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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 6 pm

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

Absent: Ms Ferreira

Also present: Dr. Palazzo, Attorney Piccirilli

*(Ms. Ferreira arrives at 6:07 pm)*

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. School Spotlight

a. West Glocester Elementary School

West Glocester Students addressed the committee and let them know that last week they held March Madness. Basketball game with Fogarty parents and teachers against West Glocester parents and teachers. RICAS testing is starting next week. The Light Foundation also came out to the 1st grade classes.

b. Fogarty Memorial Elementary School

Fogarty students addressed the committee and indicated the RICAS testing had started. FMS celebrated inclusion week last week. Everyone K through 5 helped with a mural. Student stated the FMS is like a family. Ponaganset high school students came out to the school to speak to the students.

Dr. Palazzo mentioned that she attended March Madness and wanted to thank the parents and teachers who played, Anastasia Wachter who organized the event and all who helped make it a success. Thank you.

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

5. Approval of School Committee Minutes (March 4, 2025)

a. Open and Executive Sessions

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Joyce to approve the minutes of the Open meeting on March 4, 2025

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

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Joyce to approve the minutes of the Executive Session meeting on March 4, 2025

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

## 6. Approval of Bills - (February & March)

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Joyce to approve the monthly bills from February 1, 2025 to February 28, 2025 in the amount of **\$222,616.52**

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

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Joyce to approve the monthly bills from March 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025 in the amount of **\$382,728.23**

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

## 7. Finance Update (February & March)

### a. Revenue & Expense Monthly

Dr. Palazzo made the correction to Northern RI Collaborate

## 8. Budget Update

### a. 2025-26 Proposed Budget

Dr. Palazzo stated that the budget that was presented to the Budget board had the current staffing with no cuts and no raise increases. Mr. Rizzo clarified that the school committee fully backs the teachers and teacher assistants and does not want to cut any positions. Ms. Ferreria stated that it is an extensive process and encouraged everyone to attend the Town Council meeting on Monday April 21st.

Parent Amanda Lewis asked if the budget the school committee is proposing is cut, what is the plan? Ms. Pat Henry, former school committee member, asked how are we going to operate with the budget the town gives to the schools. She stated that we need to know the answer. Ms. Ferreira encouraged residents to ask questions, be more involved, might be time to look at regionalization. Ms. Baccari asked about Federal funds and state aid. Dr. Palazzo stated we are not receiving additional federal funds and that state aid is based on enrollment.

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

Dr. Palazzo reported there were no personnel updates.

## 10. Approval of 2025-26 Glocester School Calendar

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Ferreira to approve the 2025-26 Glocester School Calendar as presented in the packet.

Dr. Palazzo explained to the committee that the approved calendar includes 2 PD days and 1 early release day. She is getting permission from the Commission for those. The calendar will remain as is (with or without the PD days).

## 11. Principal Update

### a. West Glocester

Ms. Zambarano stated that the RICAS will start Thursday/Friday. Survey Works went out and 71% people filled it out. Highest percentage she has had.

### b. Fogarty Memorial

Ms. Strik reported that RICAs at FTM started today and they were without power this morning.

## 12. CTE in the Elementary Schools

Table until the May meeting

13. Facilities Update

Mr. Gras reported the PFAS contamination grant was approved for West Glocester school for up to \$674,000. Also in the process of working on an Emerging Contaminants Grant for up to \$674,000 for Fogarty Memorial School. Thank you to Mr. Steve Essex for putting the grant application together as it is a big undertaking.

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

No update at this time.

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

Ms. Jennifer Wood, Executive Director, Center for Justice was going to comment on the agenda. Attorney Piccirilli stated that Potential Litigation under Per RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(2) Pending Litigation was being taken off the agenda. Ms. Wood stated that she has no statement.

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

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr Rizzo 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)(2) **Pending Litigation/Legal Advice**

- i. Potential Litigation (**removed**)
- ii. 24-057K T. DOE v. Glocester RSD - RE: Transportation Issue with School District
- iii. Northwest Special Education

**Return to public session and announcement of votes, if any**

No votes were taken in Executive Session

17. Reconvene to Open Session

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

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

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

None at this time.

20. Future Agenda Items – Identification of Future Agenda Items

- CTE in Elementary Schools

21. Adjourn Meeting

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr. Rizzo to adjourn Public Meeting at 6:55 pm

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