

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, Ms Ferreira, Ms. Keeling, Ms. Joyce, Mr. Dupuis

Absent: Mr. Joyce

Also present: Dr. Palazzo, Attorney Piccirilli, Assist Superintendent Pat Dubois

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. School Spotlight

- a. West Glocester Elementary School

A West Glocester 5th grade student addressed the school committee to speak about being Safe with electricity. WG had a penny war fundraiser and the 4th grade won, raising \$3,000. The 5th graders are going to tour PMS. There is a color run on May 31st.

- b. Fogarty Memorial Elementary School

A Fogarty 3rd grade student spoke about Feinstein raising \$5,000; with \$3,000 in grants. The basketball courts were done. The 4th grade learned about states; each student chose a state and did a project on it. 5th graders are excited about the upcoming play.

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

5. Approval of School Committee Minutes (April 1 and April 22,, 2025)

- a. Open and Executive Sessions

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Ferreira to approve the minutes of the Open meeting on April 1, 2025

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

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Ferreira to approve the minutes of the Executive Session meeting on April 1, 2025

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

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Ferreira to approve the minutes of the Open meeting on April 22, 2025

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

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Ferreira to approve the minutes of the Executive Session meeting on April 22, 2025

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

6. Approval of Bills - (April)

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Ferreira to approve the monthly bills from April 2, 2025 to April 29, 2025 in the amount of **\$327,528.99**

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

7. Finance Update (April)

- A. Revenue & Expense Monthly

Dr. Palazzo informed the committee that according to Business Manager Beth Beltram there is a new format but it is the same information with different categories. Last page shows a year end deficit of \$151,000.

## 8. Budget Update

### A. 2025-26 Proposed Budget

Asked town for approximately \$1.2 million to keep staff as is. Were given approximately \$400,000. We were unable to get more. Approximately \$800,000 less. Approximately 93% of the budget is faculty and staff.

April 21: Budget Public Hearing

May 1st: Town Council Meeting - spoke about potential 2024-25 deficit .

May 5th: Town Council adopted budget at approximately \$840,000 less that school committee proposal

May 20th: Financial Town Referendum - day to vote - additional question will ask for \$150,000 to be transferred so we will not be in a deficit for 2024-25. Do not vote down the budget.

## 9. Learn 365 Grant

Math Matters -- received a \$20,000 grant for high dosage tutoring

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

Dr. Palazzo reported to the committee the personnel actions. Layoff letters were given to teachers at Fogarty and West Gloucester.

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

No update at this time.

## 12. Public Comment – Relating to Current or Future Agenda Items

Alison Kennedy, Teacher and resident of Chepachet, Erin MacPhee, Gloucester Teachers Association and resident of Foster, Doris Reilly, Secretary at FMS and Natasha Hameline, Parent of PMS and Fogarty student. All spoke in regard to the Budget. Budget needs to pass.

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

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Ferreira to Convene in 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)(8) Privacy of Student Records (Homeschool)
- b. Per RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(2) Pending Litigation/Legal Advice
- c. Per RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(1) Job Performance

*(Any discussion of the job performance of an individual provided that such person or persons affected shall have been notified in advance in writing that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting)*

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

One vote was taken

## 14. Reconvene to Open Session

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

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

## 15. Vote to Seal the Minutes of Executive Session

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

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

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

- Ms. Ferreira will send an email with agenda items for June meeting

18. Adjourn Public Meeting

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Joyce to adjourn Public Meeting at 6:53 pm

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