

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, October 8, 2014

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

7:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

Jonathan Pope, Chairman  
Melissa Teixeira, Vice Chairperson  
Kathy Clancy, Secretary  
Tony Gross  
Jack O'Maley  
Michelle Sweet (7:39 p.m.)

**Administration Present**

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent  
Gregg Bach, Assistant Supt. (8:12 p.m.)  
Hans Baumhauer, Director of Finance  
and Operations

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Recorded by Cape Ann TV

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.
- II. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**
- III. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** – Michael Lindsay, President of Gordon College, stated that he and Dr. Janet Arndt came to answer any questions the committee might have regarding Gordon's relationship with the GPSD, which will be taken up later in the meeting.
- IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON** – In the wake of three recent deaths of students in other states on football fields last weekend, Chairman Pope noted that Massachusetts has implemented very rigid concussion laws and stated that the GHS football team is using state-of-the-art prototype helmets this year. He assured the community that the School Committee is aware of the safety concerns of playing football and is doing everything possible to make it as safe as possible.
- V. **RECOGNITIONS** – Kathy Clancy recognized everyone who volunteered to assemble 3D printers at O'Maley this past weekend. She also recognized Dr. Safier, Mr. Bach and the math team for their presentations on the new elementary math program. Ms. Teixeira also recognized Dr. Safier and Mr. Bach for their presentation on the new standards-based report card.
- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Sam Bevans introduced himself and updated the committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: "Think Pink" fundraiser for breast cancer, first yoga class, grants received for robotics equipment, crisis intervention team, Spanish classes' trip to a Boston restaurant, and fall sports teams.
- VII. **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. **Approval of Minutes**

1. Special School Committee and Executive Session of September 24, 2014
2. School Committee of September 24, 2014
3. Program Subcommittee of September 25, 2014

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

**C. Approval of Transfers**

**D. Referrals – Personnel Subcommittee**

1. To review current and proposed alcohol and drug policies:
  - Bus Driver Examination and Training, File EEAEA
  - Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus and Commercial Vehicle Drivers, File EEAEA-1
  - Drug-Free Workplace, File GBEC
2. To review Employee Handbook
3. To review current and proposed Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) policy

**E. Acceptance of Gift/Donation – To accept a donation of \$300.00 to the GHS Junior ROTC Program from the Fish Box Derby, Inc.**

**F. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip – To approve an out-of-state field trip request from the GHS Varsity Softball Team to attend softball training during April 2015 spring vacation in Orlando, Florida (April 19, 2015 to April 25, 2015).**

Chairman Pope removed Item C since there are no transfers. He also removed Item F from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

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

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

Softball coach John John Nicastro discussed the out-of-state field trip to Orlando, Florida. He stated that he is hoping to bring 14 students at a cost of \$1,200 per student, which would be reduced by team and individual fundraising.

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

**VOTED:** 5 in favor zero opposed, to approve the out-of-state field trip request from the GHS Varsity Softball Team to attend softball training during spring vacation in Orlando, Florida (April 19, 2015 to April 25, 2015).

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

**A. Footsteps2Brilliance – Robert Miot presented a slide show on Footsteps2Brilliance, a mobile-based early literacy program that would be free of charge for all families in**

Gloucester. The presentation included information and a video on model innovation cities, results of the launch of the program in Malden, study conclusions, and Common Core lesson plans. Mr. Miot also gave a demonstration of the libraries in the program.

*(Ms. Sweet joined the meeting at 7:39 p.m.)*

The committee discussed integration of Footsteps2Brilliance with BSRI, support offered to the community, and outreach to parents, health care organizations, day care centers, etc.

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

1. Gordon College – Mr. Lindsay clarified the college’s position with respect to its request for exemptions for nondiscriminatory practices in relation to federal contracts in an attempt to “deescalate the situation.” He stated that Gordon students are extremely committed to the values of the GPSD and urged the committee not to deny them the opportunity to student teach in Gloucester.

*(Mr. Bach joined the meeting at 8:12 p.m.)*

2. Math Information Night
3. Standards-Based Report Cards Meetings
4. Northshore Education Consortium’s Articles of Agreement – Dr. Safier requested that the committee approve the Articles of Agreement. Kathy Clancy made a motion, seconded by Mr. O’Maley, to approve the Northshore Education Consortium Articles of Agreement, June 2014. After discussion of the process, Chairman Pope amended the motion as follows:

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Northshore Education Consortium Articles of Agreement, June 2014. If there are any substantive changes to the Articles of Agreement after the second reading, they will be brought back to the School Committee for reconsideration.

Chairman Pope noted that Dr. Safier has been serving as the district’s representative to the Northshore Education Consortium. However, the Articles of Agreement state that the School Committee will appoint either the superintendent or a member of the School Committee as a representative.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to appoint Dr. Richard Safier as the GPSD’s appointed representative to the Board of Directors of the Northshore Education Consortium.

5. Education Forum – Gloucester Education Foundation – Kathy Clancy described a “Learning Commons” as being an activity hub where group projects and collaboration can take place.
6. Enterovirus D-68
7. Commissioner’s Update October 2, 2014
8. Recent Bills Signed by the Massachusetts General Court
9. Update on FY15 Unanticipated Expenses
10. Transferred-Out Students from 2013-14 to 2014-15

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 September 25, 2014** – Chairperson Sweet reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed several policies at its meeting of September 25, 2014, and Dr. Safier reviewed Mike Gilbert’s assessment of the new law regarding student conduct.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to waive the first reading of the revised Student Conduct policy, File JIC.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the first reading of the Student Conduct policy, File JIC, as presented.

On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mr. O’Maley, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to waive the first reading of the Student Absences and Excuses policy, File JH.

Dr. Safier briefly reviewed the new policy and indicated that the attendance policies in the student handbooks will need to be revised to reflect this policy.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the first reading of the Student Absences and Excuses policy, File JH, as presented.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to waive the first reading of the Student Responsible Use policy, File IJNDB.

Mr. Bach reviewed the new policy and noted that it was drawn extensively from the Boston Public Schools responsible use policy. He recommended that attribution be given to the Boston Public Schools in our policy.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the first reading of the Student Responsible Use policy, File IJNDB, as presented, including an attribution to the Boston Public Schools.

The Student Discipline policy, File JK, will be addressed at the next School Committee meeting.

## **X. ACTION**

- A. Second Reading of the Meal Payment Policy, File EFD** – On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to approve the Meal Payment policy, File EFD.

Chairman Pope reported that he sent to City Council President Paul McGeary the letter that is being sent out by Dr. Safier together with the Meal Payment policy. Chairman Pope noted that this matter is on tomorrow's City Council B&F Committee agenda.

- B. First Reading of Student Conduct Policy, File JIC** – See Item IX.A.
- C. First Reading of Student Absences and Excuses Policy, File JH** – See Item IX.A.
- D. First Reading of Student Responsible Use Policy, File IJNDB** – See Item IX.A.
- E. Approval of Northshore Education Consortium Articles of Agreement, June 2014** – See Item VIII.B.3.

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

- A. MSBA Project Update** – Dr. Safier reported that the building committee met earlier today to discuss proprietary items, such as the intercom system, and security issues. The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2014. Dr. Safier also indicated that he has asked Michele Rogers for the diagrams that were presented to the School Committee at the last meeting so that they can be placed on the website.

**B. Special School Committee Meeting to Review GPS Elementary Plan Study –**  
Scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

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

**VOTED:** By Roll Call Vote

Ms. Sweet – yes  
Ms. Teixeira – yes  
Kathy Clancy – yes  
Mr. Gross – yes  
Mr. O’Maley – yes  
Chairman Pope – yes

To enter into Executive Session at 9:25 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a Level II GTA grievance and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of adjournment only.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of October 8, 2014 at 9:43 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi*  
*Recording Secretary*