

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 17, 2014

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
Gregg Bach, Assistant Superintendent
Hans Baumhauer, Director of Finance
and Operations

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** – Rene Nicastro, owner of the Yellow Sub Shop, stated that she is having an issue with West Parish teachers parking in the 15-minute parking spots in front of her shop. Dr. Safier indicated that he will look into the matter and reinforce the message that staff is supposed to be parking in the Burnham's Field parking lot or the lot owned by the parish.
- IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON** – None.
- V. RECOGNITIONS** – None.
- VI. GHS STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Sam Bevans introduced himself and updated the committee on the following events at Gloucester High School: Winter Olympics, food drive, NHS blood drive, winter sports, and the Cruiseport fundraiser for the trip to Italy and France, which raised approximately \$11,000.
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA**
- A. Approval of Minutes**
1. School Committee of November 12, 2014
 2. Building & Finance Subcommittee of November 19, 2014
 3. School Committee of November 19, 2014
 4. Building & Finance Subcommittee of December 10, 2014
- B. Approval of Warrants** – Cover Sheets

- C. Approval of Transfers** from October 20, 2014 to December 3, 2014, as recommended by the Building & Finance Subcommittee at its meeting of December 10, 2014
- D. Referrals**
- E. GHS Baseball Boosters Scholarship** (amount TBA)
- F. Acceptance of DESE Grants**
 - 1. Building Aligned Curriculum grant in the amount of \$5,600.00
 - 2. Special Education – Program Improvement grant in the amount of \$24,915.00
- G. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip Request** – GHS Junior ROTC to National High School Drill Team Championship in Daytona Beach, Florida from Thursday, April 30, 2015 to Wednesday, May 6, 2015
- H. Acceptance of Donation** – To accept a donation of \$50.00 from Lueders Environmental, Inc.

Kathy Clancy removed Item A.4 from the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

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

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- A. Superintendent’s Report** – Dr. Safier updated the committee on the following matters:
 - 1. Governor Announces 9C Cuts – Dr. Safier reported that extraordinary relief is the only factor that he believes will impact the district.
 - 2. Licensure Forums Canceled
 - 3. Foundation Budget Review Commission – Dr. Safier and Mr. Gross spoke about the inadequacy of the foundation budget to meet the needs of the district, and Chairman Pope noted that out-of-district transportation for special education students is not included at all, which costs the district approximately \$500,000 a year. Kathy Clancy stated that the committee needs to advocate for an equitable formula that takes local factors into account.
 - 4. DSAC Update
 - 5. Recent Leadership Team Meeting
 - 6. Northshore Education Consortium Annual Report

7. Holiday Performances – Mr. Gross added that photography educator Bobbi Lane visited Jackie Underwood’s photography class and noted that GHS has one of the best photography facilities as a result of the recently donated equipment.

On a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

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

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting of December 10, 2014** – Chairperson Clancy reported that the Building & Finance Subcommittee discussed the following matters at its meeting of December 10, 2014:

- Unanticipated FY15 Expenses – Mr. Baumhauer distributed an updated list of special education move-ins, which indicates a total of \$519,081 in out-of-district tuitions plus \$58,143 in unbudgeted special education paraprofessionals at Beeman, West Parish, and the preschool. Dr. Safier noted that \$112,339 has already been transferred from the contingency account toward those expenses and the difference now is \$464,886.

Kathy Clancy made a motion, seconded by Chairman Pope, to request a supplemental appropriation of \$464,886.00 from the city administration to cover unanticipated FY15 special education costs. Mr. Gross noted that there was a discussion during the subcommittee meeting about requesting the total amount of the special education expenses, including the expenses paid out of the contingency account, in order to backfill that account in the event that there are more unanticipated special education expenses in the coming months.

Amended Motion

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to request a supplemental appropriation of \$577,224.00 from the city administration to cover unanticipated FY15 special education costs

- FY15 Budget Update – Chairperson Clancy reported that the district has put a spending freeze in place due to the above-mentioned unanticipated expenses.
- Outstanding Meal Payment Balances – Chairperson Clancy reported that there has been some progress in the collection of outstanding balances, particularly at the high school. She stated that the subcommittee discussed reducing the amount of credit extended to middle and high school students.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to reduce the maximum amount of Food Service credit extended to middle and high school students from \$50.00 to \$25.00 effective February 23, 2015.

Sam Bevans noted that he does not buy school lunch because he is astounded by the price and the amount of food.

- Strategies About Dore & Whittier Report on Elementary School Buildings – Chairman Pope reported that City Council President Paul McGeary has requested a presentation from Dore & Whittier at the annual joint City Council/School Committee meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for January 22, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Chairman Pope invited ideas from the committee members on items to be placed on that agenda.

Chairman Pope noted that the annual MSBA deadline for applications is in April and suggested that the committee come up with a plan for April of 2016. Dr. Safier stated that he would create a shared Google document for the committee members to add their questions and ideas.

- FY16 Five-Year Capital Plan – Mr. Baumhauer noted that the School Department has met with the DPW to review their school-related capital plan items to ensure that there is no overlap on the plans. He stated that safety concerns such as fire alarm systems will be prioritized. Chairman Pope suggested that someone from the School Department should attend the meeting of the CIAB at which the DPW's capital improvement plan is reviewed.

After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Chairman Pope, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to accept the Five-Year Capital Plan, as presented.

- GHS Field House Curtains – Dr. Safier reported that the high school has attempted to get quotes for repair of the curtains. However, the contractor is not willing to do repairs because of potential liability and insurance issues. They are now waiting for a quote for the replacement of the curtains. Ms. Teixeira requested an accounting of the building use fund.

After discussion, on a motion by Kathy Clancy, seconded by Chairman Pope, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to request from the city administration a requisition from the building use account for replacement of the curtains in the GHS field house.

X. ACTION

- A. Request for Supplemental Appropriation to Cover Unanticipated FY15 Special Education Costs – See Item IX.A.**
- B. Approval of Reduction of Maximum Amount of Food Service Credit Extended to Middle and High School Students – See Item IX.A.**
- C. Acceptance of Five-Year Capital Plan – See Item IX.A.**
- D. Request for Requisition from Building Use Account for Repair/Replacement of Curtains in GHS Field House – See Item IX.A.**

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. MSBA Project Update –** Chairman Pope reported that the building committee met last week and that there is a time lapse photo of the construction of the new school on the district website.
- B. Letter from Senator Tarr (11/20/14)**
- C. Letter from NEASC (11/12/14) to GHS Principal**
- D. Free Pass for Parents of Athletes –** After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Gross, seconded by Ms. Teixeira, it was unanimously

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to provide one free pass for parents of athletes for each hockey and basketball game for the remainder of the 2014-15 school year.

Kathy Clancy stated that she believes this discount should apply to all sports that have a gate fee. Ms. Teixeira suggested revisiting this matter in August.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – On a motion by Ms. Teixeira, seconded by Mr. O’Maley, it was unanimously

VOTED: By Roll Call Vote

Kathy Clancy – yes
Mr. Gross – yes
Mr. O’Maley – yes
Chairman Pope – yes
Ms. Sweet – yes
Ms. Teixeira – yes

To enter into Executive Session at 8:28 p.m. for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with bus monitors, noon supervisors, AFSCME-A and GAEP and to enter back into regular session for the purpose of adjournment only.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor zero opposed, to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of December 17, 2014 at 8:48 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*