

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 Fogarty shared with the school committee what has been happening at Fogarty and what was planned for the rest of the month. They collected food for people in need. On November 24th they had a turkey trot and their teacher was dunked in a dunk tank, they had yard games. They were able to raise \$2,500 for the American Cancer Society. On December 6th they had their annual breakfast with Santa. In the giftshop they were making reindeer food and there were 89 santa singers. The 5th graders are going to attend a Christmas Carol on December 12th, the Winter Fest is coming up, PHS is visiting and there will be Christmas caroling on December 19th.

b) West Gloucester Elementary School

Second grade students shared with the school committee some of the things they have been doing at West Gloucester. They went to PPAC to see the play Maddie's Fridge they first read the book and they had to tell the difference between book and play. Parents were invited to come in to run a program, one was making trees with your hand. PMS is coming to WG and Iguana Reptile is also coming.

c) Staff Recognition

Doris Reilly was recognized as the 2025 RI ESP of the Year. She is a national finalist. The school committee congratulated Mrs. Reilly; as did the students of Fogarty, her colleagues, and Mrs. Strik. Mrs. Reilly will be attending the conference in March.

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

Mr Walt Steere, Gloucester asked about the fiscal impact statement and if it needed to be completed prior to a contract being signed. Mentioned that someone from Northwest should be attending the school committee meetings. Agenda item Approval of OPEB Restricted Funds to General Funds - should clarify what the initials mean.

DISCUSSION AND/OR PUBLIC ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

- 6) Approval of School Committee Minutes - November 4, 2025
 - a) Open and Executive Sessions

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr. Rizzo to approve the minutes of the Open meeting on November 4, 2025

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1
Ms. Joyce abstained

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr. Rizzo to approve the minutes of the Executive Session on November 4, 2025

MOTION PASSED: 4-0-1
Ms. Joyce abstained

7. Approval of Bills - (NOVEMBER)

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mrs. Joyce to approve the monthly bills dated November 1, 2025 to November 30, 2025 in the amount of \$198,939.24

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

8. Finance Update (NOVEMBER 2025)

a. Revenue & Expense Monthly

Potential deficit for FY25. OPEB fund was established years ago. Suggestion to use this account by the Auditor General.

9. Budget Update FY 25

No update at this time

10. Budget Update FY 26

Dr. Palazzo confirmed that she has had communication with Ms. Beltram and Ms. Lamontagne. Regular meetings are to be scheduled with Ms. Beltram, Ms. Lamontagne, Ms. Fraatz & herself.

11. Fiscal Impact Gloucester ESP

Mrs. Keeling read the FY 2026 Budget Impact for each year with a total of \$121,663.42. Did not have the impact statement before negotiating contract.

12. Superintendent's Report

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

Mrs. Sargent and Mrs. Taylor are retiring. The School Committee wished them well. Ms Lynch was recalled and will be in the 4th grade.

13. Sodexo Annual Update

Sodexo will have their update during the Foster Gloucester School Committee meeting.

14. Approval of Superintendent Recommendation in regard to Northwest Special Education

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr. Rizzo to approve the Superintendent's Recommendation to withdraw from Northwest Special Education with the option to rescind the withdrawal.

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

Dr. Palazzo stated that NWSE is a region with an agreement with four school districts: Gloucester, Foster, Foster-Gloucester and Scituate. Foster has withdrawn, Scituate also plans on withdrawing. We must notify by December 31st. Dr. Palazzo would like the committee to support a withdrawal from Northwest Special Education with the option to rescind the withdrawal.

15. Approval to Assign OPEB Restricted funds to General fund

Motion by _____ supported by _____ to assign the OPEB restricted funds of \$150,929 and put them into the general fund.

The motion was revised to read unrestrict the OPEB funds and use amount at to date.

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr. Rizzo to unrestrict the OPEB restricted funds in the amount to date and put it into the general fund.

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

Dr. Palazzo met with Ms. Beltram and Ms. Lamontagne and at that time she was advised by Ms. Beltram that the unrestricted OPEB funds can be transferred into the general fund. The amount was \$150,929. Ms Lamontagne stated to make sure the motion read unrestricted OPEG funds.

16. Approval of Revised 2026 School Committee Meeting Dates

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr. Rizzo to approve the revised 2026 school committee meeting dates.

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

Dr. Palazzo noted that the January meeting date has changed to Thursday, January 8, 2026.

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

No update

18. 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) **Union Negotiations/Collective Bargaining**

i. Gloucester Teachers' Association NEARI/NEA

ii. Unfair Labor Practice Cases

1. Case No. **ULP-6428 Statement** by Gloucester Teachers Assoc/NEARI

2. Case No. **ULP-6432 Complaint** RI State Labor Relations Board & Gloucester School Committee

Return to public session 6:52 pm and the chair announced one vote was taken: Homeschooling

19. Reconvene to Open Session

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

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

20. 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: 5-0-0

21. Adjourn Public Meeting

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr. Rizzo to adjourn Public Meeting at 6:58 pm

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0