

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

District Office – Conference Room

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
Tom Lafleur, CPA, Director of Finance
and Operations
Dr. Arthur Unobskey, Asst. Superintendent

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 stated that School Committee meeting dates and agenda items are now posted on the Gloucester Schools Facebook page. He stated that there will be a meeting on Monday, October 17th at 6:30 p.m. at Veterans’ School hosted by Ward 1 Councilor Scott Memhard and Ward 2 Councilor Melissa Cox regarding the elementary school plan. He also noted that there will be a joint meeting of the School Committee and City Council on Tuesday, October 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the O’Maley library.
- V. **RECOGNITIONS** – Chairman Pope recognized and congratulated Melissa Teixeira for being selected by the Mass. Association of School Committees (MASC) as a member of the All-State School Committee, which is established to annually recognize significant achievement on the part of local school committee members and to honor school committee members who during the previous year have made a significant contribution to their community or their school committee either through specific action or as an inspiration and role model for their peers and constituents. Chairman Pope reviewed the characteristics to be considered for nomination to the all-state committee. Ms. Teixeira thanked Chairman Pope for the recognition and stated that she appreciates being selected but everything she has accomplished has been done as part of a team.
- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Roy Kirwa introduced himself and updated the committee on the sports teams and the semi-formal to be held on November 18th.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Building & Finance Subcommittee of September 21, 2016
2. School Committee and Executive Session of September 28, 2016

B. Approval of Warrants – Cover Sheets

C. Approval of Transfers

D. Referrals

E. Acceptance of Gift – 2003 Ford Explorer from Ken Riehl to the GHS Vocational Program, valued at \$1,500.00

F. Out-of-State Field Trip – Jr. ROTC Program to Mexico, New York on Friday, October 28 to Saturday, October 29, 2016, to participate in a drill and color guard competition

Chairman Pope removed Item A.2 from the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Kathy Clancy, 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. October 1 Enrollment – Dr. Safier distributed and reviewed the enrollment report with comparisons between this year and last year. Ms. Teixeira reported that 98 Gloucester students are attending Essex Tech this year. Dr. Safier stated that the most recent enrollment study predicted an increase of about 100 students in the district by 2025, with 80 of those students at the elementary schools.

B. Update on Middle School Math Textbook Adoption – Dr. Unobskey presented a slide show on the new math program at the middle school.

C. Update on Elementary Science Committee – Dr. Unobskey presented a slide show on the district's alignment with the new science standards, and there was a discussion about the implementation schedule.

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

1. Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

2. Accountability in ESSA: Setting on a Next Generation Accountability System with High Level Design Systems – Dr. Safier presented a PowerPoint on this subject.
3. Report on the Methodology for Calculating Low Income Students and Impact on Chapter 70
4. Next Generation Assessment Update
5. Calendar

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

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

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – None.

X. ACTION

A. Amendments to School Committee Policies

1. Teaching about Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs, File IHAMB – Dr. Safier reported that the updated policy was provided by MASC.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the revised policy entitled “Teaching about Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs,” File IHAMB.

Ms. Teixeira noted that the policy indicates that the curriculum, instructional materials and outcomes used in this program are to be approved by the School Committee. She requested that Dr. Safier provide examples of how this program is taught in the different grades, and he indicated that he would be glad to do so.

2. Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use by Students Prohibited, File JICH – Dr. Safier reported that this updated policy was also provided by MASC.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the revised policy entitled “Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use by Students Prohibited,” File JICH.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. MSBA Project Update** – Dr. Safier reported that the Mayor’s appointment of the GHS Accelerated Roof Repair Committee is imminent. The committee is tentatively scheduled to meet on Monday, October 17th at 2:15 p.m. to review the contracts for the Owners Project Manager (OPM) and the designer. Dr. Safier indicated that the OPM has provided a timeline for the project.
- B. Beautification of O’Maley** – Mr. Favazza would like to ask the DPW to look into using English ivy as a cost effective way of making O’Maley look nicer. Kathy Clancy suggested reaching out to Susan Kelly of Generous Gardeners to see if she has longer term ideas of what they might do to beautify the grounds. Mayor Theken asked why the DPW needed to be involved and suggested that volunteers from the community with knowledge of gardening and landscaping might be able to help.
- C. Policies Regarding Booster Organizations** – Ms. Teixeira requested that when the Building & Finance Subcommittee reviews these policies that they include language that booster organizations be required to inform the athletic director and/or high school administration of all fundraising that they are doing.
- D. City Halloween Festival** – Mayor Theken discussed the Halloween Festival that will be held on Sunday, October 30th from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- E. Referral** – Chairman Pope reported that he received a letter from the president of the softball boosters asking that they be allowed to put advertising back on the softball field. He referred the policy entitled “Advertising on School Property and Sponsorship Arrangements,” File KHB, to the Building & Finance Subcommittee for review.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

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

To enter into Executive Session at 8:27 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a GTA grievance and to enter back into regular session only for the purpose of adjournment.

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

VOTED: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of October 12, 2016 at 8:49 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*