

THE GLOUCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Gloucester High School Library and via Zoom
32 Leslie O. Johnson Road, Gloucester, MA 01930
6:00 p.m.

Members Present

Kathleen Clancy, Chairperson
William Melvin, Vice Chairperson
Laura Wiessen, Secretary
Andrea Liacos
Melissa Teixeira Prince

Administration Present

Amy Pasquarello, Superintendent
Dr. Catherine Tucker, Assistant Superintendent
Andrea Perella, Preschool Director

Members Absent

Heather Dagle
Paul Lundberg, Mayor

*This meeting was conducted with the School Committee in person
and the public participating in person and remotely via Zoom.*

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairperson Clancy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and stated the mission of the Gloucester Public Schools.

Effective August 16, 2023, the public is welcome to attend meetings in person. Alternatively, the public may attend through the Zoom link provided on the agenda. The meeting notice will reflect if the meeting is via Zoom only. As the recent amendments to the Open Meeting Law allow, the School Committee may continue to hold meetings remotely. Please note the in-person meeting will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the remote connection. If you are calling in on a phone, you can press Star 9 (*9) to request to speak. If you are watching on a computer or device, there is a “raise hand” button that you can tap or press to request to speak. Please use either of these options during Oral Communications to be recognized to speak.

See below link to the meeting recording:

<https://gloucester-ma.gov/zoom.us/rec/share/deTM2G1Cj1XO0WgI.24MUJ5Lnlf7FMiQIYNEnll87mAdvOLvkhvfhwl6jloD7UsKB.drPcVihTllZhoScu>

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG/MOMENT OF SILENCE

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Ms. Susanna Altenburger, Principal of Phil Bolger and Friends, Inc. was present and handed out a Marine Technical School Proposal to the School Committee to review and contact her with questions.

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON — None

V. RECOGNITIONS

- Ms. Liacos congratulated the Girls' volleyball team and for having their first ever home game.
- Ms. Prince recognized the first day of school presentation and program for staff, stating that it was phenomenal, especially recognizing the people that work in the district. She thanked Superintendent Pasquarello for a great job planning the program.
- Chairperson Clancy stated that she attended a breakfast event at Gloucester Biotechnology Academy, and recognized its wonderful program - students talked about their experiences and the work they do.

VI. GHS Student Advisory Council — School Committee welcomed new student representatives Mackayla Allen, President, and Olivia Madruga, Vice President.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. School Committee Minutes of June 24, 2026
2. School Committee Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2026

B. Approval of Warrants

C. Approval of Transfers

D. Approval of Donation

E. Acceptance of Gifts

1. Approval of \$400 from Susanne Natti for the Robert Natti Story Corner in memory of her father Robert Natti.

On a motion by Ms. Prince, seconded by Ms. Wiessen, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the consent agenda as noted above.

VIII. DELIBERATIONS ON EDUCATIONAL ISSUES/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. Superintendent’s Report

B. Opening of School Update

Superintendent Pasquarello presented and the committee discussed a slideshow of her report “*Everyday Matters. Everybody Belongs. Everybody Learns.*” She gave an update on the following:

- New staff orientation led by Dr. Tucker
- Opening Day
- Thank you to staff that got school ready to open
- Expectations and opening day remarks by Mayor Lundberg, Chairperson Clancy, GTA President Rachel Rex, and Superintendent Pasquarello
- Celebrated staff who have made an impact on students. Superintendent Pasquarello stated that there is a short video created by Teacher Shaun Goulart on the school website of students thanking teachers
- New working group Deepening Student Learning and Improving Student Achievement with its first meeting on September 24th. Superintendent Pasquarello welcomed any interested community member to join this group by sending a letter or email to bholmes@gloucesterschools.com

See below link to recorded presentation

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1F3zv6hwAm_LIKslaNgJMFwiUhGc4gtf1/view

C. Preschool Handbook — Andrea Perella, Preschool Director

Superintendent Pasquarello welcomed Ms. Perella. Ms. Perella handed out and presented the first-ever draft of the Preschool “Family Handbook” discussing program details, staff qualifications, and policies. The committee provided feedback and minor changes with a vote taken under Action.

See below link to the meeting recording/presentation:

<https://gloucester-ma.gov.zoom.us/rec/share/deTM2G1Cj1XO0WgI24MUJ5Lnl77EMiQJYNFnI87mAdvOLvkhvfhw16jloD7UsKB.drPeVihTIIzhoScu>

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS — None

X. ACTION

A. Approval of the Preschool Handbook

On a motion by Chairperson Clancy seconded by Ms. Liacos, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Preschool Handbook, with minor changes made by the committee.

D. Acceptance of Grants

1. O'Maley Middle School Science Center FY 27 FC2518 MA FairShare Earmark Grant of \$60,000

On a motion by Chairperson Clancy, seconded by Ms. Wiessen, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the O'Maley Middle School Science Center FY 27 FC2518 MA FairShare Earmark Grant of \$60,000.

2. FY 27 FC0240-IDEA-Part B (Federal/ENT) Grant of \$998,031
3. FY 27 FC0262-IDEA-Part C (Federal/ENT) Grant of \$28,774
4. FY 27 FC0305-Title I Part A (Federal/ENT) Grant of \$639,855
5. FY 27 FC0140-Title II Part A (Federal/ENT) Grant of \$89,250
6. FY 27 FC0180-Title III Part A (Federal/ENT) Grant of \$45,674
7. FY 27 FC0309-Title IV Part A (Federal/ENT) Grant of \$49,235

On a motion by Chairperson Clancy, seconded by Ms. Wiessen, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the above grants as noted.

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER COMMUNICATION/OLD AND NEW BUSINESS — None

- Ms. Prince made a request to the administration for a list of senior dates and events throughout the year. Superintendent Pasquarello will provide this information.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Wiessen, seconded by Ms. Liacos, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the School Committee Meeting of September 9, 2026, at 7:05 pm.

All reference documents and reports are filed in the Superintendent's Office. A zoom recording of this meeting is available on the Gloucester Schools website (Also linked in these minutes).

*Stephanie Delisi
Recording Secretary*