

**THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**School Committee Budget Workshop Minutes**

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

District Office Conference Room

2 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

5:00 p.m.

**Members Present**

Jonathan Pope, Chairman  
Kathy Clancy, Vice Chairperson  
Tony Gross, Secretary  
Melissa Teixeira Prince  
Michelle Sweet  
Joel Favazza (5:15 p.m.)

**Administration Present**

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent  
Gary Frisch, Director of Finance  
and Operations  
Patty Wegmann, Special Education Director  
Cody Marshall, Accounts & Budget  
Specialist

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- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.
- II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG** – Waived.
- III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** – None.
- IV. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES**
- A. FY20 BUDGET** – Chairman Pope stated that the goal of the meeting is to be able to ask questions and have discussions about the significance of the recommended additions to the level service budget. He also noted that some of the numbers in the budget are still in flux, particularly health insurance.

Dr. Safier presented a slide show on the FY20 budget and reported that without any additions above level service, the increase over last year's budget is 3.42%. He reviewed the additional requests, indicating which of them have been prioritized. Ms. Wegmann discussed the need for additional special education staff.

Dr. Safier reviewed the reductions needed to get to certain percentage increases to the budget, and Chairman Pope stated that there has not yet been any indication from the city on what to expect by way of an increase. Mr. Frisch reviewed the budget book and the committee discussed the following matters:

- Prepayment of out-of-district tuition versus establishing a stabilization account for special education expenses
- Increase in costs related to the increase in ELL students
- Salary increases

- Math coach
- Estimated increase in health insurance based on current plan enrollment

Chairman Pope indicated that the committee will be voting next week on the budget to be presented at the public hearing on April 3rd.

The matter of the special education stabilization account was referred to the Building & Finance Subcommittee.

**VI. ACTION** – None.

**VII. 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 Workshop of March 6, 2019 at 6:29 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi  
Recording Secretary*