

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

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
Joel Favazza
Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent
Gary Frisch, Director of Finance
and Operations

Recorded by 1623 Studios

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 – **Cynthia Carney**, a teacher at Veterans, read a letter she wrote last year on the success of the Camp Cody outdoor program for fifth graders, thanked the staff who participated in the program, and spoke about some of their reactions to the experience. She asked the committee to approve the field trip to Camp Cody this year and in all future years.

Pam Steele of 10 Pilot’s Hill read a statement asking the committee to request emergency funding from the city for the turnaround schools, stating that she believes there is an account somewhere that can be used immediately to give the principals what they need to turn the schools around. She asked for a formal answer in writing addressing this request.

Ida Shaker, Co-Chair of the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC), noted that the SEPAC has been inactive for awhile and that it is now being reestablished. She reported that the first parent support meeting will take place on November 1st at 1:00 p.m. at the library.

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – Chairman Pope indicated that the committee’s schedule for the rest of the year has been adjusted due to holidays and other scheduling conflicts. He stated that the Personnel and Building & Finance Subcommittees will meet on October 30th, and there will only be one School Committee meeting in November (November 13th), which will take place at 5:00 p.m. in the GHS library so that the committee can attend the Sawyer Medal Award ceremony at 7:00 p.m.

Finally, he indicated that the School Committee will meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month of December, namely December 4th and 18th.

V. RECOGNITIONS – None.

VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Katherine Bevins introduced herself and updated the committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: Spirit Week, pep rally, homecoming football game, German exchange students, Student Council Conference in North Andover, and students volunteering at the polls. She also shared her experience with the recent ALICE drill.

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

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Wellness Committee Meeting of October 3, 2019 – Kathy Clancy reported that the Wellness Committee discussed the Wellness Guidelines at its meeting of October 3, 2019. She reviewed the proposed changes to the guidelines, namely the language regarding accommodation of dietary needs and allowing the GHS school store to operate five days per week for the last 15 minutes of each lunch period. Kate Bevins discussed the operation of the store and indicated that it has been used to sell tickets to dances and class tee-shirts.

After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Mr. Gross, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the revised Wellness Guidelines, File ADF-E, as amended.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. School Committee Executive Session of August 14, 2019
2. Building & Finance Subcommittee of August 21, 2019

B. Approval of Warrants

C. Approval of Transfers – September 2019

D. Referrals

On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Mr. Gross, 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. Maritime Gloucester** – Michael DeKoster, Executive Director of Maritime Gloucester, discussed Maritime's partnership with the district over the last 15 years, specifically with respect to programming for third through fifth graders such as squid dissection, harbor observation, navigation, invasive species, algae lab, etc. He requested assistance from the district in distributing information about Maritime's programs to families, and Dr. Safier stated that he would be happy to meet with him about that.
- B. Professional Development Plan 2019-2020** – Mr. Bach presented a slide show on the first half of the professional development calendar for the 2019-2020 school year, including district priorities and past and upcoming sessions.
- C. Superintendent's Report** – Dr. Safier updated the committee on the following matters:
1. Cape Ann Caucus
 2. GHS Field House
 3. MASS/MASC Conference
 4. House Closeout of FY19 Budget
 5. Sustained Plan for Improvement
 6. Tiered Focus Monitoring

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the Superintendent's Report.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont'd)

- B. Program Subcommittee Meeting of October 10, 2019** – Kathy Clancy reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its meeting of October 10, 2019:
- Attendance language regarding absences
 - Crowdfunding policies – Mr. Gross noted that this matter should be discussed by the Building & Finance Subcommittee as well.
 - Mad Hot Ball – Dr. Safier requested a list of specific concerns from Mr. Favazza so he can address them with the organizers of this event.
 - Study Halls at GHS

- C. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of October 16, 2019** – Mr. Gross reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its meeting of October 16, 2019:

- Vaping detectors
- Replacement of food service equipment
- Advertising on food service vehicle

X. ACTION

- A. Approval of Revised Wellness Guidelines, File ADF-E** – See Item IX.A.

- B. Acceptance of Perkins Grant** – Dr. Safier discussed the purpose of the grant.

On a motion by Chairman Pope, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the Perkins Grant in the amount of \$23,432.00.

- C. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip** – After discussion, on a motion by Chairman Pope, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the district-wide Grade 5 field trip to Cody Outdoor Classroom in Freedom, New Hampshire (Nature’s Classroom) from Tuesday, May 26 to Friday, May 29, 2020.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. MSBA Project Update** – Chairman Pope reported that the Preferred Schematic Report was submitted to the MSBA today.

- B. Preschool Location** – Chairman Pope stated that negotiations to purchase the Blackburn Drive building are ongoing.

- C. Funding for Turnaround Plans** – Mr. Favazza referred this matter to the Building & Finance Subcommittee. Dr. Safier noted that the district will be applying for a \$25,000 grant for this purpose.

- D. Halloween Party** – Mayor Theken reported that the city’s Halloween party will take place on Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at City Hall.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of October 23, 2019 at 9:00 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*