

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

Absent: Ms Ferreira

Also present: Attorney Piccirilli, Dr. Palazzo

- 3) Pledge of Allegiance
- 4) School Spotlight
 - a) Fogarty Memorial Elementary School

Students from FMS shared they have been learning on how to recycle from RI Recovery to Recycle. On October 22nd, FMS will be celebrating Unity Day. They will work together to promote kindness. They will read the book “Wrinkled Heart” and all will wear orange. They have also been learning about fire safety.

- b) West Glocester Elementary School

A West Glocester 2nd grade student shared that the 2nd grade students are reading The Wild Robot. He loves when his teacher uses a robot voice and they can’t wait to finish it. In math they are learning how to measure. They are measuring things around their classroom.

Mrs. Keeling thanked the teachers for their hard work and dedication to our students. It shows in the RICAS scores.

DISCUSSION AND/OR PUBLIC ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

- 5) Approval of School Committee Minutes (September 2, 2025)

- a) Open and Executive Sessions

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr. Rizzo to approve the minutes of the Open meeting on September 2, 2025

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr. Rizzo to approve the minutes of the Executive Session on September 2, 2025

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

6. Approval of Bills - (SEPTEMBER)

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr. Rizzo to approve the monthly bills dated September 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025 in the amount of \$269,152.19

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

7. Finance Update (September 2025)

- a. Revenue & Expense Monthly

Will have an update at the next meeting.

8. Superintendent's Report

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

Dr. Palazzo reported that a special education teacher was hired to replace the person that resigned. Also, three Instructional Teacher Assistants were recalled.

9. Approval of Virtual Instructional Day Plan

Motion by _____ supported by _____ to approve the Virtual Instructional Day Plan as presented in the packet.

Table this until it is finalized. Will add to the November school committee meeting.

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

10. Approval of Updated 2025-26 School Calendar

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

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

11. Legislative Liaison Sub Committee Update

No update. Mr. Dupuis stated that he along with Ms. Ferreira will be working on talking to Senator Jessica de la Cruz and Representative Michael Chippendale

12. Policy Update

a. 1st Reading - Access to Public Records Policy #1334

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms Keeling to approve the 1st Reading - Access to Public Records Policy #1334 as presented in the packet.

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

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

Mr Dupuis stated that there is nothing new at this time. The General Assembly is not in session yet. Will be talking with Senator de la Cruz and Representative Chippendale for any updates.

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

Erin MacPhee, Faculty Member - thanked the principals and Superintendent Palazzo for the work they have done to accommodate the faculty/staff with resources they have. Ms. MacPhee distributed a hand out that shows data from the point of view of teachers. Asked to be added to minutes. Shared her concerns; which include: the TA's that have returned are not in the same position as previous, most are in special education. No fault, just change in student population. Teachers are behind in curriculum. TA's have been relied on to help with scores. Tremendous fragmentation. Requested committee review packets and ask any questions they may have,

Mr. Gary King, Gloucester asked about the Policy on the agenda -- what are the changes. Attorney Piccirilli stated that it is language change. Have the Access to Records request go to the Administrative

Assistant to Superintendent. Mr. King mentioned the relationship between school committee members and town council members. He asked if a school committee member attended town council meetings and vice versa. If both were attended, it eliminates a lot of the confusion/communication.

Mr. Steere asked if the MOA on the agenda is a new special education position? Dr. Palazzo stated that it wasn't.

15. Seek to Convene to Executive Session to Discuss and/or Vote on the following matters:
Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr. Rizzo 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)(8)ii: **PRIVACY OF STUDENTS/ RECORDS**
 - i. *Homeschool*
- b. Per RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(2) **Legal Advice/Pending Litigation**
 - i. *2025-26 Budget - Gloucester School Committee v Town of Gloucester, RIDE Case No. 25-052K*
 - ii. *24-057S & 24-084S T. DOE v. Gloucester RSD - RE: Transportation Issue with School District*
- c. Per RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(2) **Union Negotiations**
 - i. *Certified & Non-Certified*
 - ii. *Discussion/Approval of MOA - Special Education Position*
 - iii. *Unfair Labor Practice Cases*
 - 1. *Case No. ULP-6428 by Gloucester Teachers Assoc/NEARI*
 - 2. *Case No. ULP-6429 by Gloucester ESP/NEARI*
 - 3. *Case No. ULP-6432 by Gloucester ESP/NEARI*

Return to public session at 7:31 pm and chair announced two votes were taken: Homeschooling and School Safety Plan

16. Reconvene to Open Session

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

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

17. Vote to Seal the Minutes of Executive Session

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

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

18. Approval of MOA - Special Education Position

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Joyce to approve the MOA - Special Education Position.

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

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

No communication at this time.

20. Future Agenda Items – Identification of Future Agenda Items

- Finance Director
- Facilities Update
- 2nd Reading Access to Public Records Policy #1334

21. Adjourn Public Meeting

Motion by Ms. Joyce supported by Mr. Dupuis to adjourn Public Meeting at 7:33 pm

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0