

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, October 24, 2018  
District Office Conference Room  
2 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA  
7:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

Jonathan Pope, Chairman  
Melissa Teixeira Prince  
Michelle Sweet  
Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken  
Joel Favazza (7:02 p.m.)

**Administration Present**

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent  
Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent  
Gary Frisch, Director of Finance  
and Operations  
Grant Harris, IT Director  
Jeff Strong, O'Maley Asst. Principal  
Amy Pasquarello, East Gloucester Principal

**Also Present**

City Councilor Val Gilman

*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** – Caroline Muniz introduced herself and updated the committee on the following events at GHS: senior semi-formal, first football playoff game, last field hockey game, soccer teams' senior nights, GHS theater performances, Think Pink tee-shirts, and the lobster roll fundraiser.

*(Mr. Favazza joined the meeting at 7:02 p.m.)*

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

- 1. Program Subcommittee of September 6, 2018
- 2. School Committee and Executive Session of September 9, 2018

**B. Approval of Warrants**

**C. Approval of Transfers**

**D. Referrals**

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

**VOTED:** 5 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Consent Agenda as noted.

*(Ms. Pasquarello joined the meeting at 7:05 p.m.)*

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

**A. 2018-2019 Professional Development Plan** – Mr. Bach presented a slide show consisting of an overview of professional development programs for the 2018-2019 school year, including past and upcoming sessions and core themes and initiatives. Ms. Teixeira Prince requested a report in the spring on feedback received from participants.

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

1. Training Sessions on Spring 2019 MCAS Grade 10 Next-Generation Tests
2. Biweekly Meeting with DPW
3. Loss of Managerial Authority Over Non-Teaching School Employees
4. GEF Donor Event
5. Calendar

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

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

**IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Program Subcommittee of October 11, 2018** – Mr. Favazza reported that the Program Subcommittee received an update on the CVTE program, discussed substitute teacher procedures, and reviewed a draft Security Cameras in Schools policy, File ECAF, at its meeting of October 11, 2018.

**B. Building & Finance Subcommittee of October 17, 2018** – Chairman Pope reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed district expenditures, open and closed tickets, food service, budget transfers, revolving funds, cash handling procedures, and the contingency balance at its meeting of October 17, 2018.

**X. ACTION**

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

**B. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip Request**

1. O'Maley Innovation Middle School Grade 8 to Washington, DC (annual field trip) – Mr. Strong updated the committee on the annual eighth grade class trip to Washington, DC and noted that the social studies curriculum at O'Maley has shifted to civics.

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

**VOTED:** 5 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the annual field trip for O'Maley eighth graders to Washington, DC from March 27 to March 30, 2019.

- A. First Reading of Security Cameras in Schools Policy, File ECAF** – Chairman Pope suggested moving forward with the first reading of the policy and then referring it to the Personnel Subcommittee. Ms. Teixeira Prince stated that she has several concerns about the draft policy and requested that it be tabled tonight until the Personnel Subcommittee has had a chance to discuss it.

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

**VOTED:** 5 in favor, 0 opposed to table the first reading of the Security Cameras in Schools policy, File ECAF.

- C. Approval of Valerie Gilman as Representative to ENSATS School Committee** – Chairman Pope reported that Ms. Gilman has been appointed by Mayor Theken to replace Ms. Teixeira Prince as a representative to the ENSATS School Committee. Ms. Gilman expressed her gratitude and excitement at being appointed to represent Gloucester.

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

**VOTED:** 5 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the appointment of Valerie Gilman as representative to the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District School Committee, effective January 2019 for a three-year term, as recommended by Mayor Theken.

- D. Acceptance of GEF Grant** – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira Prince, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** 5 in favor, 0 opposed, to accept a grant from the Gloucester Education Foundation in the amount of \$675.00 for music therapy for the Life Skills Program at Gloucester High School.

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

**A. MSBA Project Update**

1. GHS Roof – Chairman Pope reported that this project was closed out last week and that it came in at about \$940,000 under budget, which included a number of additional charges for new RTUs and exhaust fans.
2. East Gloucester School – Chairman Pope reported that he, John Dunn and Dr. Safier attended the MSBA designer selection meeting on October 16th and that they will be interviewing the two firms that responded to the RFS on November 6th. Dr. Safier invited Mayor Theken to tour East Gloucester School in anticipation of a press release going out once the designer has been selected.

**B. Report from Superintendent on O’Maley Incident Regarding 9/18/18 Storm and Email from Chairman Pope dated 10/10/18 – FYI.**

**C. City-Wide Building Study** – Chairman Pope reported that the city has hired Dore & Whittier to perform a comprehensive study of city buildings. Dr. Safier stated that he met with Dore & Whittier and discussed sending a letter to the mayor requesting that they move forward to review options to house the preschool and central administration.

**D. Report on IT Incident** – Ms. Teixeira Prince requested a report on the incident with IT last week.

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

**VOTED:** By Roll Call Vote

Mayor Theken – yes  
Mr. Favazza – yes  
Chairman Pope – yes  
Ms. Sweet – yes  
Ms. Teixeira Prince – yes

To enter into Executive Session at 8:11 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a GTA grievance and to enter back into regular session only to adjourn.

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

**VOTED:** 5 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of October 24, 2018 at 8:33 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*