

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Melissa Teixeira, Vice Chairperson
Kathy Clancy, Secretary
Tony Gross
Michelle Sweet
Jack O'Maley

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Dr. Arthur Unobskey, Asst. Superintendent
Tom Lafleur, Director of Finance and
Operations

Also Present

Ann-Marie Jordan, Student Health
Coordinator
Cindy Juncker, Nurse Leader
Debra Lucey, O'Maley Principal
Jeff Strong, O'Maley Asst. Principal
Joanne Maino, O'Maley Asst. Principal
Ellen Sibley, Beeman Principal
Amy Pasquarello, East Gloucester Principal
Tammy Morgan, Plum Cove Principal
Matthew Fusco, Veterans Principal
Telena Imel, West Parish Principal

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** – None.
- V. RECOGNITIONS** – Ms. Teixeira thanked the voters for reelecting the School Committee members, with the exception of Mr. O'Maley who is retiring from the committee. She stated that with Joel Favazza coming on board, there is no doubt that the committee will make a lot more progress going forward.
- Kathy Clancy recognized the GHS sports teams that have made it to the playoffs, namely the soccer team, the football team, and the girls' field hockey team.
- VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – None present.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. School Committee of October 21, 2015
2. Building & Finance Subcommittee of October 14, 2015

B. Approval of Warrants – Cover Sheets

C. Approval of Transfers

D. Referrals

1. Enrollment Report – Request for funding (B&F Subcommittee)

E. Acceptance of Grants

1. Gloucester Education Foundation – \$466.00 for the Veterans’ Memorial Elementary School “The Incredible Years of Parenting” program (2nd year grant)
2. Gloucester Education Foundation – Donation of Musical Instruments to the Elementary and Middle School Music Program
3. Massachusetts DESE Grant – \$132,081.00 Title II

F. Acceptance of Gift – \$300.00 from the Fish Box Derby to the Jr. ROTC Program

Chairman Pope removed Items E.1 and E.2, which will be taken up later in the meeting.

On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, 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. Youth Risk Behavior Survey – Ms. Jordan presented a slide show on the 2015 Gloucester Student Health Survey, which is administered biannually to middle and high school students. The survey is a collaborative effort between the GPSD, the Healthy Gloucester Collaborative, and the Gloucester Health Department and is based on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey from the CDC.

Ms. Jordan stated that Social Science Research and Evaluation (SSRE) assists with survey questions, analyzes the data, and provides the district with a report. The survey was conducted in April 2015 at O’Maley, GHS, Compass and GAP, and students had the choice to opt out of the survey. The survey is completely anonymous and asked about substance use, violence and safety, and mental and physical health. There was a

discussion about the confidentiality of the survey and the ability to inform parents of risky behavior so that it can be addressed.

Ms. Jordan reviewed the results of the survey, including statistics on alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, violence and safety, mental health, and bullying, as well as next steps. She noted that since 2007, use of alcohol and tobacco has continued to decrease and marijuana use has remained the same.

Ms. Juncker spoke about the SBIRT initiative and SOS program, which can identify concerning behavior and refer students for treatment. Reporting to DCF is left up to the school team and the person to whom the student disclosed the behavior. Ms. Juncker also discussed the role of the GHS Health Center counselor.

- B. Proposal for Extended Day Program** – Ms. Lucey, Mr. Strong and Ms. Maino reviewed the proposal for a mandatory extended school day at O’Maley for apathetic students who are capable but do not complete their work. The program would start next term and run for two hours two days per week for any student who fails a core subject. Ms. Lucey stated that this program would take the place of summer school and the funding for the program would come from the summer school funding.

Mr. Strong discussed the student review team process, the purpose of which is to come up with strategies for improvement, which is followed by a letter to the parents stating that the student is in danger of failing. Ms. Maino stated that if there is no improvement in the student’s grade within two weeks, the administration and teachers would meet with the parent and student to discuss participation in the mandatory extended day program. Dr. Safier stated that there is also the potential for credit recovery at the end of the year.

Finally, Ms. Lucey noted that there will be an open house at O’Maley on November 19th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- C. Presentation on Elementary School Data Meetings** – Dr. Unobskey and the elementary school reading coaches presented a slide show on the GPS District Literacy Data for the fall of 2015. The presentation included a description of the DIBELS and GRADE measures and results, reports by grade and school, and notable individual school results. The coaches discussed the establishment of mini-goals, the creation of teams to implement interventions, and what happens in data meetings.

There was a discussion about the adequacy of these assessments. Dr. Safier stated that the assessments are designed to contribute to implementation of the reading and writing program and that he is not aware of any direct correlation between the assessments and MCAS or PARC. Kathy Clancy suggested that it would be helpful if periodic newsletters were sent out to parents to provide information on what the assessments actually entail.

- D. DSAC Self-Assessment** – Dr. Safier reminded the committee that the self-assessment must be submitted to the Department of Education by November 13, 2015. He

reviewed the standards and indicators and the evidence that will be submitted and noted that the team will be coming to Gloucester from December 7-10, 2015.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Personnel Subcommittee Meeting of October 29, 2015 – Chairperson Teixeira reported that the subcommittee discussed the following policies at its meeting of October 29, 2015:

- Physical Restraint of Students, File JKAA
- Domestic Violence Leave Policy, File GCCD
- Drug and Alcohol Testing for Transportation Employees, File EEAEA-1

Ms. Teixeira reviewed each of the policies and indicated that they will be reviewed again and finalized at the next subcommittee meeting.

X. ACTION

A. Acceptance of Gifts to GHS from the GHS Softball Boosters – Mr. LaFleur reported that he has already received the check for \$3,335.00 from the boosters.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor 0 opposed, to accept gifts of a batting cage, scoreboard, and building materials for a shed from the GHS Softball Boosters, as well as a check in the amount of \$3,335.00 for field improvements.

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

VOTED: 0 in favor, 6 opposed to reconsider the Committee's vote to accept the above-named gifts. The motion failed.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA (Cont'd)

E. Acceptance of Grants

1. Gloucester Education Foundation – \$466.00 for the Veterans' Memorial Elementary School "The Incredible Years of Parenting" program (2nd year grant)

On a motion by Melissa Teixeira, seconded by Michelle Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a grant from the Gloucester Education Foundation in the amount of \$466.00 for the Veterans' Elementary School "The Incredible Years of Parenting" program (second year grant).

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

VOTED: 0 in favor, 6 opposed to reconsider the Committee's vote to accept the above-named grant. The motion failed.

2. Gloucester Education Foundation – Donation of Musical Instruments to the Elementary and Middle School Music Program

On a motion by Melissa Teixeira, seconded by Michelle Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a donation of musical instruments from the Gloucester Education Foundation to the elementary and middle school music program.

Dr. Safier reported that Helen Greene has taken over the elementary band program. He stated that Mr. Menezes has requested instructors for middle school students, which will be taken into consideration during preparation of next year's budget.

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

VOTED: 0 in favor, 6 opposed to reconsider the Committee's vote to accept the above-named donation. The motion failed.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. **MSBA Project Update** – Dr. Safier updated the committee on the progress of construction at the West Parish site, including sheetrock, painting and staining, light fixture installation, roof testing, and pouring of the art room slab. Chairman Pope noted that the sidewalk on Concord Street still needs to be addressed.
- B. **Funding of O'Maley Extended Day Program** – Mr. Gross referred this matter to the Building & Finance Subcommittee.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor 0 opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of November 4, 2015 at 9:06 p.m.

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

Maria Puglisi, Recording Secretary