

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, September 27, 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  
Melissa Teixeira  
Tony Gross  
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** – Chairman Pope recognized Backyard Growers, who have been doing their Salad Days and Harvest Days at the schools. Mr. Favazza noted that the model developed by Backyard Growers for Gloucester schools has extended to other school districts as far away as Chicopee.
- VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Caroline Enos updated the committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: Spirit Week, pep rally, football team, and progress reports. In response to a question from Mr. Favazza, she also spoke about the student meetings with administration regarding the change in graduation gowns and seating at graduation to be sensitive to gender identity issues.
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA**
- A. Approval of Minutes**
1. Building & Finance Subcommittee Minutes of August 23, 2017
  2. School Committee Minutes of August 23, 2017

**B. Approval of Warrants – Cover Sheets**

**C. Approval of Transfers – July 10 to September 8, 2017**

**D. Referrals**

**E. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations**

1. \$1,000.00 from Annemarie's Catering Company to the Athletic Department for sports user fees
2. \$50.00 from Derrick Rowe and Vanessa Bertolino to the Food Service Department for students in financial need

**F. Acceptance of Scholarship -- \$1,500.00 from SailGHS, Inc.**

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

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

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

1. Conversation on Marijuana and Youth
2. Coordinated Program Review (CPR)
3. Upcoming Educational Forum
4. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Approval by U.S. Department of Education
5. Update on Next Generation MCAS: The Continued Transition to Computer-Based Testing
6. Openings on Arts Education Advisory Council and Racial Imbalance Advisory Council

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the Superintendent's Report.

## IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Program Subcommittee of September 14, 2017** – Chairperson Clancy reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed the Supplemental Guide to the student handbooks and minor changes to two of the policies referenced in the handbooks at its meeting of September 14, 2017.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to revise the policy entitled “Physical Examinations of Students,” File JLCA, by replacing the words “school physician” and “physician” with “nurse practitioner,” as recommended by the Superintendent.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to revise the policy entitled “After School Activities,” File JJ, by adding the words “and department heads” after the word “Principals” at the beginning of the last sentence under the heading “Participation Fees,” as recommended by the Superintendent.

Dr. Safier reported that a parent had asked if there was a quick resource for parents to access things that apply to their children. He indicated that he created the Supplemental Guide by copying Section J of the Policy Manual and noted that it would go out to parents electronically only as a Google Doc. Kathy Clancy indicated that as policies are revised by the committee, the new versions will be immediately reflected in the Supplemental Guide.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Supplemental Guide to the Gloucester Public Schools Student Handbooks.

Ms. Teixeira requested that File JIH, Searches and Interrogations, be removed from the Supplemental Guide until Attorney Stonberg reviews the statement that “The schools have legal custody of students during the school day and during hours of approved extracurricular activities.” She reported that MASC indicated that the statement is based on case law; however, she could not find any legal research to back it up. Therefore, she would like a legal opinion on it. Kathy Clancy pointed out that it is an existing policy and will still exist even if it is not included in the Supplemental Guide, and Dr. Safier noted that several other districts have the same statement in their policy.

**AMENDED MOTION**

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Supplemental Guide to the Gloucester Public Schools Student Handbooks with the removal of the policy entitled “Searches and Interrogations,” File JIH.

Finally, Chairperson Clancy reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed the policy entitled “Animals in Schools,” File IMG, in relation to Mr. Fusco’s request for a therapy dog at Veterans. The committee discussed the issue of having a therapy dog in school.

- B. Building & Finance Subcommittee of September 20, 2017** – Chairman Gross reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed district expenditures, DPW open and closed tickets, food service profit and loss, and student debt at its meeting of September 20, 2017. He commended Martha Jo Fleming for everything she has done to collect the outstanding debt.
- C. Personnel Subcommittee of September 25, 2017** – Chairperson Teixeira reported that the Personnel Subcommittee discussed the Employee Handbook and related policies at its meeting of September 25, 2017.

**X. ACTION**

**A. Approval of Supplemental Guide to the Gloucester Public Schools Student Handbook and Approval of Referenced Revised Policies**

- 1. Physical Examinations of Students Policy, File JLCA – See IX.A.
- 2. After School Activities Policy, File JJ – See IX.A.

**B. Acceptance of Grants**

- 1. DESE SPED 240 Grant in the amount of \$881,804.00 – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the DESE SPED 240 Grant in the amount of \$881,804.00.

2. DESE FY18 Early Childhood SPED Entitlement Grant in the amount of \$24,277.00 – On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the DESE FY18 Early Childhood SPED Entitlement Grant in the amount of \$24,277.00.

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

**A. MSBA Project Updates**

1. East Gloucester/Veterans School – Chairman Pope reported that he and Dr. Safier attended a meeting with MSBA on September 18th regarding the enrollment report and that MSBA approved a school with four classrooms per grade. Dr. Safier reported that they were receptive to the possibility of redistricting some students from Beeman to the new school, as well. Chairman Pope indicated that the building committee will be meeting next week to discuss making a request to the city to fund the feasibility study.
2. GHS Roof – Dr. Safier reported that most of the work on the roof is completed. Mr. Lafleur indicated that they are installing the skylights over the vocational wing this week and that we are waiting on HVAC equipment.

- B. Consolidation of Middle and High School** – Mr. Favazza stated that he would like to look into getting out of O’Maley and moving the middle school onto the high school campus. This matter was referred to the Building & Finance Subcommittee. Ms. Teixeira stated that she does not want to overwhelm the administration and the committee with in-depth research and conversation on this matter as we are in the process of trying to build a new school and are still paying for West Parish and Essex Tech.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** By Roll Call Vote

Mayor Theken – yes  
Kathy Clancy – yes  
Mr. Favazza – yes  
Mr. Gross – yes  
Chairman Pope – yes  
Ms. Sweet – yes  
Ms. Teixeira – yes

To enter into Executive Session at 8:09 p.m. for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining with the GTA regarding evaluation and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of adjournment only.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of September 27, 2017 at 8:23 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*