

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Special School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Superintendent's Conference Room – District Office

4:30 p.m.

Members Present

Jonathan Pope, Chairman
Kathy Clancy, Vice Chairperson
Joel Favazza, Secretary
Melissa Teixeira
Michelle Sweet
Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken

Administration Present

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent

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- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.
- II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG** – Waived.
- III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** – None.
- IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON** – None.
- V. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** – None.

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

VII. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. Review of MSBA Statement of Interest** – Chairman Pope reported that he and Dr. Safier had a conference call with Diane Sullivan of the MSBA on Monday, during which she told them that we do not have to present a solution with the Statement of Interest. We do have to show need, but we can state that we are considering renovation or new construction on a different site and would consider consolidation, without committing to any one of those options.

Chairman Pope noted that the two schools that are in the worst physical shape are East Gloucester and Beeman. He stated that DPW Director Mike Hale agreed with that but said that there will come a time when the modulars at Beeman are going to require more maintenance than the DPW will be able to do and that there are issues with East Gloucester, as well (e.g. the HVAC system, general deterioration of the structure, etc.).

Chairman Pope reported that Ms. Sullivan indicated that we can submit more than one Statement of Interest but that we have to prioritize them. She stated that if we change our minds about the priority later on, we would just have to notify the MSBA before they come to look at the buildings, and the earliest that would happen is September. Kathy Clancy added that Ms. Sullivan stated that the purpose of this process is to be able to have the discussion in a public way with both the MSBA and the community.

Chairman Pope indicated that the Statements of Interest must be submitted by midnight on April 8, 2016. Therefore, they would need to go in the Mayor's report to go to City Council for referral to their Budget and Finance Committee. Chairman Pope stated that he talked to City Council President Joe Ciolino today, who said that he understood the process and did not see any real objections to it. They decided that this matter would be put on the agenda for the Joint School Committee/City Council meeting on March 24th.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to direct the Superintendent to prepare two Statements of Interest to be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority, one for Beeman Memorial Elementary School and one for East Gloucester Elementary School.

The committee then discussed which of those two schools should be prioritized with the MSBA, noting the age of East Gloucester School and the fact that both schools have capacity issues. Chairman Pope believes there is an advantage to making East Gloucester the priority because that will put pressure on the School Committee to find out if there is a viable site in East Gloucester on which to build and what size school it would hold.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed to make East Gloucester Elementary School the priority for a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

VI. ACTION – See VII.A.

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

VOTED: 6 in favor 0 opposed, to adjourn the Special School Committee Meeting of March 2, 2016 at 5:02 p.m.