

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 13, 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 (7:06 p.m.)
Melissa Teixeira
Tony Gross
Michelle Sweet

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent
Gregg Bach, Asst. Superintendent
Tom Lafleur, CPA, Director of Finance
and Operations
Ann-Marie Jordan, Health and Wellness
Coordinator

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** – Chairman Pope stated that this is the last meeting of the School Committee this year and reflected on everything that has been accomplished in the last year.
- V. **RECOGNITIONS** – Dr. Safier recognized the GHS cheerleaders and read a statement from Athletic Director Julie Smith, who could not be present at the meeting, stating that the team went undefeated during the regular season and won the state championship title, the first for the team since 2010. The committee members congratulated the team and Coach Erica Mitchell.

Ms. Teixeira recognized the GHS students and staff who participated in the Youth Mental Health First Aid certification training. She noted that there was an article about it in the *Boston Globe* but unfortunately not in the *Gloucester Daily Times*.

Finally, Chairman Pope recognized everyone who came to the City Council meeting last night to support the bond issue for the feasibility study for the new East Gloucester/Veterans' Memorial School, including three West Parish parents who spoke about their new school and their wish for all students to have the same opportunity.

VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – Samantha Gross introduced herself and updated the committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: blood drive on Friday, start of winter sports, swim meet last night, and a survey about the environment and culture at GHS.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. School Committee of October 25, 2017

B. Approval of Warrants – Cover Sheets

C. Approval of Transfers

D. Referrals

E. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trips

1. GHS ROTC Program to Utica, New York from January 26 to January 27, 2018 for drill team competition
2. GHS Girls JV hockey team to Rochester, New Hampshire on Saturday, February 3, 2018 for a game versus York, Maine
3. GHS ROTC Program to Anniston, Alabama from February 15 to February 19, 2018

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 – Ann-Marie Jordan presented a slide show on the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, which is administered biannually to middle and high school students. The survey is a collaborative effort between the GPSD, the Healthy Gloucester Collaborative, the Gloucester Health Department, and Social Science Research and Evaluation (SSRE), which assists with survey questions, analyzes the data, and provides the district with a report.

Ms. Jordan stated that the survey was conducted in March of 2017. It is completely anonymous and asks about substance use, violence and safety, and mental and physical health. She discussed the validity of the data and comparison of the data to state survey data.

Ms. Jordan reviewed and the committee discussed some of the results of the survey, including current use and trends of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, the perceived risk of substance use, safety and mental health, and bullying. Mr. Gross requested a copy of the survey.

- B. Budget Development: Guidelines and Schedule** – Mr. Lafleur reviewed the FY19 budget process and timeline. There was a discussion about the impact of bus fees on the budget and teacher spending on classroom supplies.
- C. Superintendent’s Evaluation Form Review** – Dr. Safier reviewed the end-of-cycle summative evaluation report form, and Chairman Pope requested that committee members submit their individual evaluations to him electronically by January 3rd. He will then prepare a summative evaluation which will be presented at the next meeting on January 10, 2018.
- D. Superintendent’s Report** – Dr. Safier updated the committee on the following matters:
 - 1. MCAS 2019-20: Interim Passing Standard for Classes of 2021 and 2022
 - 2. Bill H.4032 and the Nature of Bilingual Programs
 - 3. West Parish and City Council Ordinance and Administration Committee, Monday, December 4 – There was a discussion about the request to make Concord Street one way from 2:45-3:15 pm.
 - 4. Title I Issue: Potential Reallocation of Funds – There was a discussion about the percentages of low income students at each school.
 - 5. GHS Music during the Holiday Season

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

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

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Program Subcommittee of December 7, 2017** – Chairperson Clancy reported that the Program Subcommittee discussed a therapy dog policy at its meeting of December 7, 2017.
- B. Personnel Subcommittee of December 11, 2017** – Chairperson Teixeira reported that the Personnel Subcommittee reviewed three policies at its meeting of December 11, 2017, namely the Social Networking Policy, the Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace Policy, and the Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest Policy.

X. ACTION

A. Acceptance of Grants

1. Cell Signaling Technology to elementary schools in the amount of \$3,750.00 – After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Kathy Clancy, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a grant from Cell Signaling Technology to the elementary schools in the amount of \$3,750.00 to enrich their science programs.

2. Cell Signaling Technology to GHS in the amount of \$5,014.70 – 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 Cell Signaling Technology to Gloucester High School in the amount of \$5,014.70 to enrich its science programs.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

A. MSBA Project Updates

1. East Gloucester/Veterans School – Chairman Pope reported that paperwork for the feasibility study needs to be submitted by the end of the year, which will get us on the agenda for the MSBA Board of Directors' meeting on February 14, 2018. He noted that there will probably be one more site visit for members of the building committee who have not been able to attend the previous visits.
2. GHS Roof – Mr. Favazza asked about the plan for repairing the track in the field house, and Chairman Pope stated that the city administration needs to come up with a plan before any fundraising activities can be done. He indicated that he will talk to Mike Hale about next steps.

- B. Gate Fees for Youth** – Kathy Clancy referred this matter to the Building & Finance Subcommittee.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of December 13, 2017 at 8:18 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*