

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 25, 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

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent
Tom Lafleur, CPA, Director of Finance
and Operations
Patty Wegmann, Special Education Director
Shana Goldwyn, K-8 ELA Coordinator
Julie Smith, Athletic Director
James Cook, GHS Principal
Debra Lucey, O'Maley Principal
Amy Pasquarello, East Gloucester Principal
Matt Fusco, Veterans Principal
Dr. Telena Imel, West Parish Principal

Also Present

Mark Cole, Assistant DPW Director
Jim Hafey, Facilities Manager
City Councilor Val Gilman

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

- 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** – Dr. Safier recognized GHS football player Oliver Emerson and read the email he received from the Marblehead Athletic Director:

I wanted to reach out to you regarding one of your players at our game last Friday night. During the coin toss of our game, we honored a local girl, Sophia, with a rare brain tumor that requires lots of effort and dedication to keep her healthy and to overcome the hardship. Oliver Emerson, number 2 on your team and one of your captains, did something that you should all be very proud of. When Sophia and our

team captains came out to the coin toss, Oliver bent down and was talking with Sophia and it was an amazing moment. We were able to step back for a minute and realize there are some things that are more important than a high school football game. Just by taking a knee to talk with Sophia, Oliver showed us all what sportsmanship and genuine kindness is all about. She was smiling from ear to ear after the coin toss and was so thrilled to be a part of it all. I hope you can somehow recognize Oliver, even just by pulling him aside and thanking him for us, but also for being a captain and a great leader for your school. He has done something so small yet so important for a young girl in our community. She will continue to fight and overcome this tumor, and it's people like Oliver who help by giving her the strength and support she needs. Please feel free to send this to his parents, or anyone else for that matter, and thank you on behalf of the Marblehead School District. We truly appreciate it.

Athletic Director Julie Smith gave a special thank you to Head Coach Tony Zerilli for rearranging his schedule to be here tonight and for recognizing what matters most in sports. Chairman Pope thanked Coach Zerilli and the football team for the example they have made for our community.

VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Caroline Enos and Samantha Gross updated the committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: sports playoffs, deadlines for college applications, Inspector General's inspection, DECA store opening, and Docksiders coffeehouse.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Building & Finance Subcommittee Minutes of September 20, 2017
2. Personnel Subcommittee Minutes of September 25, 2017

B. Approval of Warrants – Cover Sheets

C. Approval of Transfers – September 8, 2017 to September 29, 2017

D. Referrals

E. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip Request – GHS Boys Hockey to Essex Junction, Vermont from Saturday, December 2 to Sunday, December 3, 2017

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. Presentation by Gloucester Green – Matt Coogan, Senior Planner for the City of Gloucester, spoke about the no-cost home energy assessments provided by Mass

Save, noting that they will provide free light bulbs and programmable thermostats as well as rebates for insulation. Mr. Gross indicated that he had an assessment done on his home and received significant financial help for purchasing a new boiler, as well as an interest-free loan.

- B. Facilities Update** – Mr. Hafey reviewed the work done by the DPW at each of the school buildings, including painting at the elementary schools; interior doors, fire alarm system, paving, bathroom upgrades, and music room at O’Maley; and PA system, ceiling tiles and windows at the high school. The committee discussed the landscaping at O’Maley and the status of the modular units at Beeman.

Mr. Cole reviewed the grounds work done at Plum Cove, Beeman and O’Maley last summer, including tree and brush work and paving, and reported that they will bring crews to the high school, Veterans and East Gloucester this summer. He asked that any specific requests for those schools be brought to his attention by early spring.

In response to a question from Chairman Pope about the status of the Newell Stadium remediation, Mr. Cole indicated that the building committee will be meeting next week to discuss it and will then have a better idea of what the next step will be. He reported that significant work will need to be done to correct the issue.

- C. MCAS Report** – Dr. Safier reported that this is a transitional year and that the Grade 10 test and the Grade 5 and Grade 8 science tests are legacy tests and that Grades 3-8 took the next generation MCAS. He presented a slide show on the MCAS results, including media talking points, results by subgroup, changes in the Composite Performance Index (CPI) by school and by population, student growth percentiles, student growth and achievement, and Next Gen scaled scores by school. He noted that there has been steady progress in most areas, with a couple of areas of concern.

Mr. Bach and Dr. Goldwyn reviewed the current work being done at O’Maley and the transition between Grades 5 and 6. Finally, Dr. Safier discussed PLCs and trying to find ways to improve instruction relative to the MCAS scores.

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

1. Technology Specification for the Spring 2018 MCAS Administration
2. Coordinated Program Review – Final Report
3. Science Training Sessions – October 16-20
4. Salem State Educational Leadership Meeting
5. Substance Abuse Prevention among Student-Athletes

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the Superintendent’s Report.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – None

X. ACTION

A. Acceptance of Grants

1. DESE FY18 Title IV, Part A (TIV A) Grant in the amount of \$13,360.00 – On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the DESE FY18 Title IV, Part A (TIV A) grant in the amount of \$13,360.00.

2. DESE FY18 Title IIa Grant in the amount of \$119,319.00 – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the DESE FY18 Title IIa grant in the amount of \$119,319.00.

3. Gloucester Education Foundation Grant – After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a grant from the Gloucester Education Foundation in the amount of \$600.00 to GHS for music therapy lessons for Life Skills classes.

B. Authorization to Transfer \$60,000 to the Gloucester Police Department – After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to authorize the CFO to request permission from the City Council to transfer \$60,000.00 to the Gloucester Police Department for the School Resource Officer.

C. Authorization to Pay Outstanding FY17 Bill with FY18 Funds – Chairman Pope noted that this bill is for details for the prom.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to authorize the CFO to request permission from the City Council to pay an outstanding FY17 bill from the Gloucester Police Department in the amount of \$788.00 with FY18 funds.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

A. MSBA Project Updates

1. East Gloucester/Veterans School – Chairman Pope reported that the building committee discussed all of the possible sites and scheduled site visits. He noted that the city administration pushed back the vote for authorization of funding for the feasibility study to January. Mr. Favazza expressed concern

about the MSBA enrollment projection letter, which does not take into account students from Beeman who could be redistricted to this school. Chairman Pope reported that the MSBA approved a four class per grade building, which would be able to accommodate more students than stated in the enrollment projection.

- B. Traffic at West Parish Elementary School** – Chairman Pope reported that he, City Councilor Sean Nolan and Bob Ryan from the Traffic Commission went to observe pickup and drop-off at West Parish. He noted that drop-off does not seem to be a problem but that pickup is much more problematic because people park illegally on both sides of Concord Street, on Landing Road, and on both sides of Essex Avenue. He indicated that Councilor Nolan put forward to the City Council a recommendation to make Concord Street one way from the fire station to Essex Avenue for a half hour during pickup. Chairman Pope suggested that a public hearing be held regarding this issue. Ms. Teixeira referred this matter to the Building & Finance Subcommittee.
- C. Meeting Schedule** – Chairman Pope suggested rescheduling the November 22nd School Committee meeting to November 29th, if needed.
- D. West Parish Halloween Party Incident** – Chairman Pope reported that Dr. Safier is in the process of conducting an investigation regarding this incident and will report to the committee once the investigation is completed.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of October 25, 2017 at 9:30 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*