

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 12, 2018
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
Melissa Teixeira Prince
Michelle Sweet
Joel Favazza (7:04 p.m.)

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent
Gary Frisch, Director of Finance
and Operations
Patty Wegmann, Special Education Director
Bryan Lafata, Athletic Director

Also Present

City Councilor Val Gilman

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** – None.
- IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON** – None.
- V. **RECOGNITIONS** – Mr. Lafata introduced the following football athletes who received NEC All Star Awards: Nick Allen, Noah Benson, Joe Ciarametaro, Nick Filho, Geoff Lattanzi, Jan Pena-Ortiz (MVP), Ryan Argentino (not present), James Nelson (not present) and Marc Smith (*Boston Globe* All Scholastic). The School Committee presented the students with citations. Mr. Lafata also introduced head football coach Tony Zerilli, who received the NEC Coach of the Year award.
- VI. **GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Delaney Benchoff introduced herself and updated the committee on the following events at GHS: fundraiser at Ladies’ Night, blood drive, and the “candygram” Christmas fundraiser.
- VII. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **Approval of Minutes**
 1. School Committee and Executive Session of October 24, 2018

2. Special School Committee and Executive Session of October 31, 2018
3. Personnel Subcommittee and Executive Session of November 13, 2018
4. School Committee of November 14, 2018

B. Approval of Warrants

C. Approval of Transfers

D. Referrals

E. Acceptance of Donation – \$2,248.56 from Hockmeyer Studios, Inc. to O’Maley Innovation Middle School

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Consent Agenda as noted.

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. FY20 Budget Goals, Guidelines, and Draft Schedule – Dr. Safier reviewed the FY20 budget goals, including curriculum review and revision, ELL services, technology, development of a turnaround plan for GHS, literacy and math intervention, and social/emotional support. He stated that he is hopeful that we will be able to refurbish our CVTE classrooms with the help of Local 22. Ms. Teixeira Prince requested that the CVTE teachers come up with a “wish list” for which the committee can seek donations from the community.

Dr. Safier reported that the School Department is not exempt from eliminating Styrofoam and replacing it with compostable trays, which will add approximately \$20,000 to \$25,000 to the budget. Mr. Favazza requested a comparison of the cost of compostable versus reusable trays. Ms. Teixeira Prince reported that she has heard that parents have concerns about compostable trays. Dr. Safier indicated that he will reach out to Karin Carroll, Director of the Gloucester Health Department, to come and speak about that at a future meeting.

Mr. Frisch reviewed the FY20 budget timeline and Ms. Teixeira Prince requested that the timeline be emailed to the committee members.

B. Submission of Superintendent’s 2018 Summative Evaluation Materials – Dr. Safier reviewed the evaluation report form, and Chairman Pope indicated that his materials were sent out today. He requested that committee members submit their individual evaluations to him electronically by January 2nd. He will then prepare a summative evaluation which will be presented at the meeting on January 9, 2019.

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

1. Superintendent’s Roundtable with Congressman Moulton
2. Concert featuring Cape Ann Big Band and O’Maley Jazz Band
3. GHS/ENSATS/Local 22 Pilot Program
4. Meeting Regarding Fieldhouse Floor – Dr. Safier reported that Chairman Pope, Principal James Cook, AD Bryan Lafata, Joe Lucido from the DPW, and Brad Dore met this afternoon to look at the floor and bleachers in preparation for a meeting in the mayor’s office on December 17th.
5. Update on Next Generation Science MCAS

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

- A. Program Subcommittee of December 6, 2018** – Kathy Clancy reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed the progress being made on the vocational program safety checklist and enrollment and class size as it relates to modular classroom planning at its meeting of December 6, 2018. Chairman Pope noted that it was the consensus of the subcommittee that the new East Gloucester school would be able to take some additional students when it becomes available. Dr. Safier stated that he and Mr. Frisch will take up the issue of the modulars with the DPW at their next biweekly meeting.

X. ACTION

- A. Second Reading of Security Cameras in Schools Policy, File ECAF** – Chairman Pope read the policy for the benefit of the television audience.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to approve the Security Cameras in Schools and Buses policy, File ECAF.

Ms. Teixeira Prince made a motion, seconded by Kathy Clancy, to waive the policy that states that the School Committee must do three readings to approve a policy. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

- B. Special Budgetary Transfer for School Resource Officer** – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira Prince, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed that we authorize the CFO to request permission from City Council to transfer \$60,000.00 from the Gloucester Public Schools to the Gloucester Police Department for the purpose of funding the GHS School Resource Officer.

C. Acceptance of Grants

1. Energy North, Inc. Grant – Chairman Pope distributed and reviewed the policy entitled “Advertising in the Schools or on School Grounds,” File KHB, and referred this matter to the Building & Finance Subcommittee. Ms. Teixeira Prince requested that Dr. Safier reach out to other schools with vocational programs regarding what type of advertising, if any, they do in their program.

2. DESE FY18 Title I Grant – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira Prince, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the DESE FY18 Title I Grant in the amount of \$3,398.00.

3. DESE FY18 Title IIA Grant – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira Prince, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the DESE FY18 Title IIA Grant in the amount of \$540.00.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

A. MSBA Project Update

1. West Parish – Chairman Pope reported that the final papers for this project were signed today, and Dr. Safier indicated that it should go before the board in February.

2. East Gloucester School – Chairman Pope reported that the building committee met last week and that Dore & Whittier presented the timeline for the project, which shows the submittal of the preferred schematic design to MSBA in April of 2020 and an opening date in September of 2023. The next building committee meeting is scheduled for the first week of January. Chairman Pope also reported that there was a kickoff meeting today with MSBA at East Gloucester School.

B. Holiday Calendar of Events – FYI (see agenda for list).

C. Wellness Policy/School Store – Chairman Pope reported that he received a letter from GHS students asking for a response regarding the school store and noted that the Wellness Policy states that they cannot sell food during breakfast or lunch. He

indicated that Dr. Safier and James Cook told them they could not open the store but that the School Committee can override that decision. Chairman Pope also noted that the Class of 2019 has a number of other fundraisers.

Mr. Gross stated that he thought the committee had approved opening the store on the 30 or so days requested by the students. Ms. Teixeira Prince stated that Dr. Safier and Mr. Cook were supposed to make a decision on those dates, and Dr. Safier stated that his job is to adhere to the Wellness Policy. He noted that allowing them to open the store would violate the Wellness Policy and he is not comfortable doing that.

Mr. Favazza noted that the Wellness Policy only restricts the time of day when food can be sold and that the Program Subcommittee discussed with the students using the atrium to sell food after school. Ms. Sweet noted that the subcommittee also discussed raising class dues. Ms. Teixeira Prince asked whether dues are consistent with other schools and indicated that the students should provide a list of their fundraisers and the money they are making. Dr. Safier reported that the senior class has \$16,504.77 in their account right now.

Kathy Clancy stated that she empathizes with the students because they want everyone to be included in senior events, and Ms. Teixeira Prince asked what the School Department does for kids who cannot afford to go to the prom. Dr. Safier referred to instances where fees are waived, such as athletic fees, and indicated he would speak with Mr. Cook to find out what the practice has been and report back to the committee.

Kathy Clancy requested that Dr. Safier and Mr. Cook have a discussion with the students about compromising on when food is sold and other ideas discussed last year. Dr. Safier indicated that he is willing to do that but will only compromise within the confines of the Wellness Policy.

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

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

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

To enter into Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a Level III GTA grievance and ratification of the AFSCME C contract and to enter back into regular session to vote on the AFSCME C contract and to adjourn.

(Regular session resumed at 9:08 p.m.)

X. ACTION (Continued)

D. Approval of AFSCME C Contract – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira Prince, seconded by Ms. Sweet, it was

VOTED: 5 in favor, 1 opposed (Mr. Favazza) to approve the Agreement between the Gloucester School Committee and Council #93, Local #687 American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, effective July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of December 12, 2018 at 9:08 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*