

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, September 25, 2019  
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  
Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken (7:28 p.m.)

**Administration Present**

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent  
Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent  
Gary Frisch, Director of Finance  
and Operations

*Recorded by 1623 Studios*

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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** – Chairman Pope recognized the members of the East Gloucester School Building Committee for putting in many hours on the project, noting that they are all volunteers and take their commitment to trying to get a new school for the city seriously.
- VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Isabella Canning introduced herself and updated the committee on the following events at GHS: freshmen elections, Homecoming Week, Spirit Week themes, pep rally, new homeroom policy, and two foreign exchange students. In response to a question from Dr. Safier, Ms. Canning indicated that the new extended homeroom is working out well and gives students time to prepare for classes.
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. Approval of Minutes**
    - 1. Building & Finance Subcommittee of June 19, 2019
    - 2. Program Subcommittee of June 24, 2019
  - B. Approval of Warrants**
  - C. Approval of Transfers**

**D. Referrals**

**E. Donation from YourCause, LLC Trustee for Wells Fargo Foundation Educational Matching Gifts Program**

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.

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

**A. Presentation Update on East Gloucester School Building Project** – Michele Rogers of Dore & Whittier updated the committee on the Preferred Schematic Report with a slide show, including the goal of submitting the report to the MSBA by October 23, 2019, educational program needs, site location and site circulation, site amenities, building and design, cost, time to completion of project, time to completion of Elementary School Master Plan, the estimated costs and scores of the original nine options, and the design of the two options that were chosen by the School Building Committee (SBC), namely a 440-student school at Veterans or Green Street site. Brad Dore pointed out that they have not yet started the schematic design phase of the project, so the costs of the options are comparative to each other.

Chairman Pope stated that the SBC will be meeting tomorrow to talk about the criteria that will be used to choose the final site. Mr. Favazza expressed concern that the criteria for site selection is changing at this point in the process. Mr. Dore explained that the criteria are not being changed; the committee is just taking what has already been established and looking at other perspectives.

There was a discussion about the timeline. Ms. Rogers indicated that if we miss the October 23rd deadline, it will push the project back by about three months, which will delay the opening of the new school and increase the cost of the project.

Next steps: The SBC will meet tomorrow to discuss the two sites and again on October 3rd to vote on the final site. The School Committee will vote on October 9th on whether to approve the recommendation of the SBC. The Preferred Schematic Report will be submitted to the MSBA on October 23rd. There will be a meeting with the MSBA on December 11th, at which they will hopefully approve the Preferred Schematic Report and authorize us to go forward with the Schematic Design. The Schematic Design will be done in late March/early April and then approved by MSBA. The city will then have 120 days to secure financing for the project. A debt exclusion vote will take place at the end of May/beginning of June.

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

1. An Act Relative to Educational Opportunity for Students
2. Teacher Evaluation Workshop for New Hires
3. Changes to ELA MCAS Test Design

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 Meeting of September 18, 2019** – Mr. Gross reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its meeting of September 18, 2019:

1. Food Service Profit & Loss – Martha Jo Fleming confirmed that participation has remained the same over the last few years. She indicated that three ovens at GHS do not work and the other three do not work well, which limits meal selections. The committee requested that she put together a list of all kitchen equipment that is obsolete or does not work. Chairman Pope noted that Ms. Fleming invited School Committee members to have lunch at one of the cafeterias and noted that her staff would appreciate it.
2. Vaping Detectors – James Cook will be contacting administrators in Georgetown and Marblehead to find out if and how their vaping detectors work and will report back to the subcommittee at the next meeting. Dr. Safier reported that he spoke to the health director and that she will be doing some research on this matter, as well.

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

## **X. ACTION**

**D. Authorization to Close Revolving Accounts** – Chairman Pope reported that the following accounts have been inactive for at least three years and Mr. Frisch has recommended closing them and transferring the funds to the general fund.

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed, to authorize the CFO to close the Day Care revolving account with a balance of \$179.14.

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed, to authorize the CFO to close the Insurance Reimbursement revolving account with a balance of \$22,500.00.

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed, to authorize the CFO to close the Environmental Partnership revolving account with a balance of \$1,077.00.

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed, to authorize the CFO to close the Hampton Hill revolving account with a balance of \$146.64.

**E. Increase Security Guard Hourly Rate** – After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed, to increase the hourly rate for part-time security guards to the minimum wage of \$12.00 per hour and to keep pace with minimum wage going forward.

## **IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont'd)**

**B. Ad Hoc Memorial Subcommittee Meeting of September 19, 2019** – Mr. Gross reported that the Ad Hoc Memorial Subcommittee discussed two requests at its meeting of September 19, 2019, namely a request by Bill Goodwin to name the GHS weight room for Greg Swinson and a request from Bob Roland to name the GHS baseball field at O'Maley for Gerry O'Neil. Since School Committee policy prevents naming spaces for anyone, it was suggested that a plaque be placed in the weight room to acknowledge Mr. Swinson's contributions and dedication and that the "Gerry O'Neil Outstanding Service Award" be established to recognize people who have done exceptional work for Gloucester Athletics and that a plaque be placed at the baseball field with the names of the award recipients.

## **X. ACTION (Cont'd)**

### **A. Acceptance of Grants**

1. 21st Century Community Learning Grant – Mr. Bach discussed the funding of this grant.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the 21st Century Learning Grant in the amount of \$140,250.00.

2. Northeast Youth Coalition Grant – After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the Northeast Youth Coalition grant in the amount of \$500.00 to Gloucester High School.

3. Gloucester Education Foundation Grants – After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Sweet, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept three grants totaling \$27,245.00 from the Gloucester Education Foundation, one in the amount of \$6,550.00 for after-school music, one in the amount of \$3,500.00 for ballroom dancing, and one in the amount of \$17,195.00 for ElectroGo at O'Maley.

- B. Approval of Nurse Appointment** – Chairman Pope indicated that this approval is required by state law.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the appointment of Theresa Engleman as the Gloucester Preschool nurse.

- C. School Committee Certification Regarding Consolidated East Gloucester/Veterans' Memorial Elementary School** – Chairman Pope reported that the MSBA requested this vote.

On a motion by Mr. Favazza, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was

**VOTED:** 5 in favor, 1 present (Mayor Theken) to reaffirm the School Committee's vote of August 24, 2016 to consolidate the number of elementary schools from five to three.

On a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 0 in favor, 6 opposed to reconsider the above vote to reaffirm consolidating the number of elementary schools from five to three. The motion failed.

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

- A. MSBA Project Update** – See VIII.A. Chairman Pope reported that the final papers to close out the GHS roof project have been signed and that the project came in under budget.
- B. Preschool Location** – Chairman Pope reported that the city is still in negotiations to purchase the Blackburn building.

- C. Email dated 9/17/19 from Fire Chief Eric Smith – FYI.**
- D. Email dated 9/18/19 from City Building Commissioner William Sanborn – FYI.**
- E. Carbon Monoxide Alarms – Mr. Favazza requested a report on whether any of the schools have carbon monoxide alarms. This matter was referred to the Building & Finance Subcommittee.**

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of September 25, 2019 at 8:33 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*