

Ponaganset High School Library
137 Anan Wade Road
Glocester, RI 02814

MINUTES

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call

Meeting Called to Order by Chair, Ms Keeling at 5:30 pm

Present: Mr. Rizzo, Ms Ferreira, Ms. Keeling, Ms. Joyce, Mr. Dupuis, & Mr. Joyce

Also present: Dr. Palazzo, Attorney Piccirilli

Ms. Keeling asked for a moment of silence for the passing of David Costa, past Superintendent and principal of both West Glocester Elementary and Fogarty Memorial School.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Keeling moved Public Comment next.

Public Comment

Fil Eden from NERI asked the school committee to give them as much information as possible on what the money will be used for if the referendum passes. They will use that information to get voters out to vote.

Natasha Hamelin from North Scituate stated that she wrote an open letter to Dr. Palazzo and put it on facebook. Dr Palazzo stated that she did not have facebook and did not receive the letter, but tried to email and call Ms. Hamelin. Dr. Palazzo had not heard back from Ms. Hamelin. Ms. Hamelin started to read the letter. Attorney Piccirilli stopped her and informed both the Chair and Ms. Hamelin that the topic she was speaking about was not on the agenda. Public comment was for agenda items. Ms. Hamelin disagreed, but sat down.

4. Seek to Convene to Executive Session to Discuss and/or Vote on the following matters:

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Joyce to Convene in Executive Session to Discuss and/or Vote on the Following Matters:

MOTION PASSED: 6-0-0

- a. Per RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(8)ii: PRIVACY OF STUDENTS/ RECORDS
 - i. *School Assignment*
- b. Per RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(2) Legal Advice
 - i. *2025-26 Budget - Maintenance of Effort and Supplemental Tax Levy*
- c. Per RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(2) Union Negotiations
 - i. *Certified*
 - ii. *Non-Certified*

Return to public session 6:48 pm and announcement of votes, if any

Chair announces that no votes were taken

5. Reconvene to Open Session

Motion by Ms Joyce supported by Mr. Dupuis to reconvene to open session.

MOTION PASSED: 6-0-0

6. Vote to Seal the Minutes of Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms Joyce to seal the minutes of executive session.

MOTION PASSED: 6-0-0

DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

7. Approval of School Committee Minutes (June 3, 2025)

a. Open and Executive Sessions

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr Rizzo to **table** the minutes of the Open meeting on June 3, 2025

MOTION PASSED: 6-0-0

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr Rizzo to **table** the minutes of the Executive Session meeting on June 3, 2025

MOTION PASSED: 6-0-0

8. Approval of Bills - (5/29/25 to present)

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms Joyce to approve the monthly bills from May 29, 2025 to present in the amount of \$281,962.68

MOTION PASSED: 6-0-0

9. Finance Update - June

b. Revenue & Expense Monthly

Letter was sent by Beth Beltram, Finance Manager that there are still invoices coming in – there are larger bills from RIDE that have not been received yet.

10. Superintendent's Report-Personnel: Leaves/Lay-offs/Resignations/Non-Renewals/Appointments/Recalls and other Personnel Actions – Informational

Mr. Dupuis congratulated Ms. Fisher on her retirement and wish her luck in her future endeavors.

11. 2025-26 Budget

a. Discussion of supplemental tax levy

Combine with #12.

b. Discussion with Town Financial Manager, Elizabeth Beltram re: school district maintenance of effort

Attorney Piccirilli requested from the finance manager, Elizabeth Beltram information re: the maintenance of effort. It was treated as an APRA request and his questions were not answered. He wrote a letter requesting the Financial Manager be at the July 8, 2025 school committee meeting and she responded that she was not available, but would get the information he requested prior to the meeting. One hour prior to the start of the meeting, Dr. Palazzo received a one page spreadsheet that did not answer the questions of where the money was or why it wasn't put in the maintenance of effort. The correspondence attached (Item #1) was read into public record by Attorney Piccirilli. It was determined at this time another school committee meeting will be scheduled on Tuesday, July 22 at 5:30.

Motion by Ms Joyce supported by Mr Rizzo to authorize Chair Ms. Keeling to sign a subpoena for Financial Manager, Ms. Beth Beltram to be present at the July 22, 2025 School Committee meeting.

MOTION PASSED: 6-0-0

12. Correspondence from Town Council President William Worthy dated 6/27/25

Attorney Piccirilli read the letter from Town Council President William Worthy into public record and it is attached (Item #2)

Mrs. Keeling responded on behalf of the school committee that they support the referendum to appropriately fund our schools with staff, personnel and resources based on student needs.

13. Preliminary Bus Routes for 25-26 school year

Dr. Palazzo has been working closely with Ms. Busald, bus coordinator, and preliminary routes for West Glocester and Fogarty are being established. There will be more information at the next school committee meeting.

14. Girls on the Run Program

Ms. Ferreira described the national program and thanked the teachers that helped get Girls on the Run to West Glocester. There was a news article in NRINews that was available in the packet for more information.

15. Public Comment – *Relating to Current or Future Agenda Items*

Mrs. Keeling stated we would hear others who signed up to comment.

Blanca White, Glocester started to ask questions in regard to a special education class that was being moved from one elementary school to another. Attorney Piccirilli stated that it was not an agenda item. Mr. Rizzo stated that it is not a school committee decision, it is a superintendent decision. Dr. Palazzo responded that although this was not on the agenda, if anyone wanted to speak with her in regard to this, to please call her. She stated that to date she had spoken to all parents who called her. This issue was not a budget issue, it was a space issue.

Erin McPhee, Art Teacher at West Glocester and Fogarty, and union president stated that the Girls on the Run program was a good example of what the teachers would not be helping with if the cuts remained. She will advise her union members; there will not be a play, there will not be an art show. The kids will suffer.

16. Communications From/To Members of the School Committee and/or School District

None at this time

17. Future Agenda Items – Identification of Future Agenda Items

None at this time

18. Adjourn Public Meeting

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr Rizzo to adjourn Public Meeting at 7:09 pm

MOTION PASSED: 6-0-0



TOWN OF GLOUCESTER
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

1145 Putnam Pike, P.O. Box B
Chepachet, Rhode Island 02814-0702
Town Hall: (401) 568-6206, Ext. 220 Fax (401) 567-4554
Elizabethbeltram@GloucesterRI.gov

Elizabeth A. Beltram
Finance Director

Memo: Honorable Gloucester School Committee

From: Elizabeth A. Beltram, Finance Director

Re: Appropriation detail information as requested by your solicitor

Date: July 8, 2025

Attached is a worksheet detailing the budgeted appropriations and transfers of funds to the schools, from the town, as presented on both the Town's and School's budgets over the most recent six years.

Also included are the actual cash transfers as recorded in both organizations' general ledger records.

The funds are electronically transferred from the Town's general fund to the School's general fund.

The school department determines utilization of their funds.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth A. Beltram

Glocester School Department Appropriations and Transfers							
	Budgeted			Actual			
Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Transfer	Total	Appropriation	Transfer	Total	<div> <div>Approp only % Increase over prev year</div> <div>Total % Increase over prev year</div> </div>
2020	Town	6,626,922	107,000	6,733,922	107,000	6,733,922	
	School	6,626,926	107,000	6,626,922	107,000	6,733,922	transfer was posted into the appropriations GL A/C
2021	Town	7,164,305	107,000	7,271,305	-	7,164,305	transfer was made in FY23
	School	7,164,305	107,000	7,164,305	-	7,164,305	6%
2022	Town	7,164,306	78,068	7,242,374	-	7,164,306	transfer was made in FY23
	School	7,242,374	-	7,242,374	-	7,164,306	budget appropriation includes the transfer amount
2023	Town	7,164,306	181,108	7,345,414	359,176	7,523,482	transfer includes amounts from prev two fiscal years
	School	7,164,306	181,108	7,164,306	359,176	7,523,482	5%
2024	Town	7,192,668	520,000	7,712,668	520,000	7,712,668	
	School	7,192,668	520,000	7,192,668	520,000	7,712,668	0%
							3%
2025	Town	7,467,608	335,000	7,802,608	335,000	7,802,608	
	School	7,467,608	335,000	7,467,608	335,000	7,802,608	4%
							1%
2026	Town	7,879,312	-	7,879,312			6%
	School	8,709,825	-	8,709,825			17%



TOWN OF GLOCESTER

TOWN COUNCIL

1145 Putnam Pike, P.O. Box B
Chepachet, Rhode Island 02814-0702
Town Hall: (401) 568-6206 - Fax (401) 568-5850
TTY (Relay RI) 1-800-745-5555

William A. Worthy, Jr., President
Walter M.O. Steere, III, Vice President
Jonathan E. Burlingame
Stephanie L. Calise
Cheryl A. Greathouse

June 27, 2025

From: William A. Worthy, Jr., Town Council President
PO Box B, 1145 Putnam Pike
Chepachet, RI 02814
Email: willworthy@gmail.com

To: Members of the Gloucester School Committee
Dr. Renee Palazzo, Superintendent of Gloucester Schools

Re: Requirements for Scheduling a Special Financial Town Referendum for Supplemental Tax

Dear Members of the School Committee and Superintendent Palazzo:

I am writing to outline the expectations and timeline requirements for a potential Special Financial Town Referendum related to a supplemental tax to support the school department.

As you know, in an effort to rehire laid off teaching assistants and maintain essential services, the Town Council submitted legislation (H6409 and S1155) to the General Assembly. This legislation will authorize, subject to voter approval, a supplemental tax for fiscal year 2026 that exceeds the statutory 4% cap by no more than an additional 3%. The General Assembly has approved the legislation, and it has been transmitted to the Governor for his action.

In anticipation of this legislation becoming law, the Town Council is preparing for the earliest possible date to hold a Special Financial Town Referendum—**September 2nd, 2025**. To formally adopt the ballot question and schedule this referendum for September, the Town Council must receive the following no later than **July 7, 2025**:

1. A School Committee Resolution that confirms the exact amount requested (subject to the maximum limit of the legislation) and the specific purpose for which the funds will be used; i.e. rehire TA's recently laid off, and

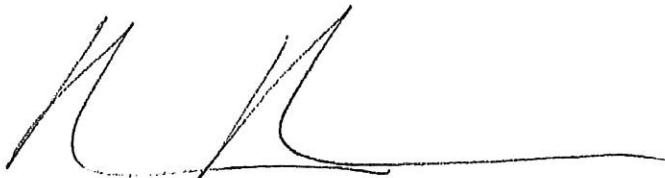
2. A signed letter from the Superintendent of Schools confirming both the exact amount requested (subject to the maximum limit of the legislation) and the intended use of the funds, i.e. rehire TA's recently laid off.

These materials are necessary to ensure that the Town Council can accurately frame the ballot question, provide proper public notice, and assure voters that the request is fully supported by both the School Committee and the Superintendent.

If the School Committee and Superintendent are unable to meet this submission deadline, the next available opportunity to hold a referendum will be in **October 7, 2025**.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. A. Worthy, Jr.', written over a horizontal line.

William A. Worthy, Jr.
Town Council President

CC Gloucester Town Council
 David Iglozzi, Town Solicitor
 Elizabeth Beltram, Gloucester Finance Director

LAW OFFICE OF
GREGORY P. PICCIRILLI, ESQ.

2 STARLINE WAY, #7
CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND 02921
(401) 578-3340
gregory@splawri.com

July 1, 2025

Via email only David@igliozi.com
David Igliazzi, Solicitor
Town of Glocester
1145 Putnam Pike
Chepachet RI 02814

RE: Letter of Council President Worthy to School Committee
Dated June 27, 2025

Dear David:

Today, I was forwarded a letter sent by Town of Glocester Council President William Worthy dated June 27, 2025, to the Glocester School Committee members and Superintendent Dr. Renee Palazzo. In the letter, President Worthy references to certain “expectations and timeline requirements”, which neither he nor the Council has no legal right to demand.

First, he demands a response by July 7, 2025. The Committee is meeting on July 8, and cannot even discuss this letter until that time. Moreover, what is being demanded has never been addressed to the Committee previously; instead, the Council waited until after the passing of the budget with significant cuts to the Committee’s initial budget request, before seeking legislation to override the 4% tax levy cap.

As for what is being demanded, the Council cannot expect the Committee to pass any resolution committing to how it would expend any additional appropriation it may be provided by the Council. Nor can the Council demand of the Superintendent that she commit in writing to what additional budget amount she requests, nor commit to the re-hiring of any specific personnel. As I read the legislation, the Council is given broad discretion as to how to allocate the additional supplemental tax levy; it could give it all to the Committee or keep some or all of it to fund Town expenditures.

What the Council has is the original budget which the Committee presented to the Council back in April, and the budget it passed in May to conform to the cuts made by the Council and the Financial Town Meeting. If any additional funds are appropriated to the Committee for the 2026 fiscal year, the Committee will have to meet to determine how it anticipates making expenditures.

David Igliozi, Solicitor
July 1, 2025
Page 2 of 2

As you know, budgets are projections of expenditures and in no way limit the Committee's obligation to transfer between line items to address unexpected expenditures and ensure there is no budget deficit.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'GP', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gregory P. Piccirilli