

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Melissa Teixeira, Vice Chairperson
Kathy Clancy, Secretary
Tony Gross
Michelle Sweet
Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Dr. Arthur Unobskey, Asst. Superintendent
Tom Lafleur, Director of Finance and
Operations
Erik Anderson, GHS Principal

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- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 commented that his letter to the editor of the *Gloucester Daily Times* showed his signature as “Jonathan Pope, Chair of the School Committee.” He stated that he did not sign the letter that way and that he was not representing the School Committee in the letter. He apologized for the confusion.

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

- VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Mike Viorella (phonetic) and Lukas Struppe introduced themselves and updated the committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: Theater Program trip to NYC, Theater Program Halloween carnival, Environmental Club's donation of vegetables to Open Door, tomato tasting, Think Pink tee-shirt fundraiser, GHS Cleanup Day, language lab computers, and the senior group photo for the yearbook. Mike also read a letter from a science teacher.

Chairman Pope stated that the Program Subcommittee discussed graduation requirements at its meeting last week and noted that community service is required of NHS and ROTC students. Dr. Safier reported that Manchester has a community service requirement of 40 hours. He will get more information on that and from other districts and report to the Program Subcommittee.

- V. RECOGNITIONS** – Mr. Gross recognized Mayor Theken and the organizers of the Domestic Violence Awareness Gathering. Ms. Teixeira noted that the Personnel Subcommittee will be discussing a domestic violence policy at the end of the month.

Dr. Safier reported that the district's technology consultants will be conducting research on how to engage female students in STEM, which he believes will strengthen their self-image and help them find the means to resist negative actions.

Kathy Clancy recognized Generous Gardeners for helping to beautify the grounds at O'Maley on Sunday morning. Dr. Safier recognized Gunner Richard Muth for the outstanding record of success of the JROTC program at the high school. Finally, Chairman Pope recognized Backyard Growers for their work with all of the schools.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. School Committee and Executive Session of September 23, 2015
2. Program Subcommittee of October 1, 2015

B. Approval of Warrants – Cover Sheets

C. Approval of Transfers

D. Referrals

1. Supplement to Student Handbooks – Links to School Committee Policy Manual
2. Physical Restraint of Students, File JKAA

E. Acceptance of Grants

1. Gloucester Education Foundation grant in the amount of \$12,000.00 for the study on Closing the Gender Gap in STEM
2. Gloucester Education Foundation grant in the amount of \$6,800.00 for 3D Printer Program at GHS

F. Acceptance of Gift – Shaw's Supermarkets Charitable Foundation in the amount of \$400.00 to Beeman Memorial Elementary School

G. Out-of-State Field Trip – GHS softball team to Historic Dodgertown, Vero Beach, Florida from Sunday, April 17 to Friday, April 22, 2015 (during school spring recess)

Kathy Clancy requested that Item II.A.7 of the Program Subcommittee minutes of October 1, 2015 be amended to state that the discussion was about including community service as a graduation requirement.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- A. ROTC Program Update** – Gunner Richard Muth provided some background on JROTC and stated that the program is focused on citizenship, serving the community, self-reliance, leadership skills, interpersonal relationships, and public speaking. He reported that there are currently 104 students in JROTC at GHS (54 boys and 50 girls). He stated that he would like to get more kids involved in the program, and there was a discussion about getting the word out to eighth graders. Gunner Muth also discussed the students’ weekly schedule and the uniform requirement.
- B. Memorandum of Agreement: 12 Prioritized Rubrics** – Dr. Safier reviewed the MOA and reported that it has been signed by both Andrea Pretzler on behalf of the GTA and Ms. Teixeira on behalf of the School Committee. He also discussed the timeline for teachers to set their goals.
- C. GHS MCAS Report** – Dr. Safier presented a slide show on the GHS 2015 MCAS Result, including percentages of students scoring proficient or higher, comparisons to the state average, CPI, yearly percentage increases, and disparities between all students and low income, ELL and disabled students.
- D. Superintendent’s Report** – Dr. Safier updated the committee on the following matters:
1. Center for District and School Accountability Complete Program Review
 2. English Language Learners – Dr. Safier reported that teachers are receiving the state-required Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) training in the fall and the spring. The training is free this year but will cost the teachers next year and beyond. The training is required in order for teachers to attain or maintain their certification. There was a discussion about the number of ELL students at the high school, the number of hours of instruction they receive at each level, and ELL services received during regular classes.
 3. PARCC Decision – November 16 Public Hearing
 4. District Determined Measures Update
 5. E-Rate Category 2 Update
 6. Calendar – Dr. Safier discussed the Gloucester Biotechnology Academy research assistant certification program, including candidate selection.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Superintendent’s Report.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Program Subcommittee Meeting of October 1, 2015** – Chairperson Sweet reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed the Extraordinary Performance/Service Award Policy, File BHF, and the Naming New Facilities Policy, File FF, at its meeting of October 1, 2015.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to establish a Recognition Subcommittee consisting of the chairs of the three existing subcommittees to address extraordinary performance/service awards and the naming of facilities.

Chairperson Sweet reported that the subcommittee also discussed the following policies at its meeting of October 1, 2015:

- Attendance/Catchment Areas, File JC
- Assignment of Students to Schools, File JCA
- Admission of Students to Elementary Schools, File JF

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to add to paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 of the Admission of Students to Elementary Schools Policy, File JF, that the dates may be waived subject to any substantive change in catchment areas.

Dr. Safier reported that administration is in the process of collecting birth rates from the city clerk's office and contacting day care centers to find out what students are in day care that were not born here five years ago.

Finally, Chairperson Sweet reported that the subcommittee discussed including community service as a graduation requirement (tabled) and the setting of a Program Subcommittee meeting schedule, which will be on an as-needed basis.

X. ACTION

- A. Admission of Students to Elementary Schools Policy, File JF** – See Item IX.A.
- B. Recognition Subcommittee** – See Item IX.A.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

A. MSBA Project Update – Kathy Clancy reported on the recent activity of the Interiors Committee, including the purchase of furniture. Dr. Safier reported that there will be a meeting on technology on October 21st and the building committee will be meeting tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. He also indicated that playing field drainage and curb installation is scheduled to begin next week at the site; framing, priming and painting, ceiling grid installation, and glass panel installation is ongoing; tile work has begun; and mechanical, engineering and plumbing work is continuing. The project remains on time and under budget.

Dr. Safier reported that he and Mr. Lafleur met with the West Parish paving contractor with respect to the basketball court at Beeman. Dr. Safier stated that the MSBA will not approve the paving at Beeman because it does not want to set a precedent by allowing a district to take money out of the budget at this stage of the project and apply it to another site. Dr. Safier’s hope and expectation is that as the project nears completion, the MSBA will allow the paving at Beeman at that time. Ms. Teixeira suggested asking the city to pay for the paving to be done now and reimbursing the city when it is approved by the MSBA.

Mayor Theken stated that there is a rumor going around that there is no heat at Plum Cove. Dr. Safier indicated that the boiler at Beeman is undergoing replacement and that he has received no reports of lack of heat at any of the schools.

B. Authority to Accept Gloucester Education Foundation (GEF) Grants – Administrative Process – Mr. Lafleur reported that he was requested by the GEF’s auditor to change the way we keep the books on GEF grants. He stated that until last week, all GEF money was pooled in a single fund and that the grants have now been broken out into separate funds so that each gift from GEF is treated as a separate grant. This means that the funds cannot be deposited until the School Committee accepts the grants listed on the Consent Agenda and the minutes are approved two weeks later. Mr. Lafleur stated that he is looking for a way to expedite the process so the funds can be deposited in a timely manner. After discussion, it was the consensus of the committee to vote to reconsider acceptance of any Consent Agenda that contains acceptance of GEF grants, which would eliminate the need to wait for approval of the minutes two weeks later.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote
Chairman Pope – no
Ms. Sweet – no
Ms. Teixeira – no
Mayor Theken – no
Kathy Clancy – no
Mr. Gross – no

Not to reconsider the Committee's vote to approve the Consent Agenda of October 7, 2015, including the acceptance of the following grants from the Gloucester Education Foundation:

- (1) A grant in the amount of \$12,000.00 for the study on Closing the Gender Gap in STEM; and
- (2) a grant in the amount of \$6,800.00 for the 3d printer program at Gloucester High School.

- C. Narcan in Schools** – Ms. Teixeira stated that Fox News has been reporting about school committees voting on having Narcan in the schools. She requested that Dr. Safier provide a report on the activities within the schools regarding Narcan so that the committee can decide if it needs to take any action. Dr. Safier reported that the school nurses received Narcan training last weekend and that he will provide a full report at the next meeting.
- D. Presentation and Public Input on Elementary Schools** – Chairman Pope reminded the committee that public input will be taken at the October 21st School Committee meeting on the process of determining a long-range plan for the elementary schools. He distributed a draft press release, and the committee discussed what should be included in the press release and the presentation that will be made at the meeting, including enrollment, catchment areas, and neighborhood versus community schools.

Mayor Theken suggested having a roundtable discussion at City Hall to get an idea of what parents want for their children. Chairman Pope stated that the meeting on October 21st will be the first of many opportunities to get input from the public on certain issues in order to build community support for the ultimate decision that is made. Ms. Teixeira requested that the PowerPoint presentation be posted on the website prior to the October 21st meeting.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of October 7, 2015 at 9:12 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*