

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, October 11, 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 (7:23 p.m.)

**Administration Present**

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** – Chairman Pope noted that Gus Foote passed away this week and reflected on his service to the city, noting that he was a city councilor for 32 years and a great advocate for the schools, the elderly and fishermen.
- V. RECOGNITIONS** – Mr. Favazza recognized the varsity girls’ soccer team for winning on Monday night. He also recognized Athletic Director Julie Smith for shagging balls on the track during the game. Kathy Clancy recognized those involved with presenting the forum on recreational marijuana and youth.
- VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Caroline Enos and Samantha Gross updated the committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: bulb planting, senior semi-formal, breast cancer awareness tee shirts, and the JROTC cadet ball.
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA**
- A. Approval of Minutes**
1. School Committee Minutes of September 13, 2017
  2. Program Subcommittee Minutes of September 14, 2017

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

**C. Approval of Transfers**

**D. Referrals**

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Consent Agenda as noted above.

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

**A. GEF Annual Report** – Executive Director Tina Raimo introduced President June Steel and reported on highlights of the Gloucester Education Foundation’s partnership with the district over the past ten years, such as after school music programs, establishment of the Mad Hot Ball, the Robotics Club, the Birdseye Hammond STEM Center, 3D printers for the high school and O’Maley, refurbishment of the O’Maley music suite, elementary theater programs, photography and graphic design studio, visiting artist programs, summer literacy programs, expansion of the Math Olympiad program, etc. Ms. Raimo stated that everyone at GEF is grateful for the collaboration with the district and for the incredible generosity of the community.

The committee members thanked Ms. Raimo and the GEF for everything they do to move the district forward. Mr. Favazza asked about the ratio of GEF-initiated programs versus district-initiated programs. Ms. Raimo replied that she believes GEF initiated more of the programs in the early years but that it has become more of an equal partnership recently.

*(Mayor Theken joined the meeting at 7:23 p.m.)*

Finally, Mr. Bach stated that Ms. Raimo has been an incredible collaborator and grant writer.

**B. October 1 Enrollment** – Mr. Bach reviewed the enrollment report with comparisons between this year and last year, noting that the total enrollment as of October 1, 2016 was actually 2,930 and not 2,975. Therefore, there is a net change of 25 students between last year and this year.

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

**D. Superintendent’s Report** – Mr. Bach updated the committee on the following matters:

1. Free and Reduced Lunch Numbers
2. October 3 Early Release Professional Development Day
3. Coordinated Program Review

4. 2017 Accountability Reporting
5. Updates on Next Generation MCAS – Bob Lee

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.

- C. Request for Supplemental Appropriation** – Chairman Pope reported that the city administration suggested to him during budget discussions that if the committee cut \$75,000 from its budget for furniture, it may request that money back when free cash becomes available.

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

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 1 present (Mayor Theken) to request a supplemental appropriation from the city in the amount of \$76,541.00 for the purpose of purchasing furniture and equipment.

**IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS** – None

**X. ACTION**

**A. Acceptance of Gloucester Education Foundation Grants**

1. GHS – Marine Science and Oceanography on the Ardelle; GHS & O’Maley Climate Change and Coastal Communities; and O’Maley Awesome Gloucester-GEF Challenge in the amount of \$6,400.00

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a grant from the Gloucester Education Foundation in the amount of \$6,400.00 for GHS – Marine Science and Oceanography on the Ardelle, GHS and O’Maley Climate Change and Coastal Communities, and O’Maley Awesome Gloucester-GEF Challenge.

2. Grade 5 students to sail on the Thomas E. Lannon and O’Maley Academy in the amount of \$8,500.00 – Mr. Favazza asked what will happen if the PTOs are not able to match the \$3,000.00 Thomas E. Lannon portion of the grant. Mr. Bach reported that the elementary principals discussed this program last summer, and Chairman Pope noted that the program has been in place for many years and that it was being funded by the PTOs before the GEF existed.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a grant from the Gloucester Education Foundation in the amount of \$8,500.00 for Grade 5 students to sail on the Thomas E. Lannon and O'Maley Academy.

- B. Approval of Appointment of Melissa Teixeira as Representative to Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School Committee** – Mayor Theken stated that Ms. Teixeira has been on this committee for many years and has provided great representation for Gloucester, especially with her background as an attorney and working with children in the court system. Ms. Teixeira stated that she puts a lot of time into the committee and believes her experience negotiating contracts with the Gloucester School Committee and being on the Public Employees Committee was very helpful in saving money for the member communities of the Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical school district.

Mr. Favazza pointed out that of the 20 members of the Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School Committee, Ms. Teixeira and the member from Peabody are the only members who are also School Committee members in their respective districts. He also noted that Gloucester's contribution to that district is dependent upon its enrollment. Mr. Favazza believes Essex Tech is a competitor for Gloucester High School and asked Ms. Teixeira if she believes that the more successful she is at Essex Tech, the more difficult it becomes for Gloucester High.

Ms. Teixeira responded that she does not believe GHS and Essex Tech are competing schools because they are different. She noted that Essex Tech offers 18 programs that GHS does not offer. She also stated that it is not all about money; it is about programs for students who are not comfortable at GHS. She stated that she brings her experience to both committees and does her best on both.

The remaining School Committee members expressed their support for Ms. Teixeira, noting that she was instrumental in the leadership change at the Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical school district and stating that her role on that committee has been important to our community.

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was

**VOTED:** 6 in favor, 1 opposed (Mr. Favazza) to approve the appointment of Melissa Teixeira as representative to the Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School Committee.

- C. Approval of Employee Handbook and Related Policies** – Chairman Pope stated that the employee handbook is not being approved yet because some of the policies included in it are being reviewed by Attorney Stonberg.

1. Amended Computer Network and Internet Acceptable Use Policy for Employees, File GBEE – Chairman Pope reviewed the changes to the policy.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Computer Network and Internet Acceptable Use Policy, File GBEE, as amended.

2. Amended Tobacco Use on School Property by Staff Members Policy, File GBED – Ms. Teixeira reviewed the changes to the policy.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the policy entitled “Tobacco Use on School Property by Staff Members,” File GBED, as amended.

3. Amended Tobacco Use by Students Policy, File JICG – Ms. Teixeira reviewed the changes to the policy.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the policy entitled “Tobacco Use by Students,” File JICG, as amended.

4. Amended Sexual Harassment Policy, File ACAB – Ms. Teixeira reviewed the changes to the policy and made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sweet, to approve the Sexual Harassment Policy, File ACAB, as amended. After discussion, the motion was amended as follows:

**AMENDED MOTION**

On a motion by Mr. Favazza, seconded by Chairman Pope, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to further amend the Sexual Harassment Policy, File ACAB, by inserting the phrase “or if the Assistant Superintendent is unavailable, the Superintendent’s designee” after “Assistant Superintendent” in the paragraph entitled “The Grievance Officer.”

5. Amended Staff Conduct Policy, File GBEB – Ms. Teixeira reviewed the change to the policy.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Staff Conduct policy, File GBEB, as amended.

6. Amended Nondiscrimination Policy, File AC – Ms. Teixeira reviewed the change to the policy.

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

**VOTED:** 7 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Nondiscrimination policy, File AC, as amended.

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

**A. MSBA Project Updates**

1. East Gloucester/Veterans School – Chairman Pope reported that the building committee met last week and elected officers and identified possible sites. The next meeting will take place on October 19th at 4:00 p.m. There was a discussion about the makeup of the committee.

**B. Open Meeting Law Document** – Chairman Pope reminded everyone to sign the document indicating that they understand the Open Meeting Law and return it to Stephanie Delisi.

**C. Education Forum** – Kathy Clancy reminded everyone about the education forum taking place on November 1st.

**XII. 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 11, 2017 at 8:48 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*