

MINUTES

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call

Meeting Called to Order by Chair, Mrs Keeling at 5:32 pm

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

Absent: Mr. Rizzo

Also Present: Attorney Piccirilli, Dr. Palazzo

- 3) Pledge of Allegiance
- 4) School Spotlight

- a) West Glocester Elementary School

Third, Fourth, and Fifth grade students shared with the school committee what they have been learning at school. The 4th graders are raising money, learning about health choices. There is a 5th grade co-op, which the students are enjoying. A 3rd grader discussed a book they are reading about kindness and treating others fairly. The school committee was pleased to hear about their good work.

- b) Fogarty Memorial Elementary School

Four students from Fogarty presented. They stated that the PTO is planning a girls choice Masquerade Ball. The students are very excited about it. The students in 5th grade are working hard on putting on a play "Annie". Mrs Strik has also been cast in the play. Ms. Maples' 4th grade class is collecting cards from different states for USA day. She is hoping they will receive a card from every state.

- 5) Public Comment – Relating to Open Session Agenda Item
No public comment

DISCUSSION AND/OR PUBLIC ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

- 6) Approval of School Committee Minutes (January 8, 2026)
 - a) Open and Executive Sessions

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mrs. Joyce to approve the minutes of the Open meeting on January 8, 2026

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mrs. Ferreira to approve the minutes of the Executive Session on January 8, 2026

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

7. Approval of Bills - (JANUARY)

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mrs. Joyce to approve the monthly bills dated January 1, 2026 to January 30, 2026 in the amount of **\$283,233.14**

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

8. Finance Update (January 2026)

- a. Revenue & Expense Monthly
Did not receive.

9. Budget Update FY 26

To date within budget

10. Budget Update FY 27

Dr. Palazzo went over the draft FY 27 budget. There have been ongoing meetings with B. Beltram and K. Lamontagne to go over budget. State aid is \$45,000 less this year than last. Percentage increase is 7%. Budget is being presented to budget board Monday, February 9 at 7 pm

11. Approval of School Committee start time change (5:30 pm)

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mrs. Joyce to approve the Gloucester School Committee start time to 5:30 pm.

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

Mr. Dupuis stated the positive of allowing more time without being rushed.

12. Approval of Revised 2025-26 Gloucester School Calendar (*Snow Days*)

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mrs. Joyce to approve the Revised 2025-26 Gloucester School Calendar (*Snow Days*) as presented in your packet

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

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.

14. Resolution: Opposing Rhode Island Senate Bill S2172 (2026)

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mrs. Joyce to approve the resolution in support of Opposing Rhode Island Senate Bill S2172 (2026) as presented in the packet.

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

Mr Dupuis stated that he asked for this agenda item to be on as Senate Bill S2172 has recently been introduced allowing teachers to strike. If this bill passes it would have undue hindrance on students/schools Passing this resolution will be in support of opposing this bill.

15. Town Charter Review

Dr. Palazzo reported that at the last town council meeting, Pat Henry the chair of the Town Charter committee has recently come together and been formed and are meeting twice a month. If we have feedback, we can reach out to Pat.

16. Town Council Update - Update on activities relating to the School Department

Dr. Palazzo gave a presentation to town council re: the Accountability Report

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

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

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

- A. Per RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(2) Union Negotiations/Collective Bargaining
 - a. Gloucester Teachers Union/NEARI Arbitration Demands - Three (3)
 - i. Assignment of Duties

- ii. Loss of consecutive fifteen (15) minute block for parent communication, data review, etc.
 - iii. Lunch period of thirty (30) minutes, free from duties
 - b. Unfair Labor Practice Cases
 - i. Case No. ULP-6432 **Complaint** RI State Labor Relations Board & Glocester School Committee - Hearing cancelled - in Abeyance
- B. Per RI General Law 42-46-5(a) (4) Legal Advice/Pending Litigation
- a. OMA Complaint 12.16.2025 - Whitfield v Glocester School Committee - *Update*
 - b. OMA Complaint 1.04.2026 - Sullivan v Glocester School Committee - *Update*
 - c. OMA Complaint 12.02.2025 - Barrett vs. Glocester School Committee Negotiations Subcommittee- **1.9.26 AG Decision-No Violation**
 - i. Request for narrower OMA complaint - Barrett v Glocester School Committee Negotiations Subcommittee
 - d. APRA Complaint 12.16.2025 **#G-02** - Whitfield v Glocester School Committee - *Update*
 - e. APRA #G-06 1.17.26 LG Barrett Request - Discussion

Left Public Session to Executive Session (5:56 pm)

Return to public session at **6:36 pm** and the chair announced no votes were taken. The following were discussed: Union Negotiations/Collective Bargaining, Legal Advice/Pending litigation.

18. Reconvene to Open Session

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

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

19. 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

20. Public Comment – Relating to Open Session Agenda Item

No Public Comment

21. Adjourn Public Meeting

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mrs. Ferreira to adjourn Public Meeting at 6:37 pm

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

Unapproved Minutes Posted by Clerk on March 5, 2026:
Approved Minutes posted by clerk on March 12, 2026