

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Melissa Teixeira, Vice Chairperson
Kathy Clancy
Michelle Sweet
Jack O'Maley

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Assistant Superintendent
Hans Baumhauer, Director of Finance
and Operations
Erik Anderson, GHS Principal
Debra Lucey, O'Maley Principal
Jeff Strong, O'Maley Asst. Principal
Joanne Maino, O'Maley Asst. Principal
Ellen Sibley, Beeman Principal
Carol Bratt, East Gloucester Principal
Matthew Fusco, Veterans Principal
Dr. Telena Imel, West Parish Principal

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

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- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.
- II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**
- III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** – Susanne Altenburger spoke to the committee about the opportunity to make a presentation on how her work of designing boats relates to STEM.
- IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON** – Chairman Pope apologized for the delay in the start of the meeting due to a grievance hearing which ran overtime.
- V. RECOGNITIONS** – None.
- VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Sam Bevans introduced himself and updated the committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: fall pep rally, senior class photo and superlatives, football fundraiser at The Studio, “The Gillnetter,” Gloucester U, and fall sports.
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA**
- A. Approval of Minutes**
1. School Committee of September 10, 2014
 2. Building & Finance Subcommittee of September 17, 2014

3. Program Subcommittee of September 4, 2014

B. Approval of Warrants – Cover Sheets

C. Approval of Transfers, as recommended by the Building & Finance Subcommittee at its meeting of September 17, 2014

D. Referrals

E. Acceptance of Gift – To accept a gift of a full size (42' x 42') Resilite Wrestling Mat to the Gloucester High School from Drs. Kenneth and Jane Benson totaling \$10,970.00.

F. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip – To approve an out-of-state field trip request from the O'Maley Innovation Middle School to Washington, DC from April 8, 2015 to April 11, 2015.

G. Acceptance of Massachusetts DESE Grant – To approve the Quality Enhancements in After-School and Out-of-School Time Grant in the amount of \$20,000.00.

Kathy Clancy removed Item A2 from the Consent Agenda, and Chairman Pope removed Item E.

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

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

Chairman Pope thanked the Normans for their generous gift of the wrestling mat for the high school.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to accept the gift of a full size (42' x 42') Resilite Wrestling Mat to the Gloucester High School from Drs. Kenneth and Jane Benson totaling \$10,970.00.

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Gloucester Education Foundation Annual Update Report – Tina Raimo and Maggie Rosa presented the committee with a check in the amount of \$209,000, which represents the support that the GEF has provided to the district from September 2013 to the present. Ms. Raimo stated that the funding supported programs such as elementary theater, the MIT summer program, the all-city band, summer AP prep courses at the high school, the arts festival, and the Mad Hot Ball. It also supported new programs, such as 3D printers for the high school and O'Maley, the Slime Lab at O'Maley, middle and high school theater, robotics at the high school, a district-wide visiting artist program, gardening projects at O'Maley and the high school, a heart monitor watch program at Veterans, a new music program at Beeman, and the first

Countdown to Kindergarten program. Several members of the committee expressed thanks to the GEF for their fundraising efforts and the programs they have brought into the schools.

B. 2014 MCAS Report – Dr. Safier reviewed the 2014 MCAS report, including accountability status, positive results and challenging results across the district, student growth percentile, district results, results by school, and action steps going forward to address areas of concern. The committee discussed the following matters:

- Use of DART to compare performance in districts with similar demographics
- How scores of students who transferred into the district are compiled
- Individualized accommodations for special education students
- Math intervention class at O’Maley
- Prevalence of lack of motivation to take the test
- Participation rate

Principal Lucey introduced new assistant principal Joanne Maino.

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

1. Upcoming Review of Northshore Education Consortium Collaborative Agreement
2. Footsteps2Brilliance
3. Ethics Requirement – The State Ethics Online Test
4. October 23 Evening Parent Conferences

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

A. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of September 17, 2014 – Chairperson Clancy reported that the Budget & Finance Subcommittee discussed the facilities work order system at its meeting of September 17, 2014. Dr. Safier reported that after reviewing the work order tickets one by one, 120 were closed and there are currently 76 open. Kathy Clancy stated that she asked Chairman Pope to schedule a tour of O’Maley to see what has been done.

Chairperson Clancy also reported that the subcommittee reviewed the outstanding meal payment balances and updated the Meal Payment policy. She read the revised policy and the fourth paragraph was deleted, as it is duplicative.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, that we approve the first reading of the Meal Payment policy, File EFD, as recommended by the Building & Finance Subcommittee at its meeting of September 17, 2014.

Principal Anderson reported that 15 families at the high school have paid their outstanding balance. Dr. Safier stated that he has drafted a letter that will go out to all high school parents/guardians calling upon them to treat the POS card as a bank card and not a credit card. There was a discussion about the notification capabilities of the POS system and whether the administration can set up notifications to families.

X. ACTION

- A. Reconsideration of Vote Made on June 25, 2014 to Retain MCAS as the State Accountability Measure for Spring 2014** – After discussion, on a motion by Chairman Pope, seconded by Mr. O'Maley, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to reconsider the vote made on June 25, 2014 to retain MCAS as the state accountability measure for the spring of 2014.

- B. Adoption of PARCC Pilot Program for Grades 3 through 8 for 2014-2015 School Year** – Dr. Safier reported that as of July 17th, the DOE indicated that teachers, as well as schools and districts, would not be negatively impacted by the spring 2015 PARCC student growth percentile and recommended that PARCC be adopted for Grades 3 through 8 for this school year. There was a discussion about the differences between the paper version and online version of the test.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to adopt the PARCC pilot program for Grades 3-8 for the 2014-2015 school year.

- C. Meal Payment Policy** – See Item IX.A.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. MSBA Project Update** – Chairman Pope reported that the project is ahead of schedule and within budget.
- B. Acceptance of Donation** – Dr. Safier reported that the district has received a donation to the robotics program of approximately \$14,000 worth of equipment from e-STEM Solutions of Manchester, New Hampshire.

After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Mr. O'Maley, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to accept a donation of approximately \$14,000 of equipment from e-STEM Solutions for the robotics program at Gloucester High School.

- C. Report on the Elementary Schools** – Chairman Pope indicated that Dr. Safier has received the report from Dore & Whittier on the evaluation of the elementary schools. He referred this matter to the Program Subcommittee and the Building & Finance Subcommittee. Kathy Clancy suggested a full committee workshop instead, and Ms. Teixeira requested that Dore & Whittier make a presentation at the meeting. Chairman Pope stated that a Special School Committee Meeting will be scheduled in the near future to discuss this matter.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of September 24, 2014 at 9:30 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*