke about the retreat and Ms. Teixeira Prince expressed her hope that an ALICE drill will be scheduled during the first month or two of school.
5. Advisory on *Janus* Decision

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 August 8, 2018** – Mr. Gross reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed preschool enrollment and the funding of an additional preschool teacher and paraprofessional at its meeting of August 8, 2018.

**X. ACTION**

**A. Acceptance of Grant from Gloucester Education Foundation** – Dr. Safier reviewed the purpose of the grant.

On a motion by Kathy Clancy, 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 \$15,367.80 (Summer AP Prep \$6,492.80 and Printmaking \$8,875.00).

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

**A. MSBA Project Update**

1. East Gloucester School – Chairman Pope reported that the city has hired CBRE/Heery and that they toured the potential sites yesterday afternoon. Dr. Safier reported that the Request for Services for a designer is in the final stages.
2. Gloucester High School Roof – Chairman Pope reported that this project is still in limbo because of problems with the coating on the RTUs.
3. West Parish Elementary School – Chairman Pope reported that a closeout meeting will be held in September.

**B. Newell Stadium** – Mr. Favazza requested that the committee receive a report on the consequences of the construction at Newell Stadium on the athletic program.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of August 8, 2018 at 8:22 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*