

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 30, 2016
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
Michelle Sweet

Administration Present

Dr. Arthur Unobskey, Asst. Superintendent
Tom Lafleur, CPA, Director of Finance
and Operations
Patty Wegmann, Special Education Director
Martha Jo Fleming, Food Service Director
James Cook, GHS Principal
Cindy Juncker, Nurse Leader

Recorded by Cape Ann TV

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 Dr. Safier is not at the meeting because his new grandchild was born last night.
- V. **RECOGNITIONS** – Dr. Unobskey recognized Food Service Director Martha Jo Fleming for attaining her certification in school nutrition from the School Nutrition Association and presented her with her Level 1 certificate. Dr. Unobskey reported on the professional development she has held for her staff and her introduction of the Nutrislice program to the district. Kathy Clancy stated that it is a pleasure to have her back and thanked her for her contributions.
- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Jarrod Martin and Roy Kirwa introduced themselves and updated the committee on the transition to the winter sports season, the new girls' hockey team, and the semiformal dance. Kathy Clancy asked the boys if anything is done to encourage students to support the new girls' hockey team, and Jarrod indicated that there are posters around school and it is mentioned in the announcements and *The Gillnetter*.
- VII. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **Approval of Minutes**

1. Building & Finance Subcommittee of October 19, 2016
2. School Committee of October 26, 2016
3. School Committee of November 9, 2016
4. Program Subcommittee of November 10, 2016
5. Personnel Subcommittee of November 15, 2016
6. Building & Finance Subcommittee of November 16, 2016

B. Approval of Warrants – Cover Sheets

C. Approval of Transfers – 09/30/16 to 11/08/16

D. Referrals

E. Acceptance of Gifts/Donations

1. \$100.00 to GHS from the Gienow-Hecht family, whose child was hosted by GHS this fall
2. Hockmeyer Studios, Inc.:
 - a. Gloucester High School – \$1,599.13
 - b. O’Maley Innovation Middle School – \$1,878.50
 - c. Beeman Memorial Elementary School – \$1,068.27
 - d. Plum Cove Elementary School – \$950.65
 - e. Veterans’ Memorial Elementary School – \$603.78
 - f. West Parish Elementary School – \$1,252.61
 - g. East Gloucester Elementary School – \$859.86

F. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip Request – Boys varsity hockey to Essex Regional High School in Vermont from Friday, December 2 to Saturday, December 3, 2016

Chairman Pope removed Item A.6 from the Consent Agenda.

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

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

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- A. Sale of Foods/Beverages that are not part of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program –** Ms. Fleming and Nurse Leader Cindy Juncker reported on state and federal regulations as well as the district’s wellness policy prohibiting fundraising activities or school store sales involving food during the breakfast or lunch period and the “Smart Snacks in School” standards, which applies to the sale of popcorn at O’Maley on Fridays during the lunch periods. Food sold outside of school hours (i.e. at basketball games) does not have to meet these regulations. Ms. Juncker indicated that they could provide PTOs with a list of non-food items they could use

for fundraising during school hours instead of food. Mr. Lafleur noted that the district's federal funding can be taken away if we do not comply with the regulations.

- B. Special Education Referral Process** – Patty Wegmann presented a slide show on the special education referral process, including what special education is, highlights of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), IEP components, eligibility determination, timelines for evaluation, disability categories, types of educational placements, and GPS programs. There was a discussion about programs provided by neighboring school districts.
- C. Update on GHS Vocational Program** – Mr. Cook reported that there are currently 37 students in the automotive technology program (16 in ninth grade and 7 each in tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades), 22 students in the electrical program (7 in ninth grade, 6 each in tenth and eleventh grade, and 3 seniors), 16 students in the machine tech program (3 in ninth, 4 in tenth grade, 1 in eleventh grade, and 8 seniors), and 32 students in the carpentry program (13 in ninth grade, 18 in tenth grade, 5 juniors and 6 seniors).

Mr. Cook reported that Assistant Principal Maria Lysen is now in charge of the vocational program. He noted that she has been working on strengthening the advisory team and that the team will be meeting in January. Last year, Ms. Lysen began working with each vocational teacher on curriculum alignment with the Massachusetts frameworks. Mr. Cook stated that in connection with the Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant application, there is an aggressive plan to update and realign the machine technology program with current demands. He noted that the carpentry program could also benefit from some new equipment.

Mr. Cook reported that the carpentry students are working on a shed, the electrical students have been working on installing projectors and other wiring projects in the building, machine tech students have been working on CAD programming, with two students out on work internships at machine shops, and the automotive students are working on curriculum specific projects online, as well as working on cars brought in by community members.

Mr. Cook reported that up until this year, Chapter 74 funding has been rotated between the shops, but they are looking at adjusting that practice to serve more substantial needs that fall outside the four-year cycle.

Mr. Favazza expressed concern with the schedule at the high school, noting that when he was a student there, the academic courses conflicted with shop classes. Mr. Cook acknowledged that challenge and stated that they want more students who are inclined toward academics involved in the shops, and they are trying to make that happen.

There was a discussion about outreach to the middle school, and Mr. Cook noted that there will be an open house at the high school on December 7th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. He stated that Ms. Lysen has also been in contact with the O'Maley guidance counselors to facilitate the transition of students to the high school vocational

program. Kathy Clancy suggested that the presentation to eighth graders by Essex Tech should be a collaborative effort with the GHS vocational program.

Ms. Teixeira reported that over 1,500 people attended the Essex Tech open house, many of whom were Gloucester students, and they are competing for 360 slots. She stated that the GHS program would thrive if some of those students choiced into our programs. Ms. Teixeira suggested the possibility of a four-year phase-out of low interest programs, such as machine shop, to be replaced by a nursing assistant and/or IT services program, both of which would greatly benefit Gloucester. She noted that the IT students could also provide computer support services at the high school.

Ms. Teixeira referred the review of vocational programs to the Program Subcommittee.

- D. Transportation Issues – Buses vs. Cars to School** – Chairman Pope noted that more and more parents are driving their children to school, which has become a problem. He suggested the possibility of doing a survey on why parents drive their kids to school. He stated that he requested information from Transportation Director Kathy Verga, and Mr. Lafleur indicated that the capacity of the buses is not an issue.

Chairman Pope reported that some parents are unaware that if they live within a mile-and-a-half of school, they can pay a fee for their kids to ride the bus. Kathy Clancy noted that there is also the option to ride the bus one way for a lesser cost.

Ms. Teixeira reported that she has heard overwhelmingly that the reason parents are driving their kids to school is because they do not want to pay the bus fee. She suggested putting out a survey asking parents if they would use the buses if the fee was decreased. Kathy Clancy agreed and suggested starting with the West Parish community. Mr. Favazza suggested eliminating the option of driving to school and have parents drop their kids off at a bus stop instead. There was a discussion about young children walking to school.

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

- F. Superintendent’s Report** – Dr. Unobskey reviewed Dr. Safier’s report and updated the committee on the following matters:

1. Next-Generation MCAS Test Information for Grades 3-8 ELA
2. Discipline Data Released
3. ESE Public Lookup Tool
4. Increased Pay for Substitute Nurses
5. DPW Bi-Weekly Meeting
6. Fundraising for O’Maley After-School Program
7. Preschool Referrals
8. December 6 Professional Development Day

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

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

- E. Superintendent’s Evaluation** – Chairman Pope requested that School Committee members get their evaluation forms to him by December 10th.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of November 16, 2016** – In Mr. Gross’ absence, Chairman Pope reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its meeting of November 16, 2016:

1. Review of several policies
2. Food Service financials and student meal balances
3. DPW open and closed tickets
4. Budget transfers
5. Capital Improvement Plan

X. ACTION

- A. Approval of Updated Policies**

1. Alterations, Renovations and Additions to School Buildings and School Grounds, File FJ – Chairman Pope reviewed the changes made to the policy. The following additional changes were made:

- The phrase “outside group” was removed from the first paragraph.
- The word “including” was inserted after the word “compliance” in paragraph 4;
- The phrase “and/or impacted” was removed from paragraph 7.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the amended policy entitled “Alterations, Renovations and Additions to School Buildings and School Grounds,” File FJ, as revised.

2. Advertising in the Schools or on School Grounds, File KHB – Chairman Pope reviewed the changes made to the policy.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the amended policy entitled “Advertising in the Schools or on School Grounds,” File KHB, as presented.

3. Public Gifts to the Schools, File KCD – Chairman Pope reviewed the changes made to the policy.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the amended policy entitled “Public Gifts to the Schools,” File KCD, as presented.

4. Booster Organizations, File KJAA – Chairman Pope reviewed the changes made to the policy.

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

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the amended policy entitled “Booster Organizations,” File KJAA, as presented.

B. Acceptance of Grants

1. DESE Title II, Part A Grant in the amount of \$128,761.00 – On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a DESE Title II, Part A grant in the amount of \$128,761.00.

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

VOTED: 0 in favor, 5 opposed to reconsider the vote to accept the above-referenced DESE Title II, Part A grant. The motion failed.

2. DESE Title III, English Language Acquisition Grant in the amount of \$16,835.00 – On a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a DESE Title III, English Language Acquisition grant in the amount of \$16,835.00.

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

VOTED: 0 in favor, 5 opposed to reconsider the vote to accept the above-referenced DESE Title III, English Language Acquisition grant. The motion failed.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. **MSBA Project Update** – Mr. Lafleur reported that the high school roof project is ongoing.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

Chairman Pope – yes
Ms. Sweet – yes
Ms. Teixeira – yes
Kathy Clancy – yes
Mr. Favazza – yes

To enter into Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. for the purpose of discussing mediation with the GTA and contract negotiations and to enter back into regular session only for the purpose of adjournment.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mr. Favazza, it was unanimously

VOTED: 5 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of November 30, 2016 at 9:42 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*