

MINUTES

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call

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

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

Also Present: Attorney Piccirilli, Dr. Palazzo

- 3) Pledge of Allegiance
- 4) School Spotlight

- a) West Glocester Elementary School

A first grade student from WG told the committee that in Math class they are learning about the greater and less than symbols. On June 1st they are going to Casey Farm as their field trip. A kindergarten student stated that they are learning about numbers and adding. They love learning about math. In May the kindergarten students are going to Southwick Zoo on their field trip.

- b) Fogarty Memorial Elementary School

A fourth grade student let everyone know that David Kelley is coming into their class. He is an author. The RI Film festival is also coming on that day and will be very exciting. 5th Graders from Fogarty went to PHS along with West Glocester students on March 25 to watch a unified game and to celebrate with the high school students. The students from Fogarty were able to say the inclusion pledge in front of the whole school

- 5) Public Comment – Relating to Open Session Agenda Item

Kaitlin Soccio, Principal at West Glocester would like to bring up and look into regionalization and that the pros outweigh the cons.

DISCUSSION AND/OR PUBLIC ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

- 6) Approval of School Committee Minutes (March 10, 2026)

- a) Open and Executive Sessions

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Joyce to approve the minutes of the Open meeting on March 10, 2026

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-1

Ms. Ferreira Abstained

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Joyce to approve the minutes of the Executive Session on March 10, 2026

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-1

Ms. Ferreira Abstained

7. Approval of Bills - (MARCH)

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Joyce to approve the monthly bills dated March 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026 in the amount of \$310,606.72

MOTION PASSED: 6-0-0

8. Finance Update (March 10, 2026)

a. Revenue & Expense Monthly

Did not receive the revenue and expense report yet. Will have it next month.

9. FY 26 Budget Update

Dr. Palazzo has had regular meetings since September with Beth Beltram. Met with Chair Ms. Keeling and Vice Chair Marc Rizzo along with Ms. Beltram and Mr. Burlingame to discuss the budget. They are going line by line. Revenue is about \$100,00. higher while the projection of salary is lower by \$100,000. Projection is over budget in transportations and benefits. Will be meeting with Kathy Lamontagne to go student by student and out of state tuition projection. Projection looks like there will be a potential deficit. Mr Rizzo wanted to state that the budget we are working in is as lean as it can be and will be very hard to cut anywhere.

10. FY 27 Budget Update

Working on FY 26.

11. RI Trust Health & Dental Rates Change in Coverage

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Joyce to approve the RI Trust Health & Dental Rates percentage decrease from 14.92% to 12% with a savings of \$55,000 as presented in the packet. *(The amount that was budgeted for FY27 is 8%, therefore still be over by 4%)*

Mr. Rizzo recused himself and left the room.

Attorney Piccirilli advised the committee to state which medicines will be removed from coverage. Mr. Dupuis rescinded his motion and Ms. Joyce rescinded her second.

Amended motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Joyce to only remove the GLP-1 weight loss drugs for weight loss only primarily Wegovy and Zepbound and does not include Ozempic or Mounjaro since those are approved for diabetes.

MOTION PASSED: 4-1-1
Ms. Ferreira opposed
Mr. Rizzo recused

12. Superintendent's Report

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

Motion by Ms. Joyce supported by Mr. Dupuis to approve the Superintendent's Report as presented in your packet

MOTION PASSED: 6-0-0

13. Approval of Emergency School Day Reduction for 2025-26 School Calendar

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Joyce to approve the Emergency School Day Reduction for the 2025-26 Gloucester School Calendar as presented in the packet.

MOTION PASSED: 6-0-0

We were only approved for a 2 day waiver. Along with Foster, we have requested a waiver for 1 more day. As of now, June 18, 2026 is the last day for students. We should know if we receive a waiver for a third day within the next two weeks.

14. Approval of 2026-27 School Calendar

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr. Rizzo to approve the 2026-27 Gloucester School Calendar as presented in the packet.

MOTION PASSED: 6-0-0

15. Facilities Update

Working with the RI Department of Health for the \$674,000 grant for the West Gloucester water issue. Should be ready next month to go out for an RFP. Phase plan.

16. Fiscal Strategy and Advocacy Working Group

Mr. Ferreira stated that a date has been set for the first Fiscal Strategy & Advocacy working group for April 30, 2026 at 2:30 pm. It will be held at Ponaganset High School. Working on the location. If anyone is interested in joining, please come to the meeting.

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

Mr. Walt Steere from Gloucester spoke on behalf of the town council and asked what is going to happen with the deficit. The town wants to know. Dr. Palazzo stated her and Ms. Beltram, Town Business Manager, are working closely and it will be reported out to the town council.

18. Seek to Convene to Executive Session to Discuss and/or Vote on the following matters at 6:15 pm:

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Joyce to Seek to Convene to 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) Privacy of Student Records
 - i. Homeschool Approval
- b. Per RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(2) Union Negotiations/Collective Bargaining
 - i. Gloucester Education Support ULP 6432 removed from abeyance and Notice of Hearing Date: **April 28, 2026 @ 9 am**
 - ii. Negotiations - Gloucester Teachers Association

Return to public session at 6:22 pm and chair announcement of votes, if any

Chair announces that one vote was made regarding homeschooling in the affirmative.

19. Reconvene to Open Session

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

MOTION PASSED: 6-0-0

20. 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

21. Public Comment – Relating to Open Session Agenda Item

Mr. Steere asked if Gloucester is in a deficit, where are you getting the money to pay the bills. In the past there were fund balances that could be used. Dr. Palazzo stated that she will be meeting with Ms. Lamontagne to have a more concrete number.

Ms. Lamontagne stated to check with Ms. Fecteau, Town Clerk regarding the primary day on the 2026-27 school calendar.

22. Adjourn Public Meeting

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Joyce to adjourn Public Meeting at 6:28 pm

MOTION PASSED: 6-0-0