

Ponaganset High School  
137 Anan Wade Road  
Glocester, RI 02857

5:30 pm

**MINUTES**

1) Call to Order

2) Roll Call

Meeting Called to Order by Chair, Mrs Keeling at 5:34 pm

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

Absent: Mrs. Joyce - arrive 6:06 pm

Also Present: Attorney Piccirilli, Dr. Palazzo

3) Pledge of Allegiance

4) Public Comment – Relating to Open Session Agenda Item

No comment at this time

**DISCUSSION AND/OR PUBLIC ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:**

5) Annual Election of Chair & Vice Chair

Motion by Mr. Rizzo supported by Mr. Dupuis to nominate Mrs. Keeling as Chair.

**MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1**

Ms. Keeling abstained

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mrs. Keeling to nominate Mr. Rizzo as Vice Chair.

**MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1**

Mr Rizzo abstained

6) Annual Appointment of Clerk

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mrs Keeling to appoint Kyle Fraatz as the Clerk for the Glocester School Committee.

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0**

7. Appointment/Re-appointments to Sub Committees

Appointment/Re-appointments to Sub Committees: Budget, Capital Projects, Policy, Wellness, Negotiations.

A. Budget

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mrs. Keeling to appoint Mr Rizzo, Mrs. Keeling and Mr. Dupuis to the Budget Sub committee.

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0**

B. Capital Projects:

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr Rizzo to appoint Ms Ferreira, Ms. Keeling and Mr. Dupuis to the Capital Project Sub committee.

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0**

C. Policy:

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms Ferreira to appoint Ms Ferreira, Mr. Joyce and Mr. Dupuis to the Policy Sub committee.

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0**

D. Wellness

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms Ferreira to appoint Mr. Rizzo and Mrs Joyce to the Wellness Sub committee. **MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0**

E. Negotiations

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mrs. Keeling to appoint Mr Rizzo, Mr. Dupuis and Mrs. Keeling to the Negotiations Sub Committee **MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0**

7) Approval of School Committee Minutes - (December 9, 2025)

a) Open and Executive Sessions

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr Rizzo to approve the minutes of the Open meeting on December 9, 2025

**MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1**  
Ms. Ferreira abstained

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mrs Keeling to approve the minutes of the Executive Session on December 9, 2025

**MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1**  
Ms. Ferreira abstained

9. Approval of Bills - (DECEMBER)

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr Rizzo to approve the monthly bills dated DECEMBER 1, 2025 to DECEMBER 31, 2025 in the amount of **\$400,681.50**

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0**

10. Finance Update (DECEMBER 2025)

a. Revenue & Expense Monthly

Dr Palazzo stated that she has had standing meetings with Glocester Business Manager, Elizabeth Beltram and Finance Kathy Lamontagne.

11. Budget Update FY 26

FY 25 has been closed. We are currently living in FY 26. We received the bill for transportation -- it is higher than expected. In the process of going through it. Over by \$100,000.

12. Budget Update FY 27

In the process of preparing for FY 27.

13. Superintendent's Report

a. Personnel Report -- Resignations, Appointments, Retirements, Leaves, Lay Offs, Job Sharing, Recalls and Other Personnel Actions -- Informational

No Personnel actions at this time.

b. Accountability Report

Dr. Palazzo reviewed the accountability report. Star rating is as high as your lowest star. ELA, Math & Science is higher than the RI average in both of the elementary schools. Fogarty is a 4-star and West Glocester is a 5-star school. Two high performing elementary schools. RICAS prep, building stamina, increase in collaboration, team leaders. Dr. Palazzo works closely with principals. There is afterschool

tutoring and enrichment. Mr. Dupuis asked if there will be new curriculum. Dr, Palazzo stated that it will be changing, but it will be decided with a group of teachers. Dr. Palazzo gave the teachers and staff credit for the high performance. as they are the ones that teach the students. The committee thanked faculty, staff and administration for a great job in making our schools so successful.

14. Principal’s Update

- a. Fogarty Memorial Elementary School
- b. West Glocester Elementary School

Principals from both Fogarty, Mrs. Strik and West Glocester, Mrs. Soccio have been working closely together. They addressed the school committee about what has been happening in their schools. Students are finishing the testing to assess their progress in reading and math since the beginning of the year. Teachers are also using SAEBRS, a screener to check in on students' emotional learning. Once data is complete, a discussion regarding if current interventions work or if changes need to be made. The Feinstein Foundation awarded both schools with \$2,700 to be used to support school initiatives and to fund our food pantries. Also, West Glocester will kick off their Get Food Smart program on January 26th. Fogarty already has one. The students will become “Waste Warriors” and teach them environmental stewardship, reduce greenhouse gases and support state law requiring organic waste diversion; leading to dramatic cuts in the landfill waste. The Max Man will visit West Glocester on January 23rd.

15. Town Council Update - Update on activities relating to the School Department - Math Matters Round 4  
Dr. Palazzo announced that once again we have applied for Round 4 Math Matters. We received \$20,000 last year. We are waiting for official approval for this year.

16. Seek to Convene to Executive Session to Discuss and/or Vote on the following matters:  
Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms Ferreira to Seek to Convene to Executive Session to Discuss and/or Vote on the following matters:

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0**

**Mrs Joyce arrives 6:06 pm**

- a. Per RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(8)ii: **PRIVACY OF STUDENTS/ RECORDS**
  - i. Homeschool
- b. Per RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(2) **Union Negotiations/Collective Bargaining**
  - i. Unfair Labor Practice Cases
    - 1. Case No. ULP-6428 **Statement** by Glocester Teachers Assoc/NEARI
    - 2. Case No. ULP-6432 **Complaint** RI State Labor Relations Board & Glocester School Committee - Hearing Update
- C Per RI General Law 42-46-5(a) (4) **Legal Advice/Pending Litigation**
  - i. Barrett vs. Glocester School Committee (OMA Complaint 12.02.2025)
  - ii. Whitfield v Glocester School Committee (OMA Complaint 12.16.2025)
  - iii. Whitfield v Glocester School Committee (APRA Complaint 12.16.2025 **#G-02**)

**Return to public session at 6:38 pm and chair announcement of votes, if any**

Chair announces one of vote was taken - Homeschooling

17. Reconvene to Open Session

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr. Rizzo to reconvene to open session.

**MOTION PASSED: 6-0-0**

18. Vote to Seal the Minutes of Executive Session

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

**MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0**

Mr. Rizzo left room

19. Public Comment – Relating to Open Session Agenda Item

Mr. King stated he liked the presentation on the accountability report of Glocester schools. He has heard all good things about the principals at both Fogarty and West Glocester.

20. Adjourn Public Meeting

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr. Rizzo to adjourn Public Meeting at 6:41 pm

**MOTION PASSED: 6-0-0**