

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, October 10, 2018  
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  
Melissa Teixeira Prince  
Joel Favazza

**Administration Present**

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent  
Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent  
Gary Frisch, Director of Finance  
and Operations  
Cody Marshall, Accounts and Budget  
Specialist  
James Cook, GHS Principal  
Lynne Beattie, O'Maley Principal  
Jodie Gennodie, Beeman Principal  
Amy Pasquarello, East Gloucester Principal  
Tammy Morgan, Plum Cove Principal  
Matt Fusco, Veterans Principal  
Dr. Telenia Imel, West Parish Principal (7:37)

*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** – None.
- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Delaney Benchoff introduced herself and updated the committee on the recent NHS and Student Council cleanup day and the homecoming game. She noted that both the football and field hockey teams are undefeated.
- VII. **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. **Approval of Minutes**
    - 1. School Committee and Executive Session of August 22, 2018
    - 2. Program Subcommittee of August 23, 2018

**B. Approval of Warrants**

**C. Approval of Transfers**

**D. Referrals**

**E. Acceptance of Donation**

1. \$1,000.00 from the O'Maley PTO to purchase playground equipment for the courtyard area

On a motion by Ms. Teixeira Prince, seconded by Kathy Clancy, 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. October 1 Enrollment Report** – Dr. Safier reviewed the October 1 enrollment report, which shows a breakdown by school and by grade, as well as a comparison to last year's numbers. He also reviewed the October 1 school choice reports (sending and receiving).

**B. 2018 MCAS Report** – Dr. Safier presented a slide show on the new MCAS accountability system, including overall results, weighted results, ELA achievement and growth, math achievement and growth, science achievement, extended engagement rate, annual dropout rate, progress toward attaining English language proficiency, chronic absenteeism, advanced coursework completion, assessment participation, the four-year cohort graduation rate, and school accountability information. The principals discussed steps they are taking to improve results. Mr. Cook reviewed a sample of changes affecting the results at the high school and successes and opportunities for growth.

*(Ms. Teixeira Prince stepped out of the meeting at 8:42 p.m.)*

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

1. Business Educational Collaborative Meeting October 5, 2018
2. Domestic Violence Awareness – Monday, 12:30 at City Hall
3. Bi-Weekly DPW Facilities Meeting – Tuesday, October 2, 2018
4. Letter to City Council re: Flooring for CVTE Classrooms
5. Coordinated Program Review Update re: Civil Rights
6. GHS Roof Building Committee
7. Accountability and Assistance Advisory Council Meeting

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

**VOTED:** 4 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the Superintendent's Report.

**IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – None.**

**X. ACTION**

- A. Acceptance of GEF Grant** – After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 4 in favor, 0 opposed, to accept a grant from the Gloucester Education Foundation in the amount of \$30,000.00 for the GHS Construction Craft Laborers program.

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

**A. MSBA Project Update**

1. GHS Roof – See Item VIII.C.6.
2. East Gloucester School – Chairman Pope reported that the building committee will be meeting tomorrow to review and discuss the two proposals that were received for a designer. He stated that the MSBA designer selection panel will meet on October 16th.

- B. Joint Meeting with City Council** – Chairman Pope reported that there will be a joint School Committee/City Council meeting on Tuesday, October 30, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the O'Maley library. He reviewed the agenda for the meeting and suggested that the committee ask the City Council what they are doing to proactively increase revenues for the city. Mr. Gross suggested asking for the Council's interpretation of the purpose of Chapter 18, Section 18-24 of the Code of Ordinances.

*(Ms. Teixeira Prince rejoined the meeting at 8:57 p.m.)*

- C. Enrollment Numbers and Redistricting** – Mr. Favazza followed up on his previous request to look into enrollment figures and whether or not savings would be realized by reducing the number of classes per grade in the district. He noted that Plum Cove costs \$1.4 million a year and that by closing that school, there would be no more than 23 kids per class in the remaining schools. Dr. Safier stated that his understanding was that he was to look at the modular issue at Beeman and the educational implications with respect to that. Mr. Favazza stated that the committee should also think about shuffling the K-5 population if and when the new East Gloucester School is built, putting new modular units at Beeman, and closing Plum Cove. Chairman Pope reported that the administration has been working on a presentation to the Program and Building & Finance Subcommittees. Mr. Gross stated that the School

Committee should not be discussing this matter because it is not on the agenda, and Ms. Teixeira Prince stated that she is not interested in talking about closing a school at this point and that the superintendent should not be wasting his time on presentations to the subcommittees on this matter.

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

**VOTED:** By Roll Call Vote

Ms. Teixeira Prince – yes  
Kathy Clancy – yes  
Mr. Favazza – yes  
Mr. Gross – yes  
Chairman Pope – yes

To enter into Executive Session at 9:12 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a GAEP grievance and will enter back into regular session only to adjourn.

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

**VOTED:** 5 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of October 10, 2018 at 9:23 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*