

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, September 13, 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  
Michelle Sweet  
Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken

**Administration Present**

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

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. **RECOGNITIONS** –
- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Caroline Enos and Samantha Gross
- VII. **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. **Approval of Minutes**
    - 1. School Committee Minutes of July 12, 2017
    - 2. School Committee Minutes of August 9, 2017
  - B. **Approval of Warrants** – Cover Sheets
  - C. **Approval of Transfers**
  - D. **Referrals**
  - E. **Acceptance of Gifts/Donations**
    - 1. \$350.00 and bookplates from Susanna Natti for the Robert Natti Story Corner

2. \$432.97 from Stop & Shop to O'Maley Innovation Middle School

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

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

### **VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- A. Update on Preschool/Central Office** – Chairman Pope reported that the lease of the Blackburn Drive building expires on August 1, 2018 and that the city administration has asked the committee to look at alternative spaces for the preschool and central office. He stated that the city would like to put out an RFQ as soon as possible to hire someone to do an assessment of available spaces.

Dr. Safier presented a slide show on preliminary considerations of moving the preschool, including class size, space and classroom requirements, safe environment considerations, facilities, transportation issues, parking, and technology. This information will be provided to the city administration.

Mr. Favazza asked whether waivers are available to postpone meeting all of these requirements until we have a new school. Chairman Pope noted that a new school is not a guarantee and that preschool is not reimbursable by the MSBA. At \$450 per square foot, a preschool in a new building would cost the city \$4.5 million. There was a discussion about waivers, and Dr. Safier expressed concern that waivers would have a detrimental affect on the quality of the preschool program.

The committee discussed the possibility of the city purchasing the Blackburn Drive building, as well as the available space at the high school and O'Maley. Kathy Clancy expressed the importance of giving consideration for programming when looking at spaces at O'Maley and the high school. Chairman Pope agreed and indicated that any existing programs that are displaced would need to be relocated to better space than they have now.

Mr. Favazza brought up the idea of not having a preschool for the next few years and sending preschool children to other districts. Ms. Sweet stated that it is the committee's responsibility to educate the children of Gloucester. Chairman Pope clarified that it is the committee's obligation to be fiscally responsible and it is their legal duty to educate the children.

- B. Superintendent's Report** – Dr. Safier updated the committee on the following matters:

1. School Opening
2. Upcoming Calendar of Events
3. Declaration of Human Rights at City Hall
4. Memorandum of Agreement with SailGHS
5. Agreement Between Gloucester School Committee and GTA: Language Cleanup

6. MSBA Meeting Re: Enrollment Information
7. Meeting with GTA Re: Evaluation – Monday, 9/11/17
8. Entitlement Grants FY18

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

**VOTED:** 5 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the Superintendent's Report.

**IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – None.**

**X. ACTION**

**A. Acceptance of Grants**

1. \$2,000.00 from Gloucester Education Foundation for Youth Mental First Aid at Gloucester High School

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

**VOTED:** 5 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a grant from the Gloucester Education Foundation in the amount of \$2,000.00 for Youth Mental First Aid at Gloucester High School.

2. DESE Title III: Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students grant in the amount of \$23,784.00 for all schools

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

**VOTED:** 5 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a DESE Title III: Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students grant in the amount of \$23,784.00 for all schools.

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

**A. MSBA Project Updates**

1. GHS Roof
2. East Gloucester/Veterans School – Dr. Safier reported that the enrollment projection is due on October 2, 2018 and the maintenance and capital planning record is due on October 3rd.

**B. Pickup Line at West Parish**

**C. O'Maley Math Program**

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

**VOTED:** 5 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of September 13, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*