

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Building & Finance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 30, 2020
District Office Conference Room
2 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA
4:30 p.m.

Members Present

Kathy Clancy, Chairperson
Joel Favazza, Vice Chairperson
Jonathan Pope, Member

Administration Present

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

Also Present

Melissa Teixeira Prince
Laura Wiessen
Samantha Verga Watson (4:36 p.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Clancy called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools. She noted that a quorum of the School Committee was present at the meeting.

II. REPORTS/DELIBERATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

A. FY21 Budget Review

1. Athletic Department – Mr. Frisch noted that the Athletics budget encompasses the general fund, from which salaries are paid, and the revolving fund. He explained that the net expense refers to the net cost to the general fund.

Bryan Lafata reviewed the Athletics proposed budget. There was a discussion about the need for police details at games and the increase in their rate. Chairperson Clancy suggested that Dr. Safier have a discussion with the new police chief about not requiring as many officers at certain games. Mr. Lafata pointed out that the Supplies line includes two new scoreboards for the fieldhouse at \$5,000 each and an upgraded PA system at a cost of \$5,000.

There was a discussion about the Instate Travel line, and Mr. Frisch indicated that this cost was moved to Athletics from the Transportation budget to correct those two revolving funds. The committee also discussed the \$75,000 received from the city for athletic user fees and transportation fees. Chairperson Clancy pointed out that the \$37,500 for transportation should not be in the Athletics budget because it is to reduce student bus fees, not athletic transportation. Mr. Pope

discussed the history of the \$75,000 payment from when the city took over the Talbot rink.

Finally, Mr. Lafata requested a Hudl video system for scouting, review of game film, and college recruiting and spoke about the upcoming fieldhouse renovations.

2. Central Office – Mr. Frisch and Mr. Marshall reviewed the Central Office proposed budget. There was a discussion about increased legal services.
3. Employee Benefits – Mr. Frisch reviewed the Employee Benefits proposed budget. There was a discussion about the increase in health insurance and the number of workers compensation cases the district has. Mr. Frisch indicated he would contact the city’s HR Department about workers compensation.

Finally, Mr. Frisch noted that about 10% of the overall budget is for ordinary expenses, approximately 15% is for employee benefits, and 65% is for salaries. He indicated that the budget presentation at the next subcommittee meeting (February 12) will include more detail on salaries.

III. ACTION – None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by Mr. Pope, seconded by Mr. Favazza, it was unanimously

VOTED: 3 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the Building & Finance Meeting of January 30, 2020 at 5:52 p.m.

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

*Maria Puglisi
Recording Secretary*