

**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  
Absent: Mr. Rizzo, Ms. Ferreira  
Also Present: Attorney Piccirilli, Dr. Palazzo
- 3) Pledge of Allegiance
  - 4) Public Comment – Relating to Open Session Agenda Item
- No public comment at this time

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

- 5) Approval of School Committee Minutes (February 3, 2026)
  - a) Open and Executive Sessions

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Joyce to approve the minutes of the Open meeting on February 3, 2026

**MOTION PASSED: 4-0-0**

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Joyce to approve the minutes of the Executive Session on February 3, 2026

**MOTION PASSED: 4-0-0**

*Mr. Rizzo arrived (5:32 pm)*

6. Approval of Bills - (FEBRUARY)

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Joyce to approve the monthly bills dated February 1, 2026 to February 28, 2026 in the amount of \$264,384.52

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

7. Finance Update (February 2026)

- a. Revenue & Expense Monthly

Dr. Palazzo stated that the update from Beth Beltram on track at the moment (will review at Thursday meeting)

8. Budget Update FY 27

FY 27 Revised Budget - year to date was updated. Budget prep is still the same and will discuss more at Thursday's meeting. Year to date column was updated.

9. Superintendent's Report

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

Tutors were appointed for supporting students -- paid for with 365 Grant through the governor's office.

10. Snow Storm Up Update (Blizzard of '26)

- a. Facilities

Both elementary schools fared very well. No major storm implications. Proactive measures were taken prior to the storm - cleared out the roof drains. West Gloucester has a small roof repair. Thank you to DPW who did a wonderful job supporting the elementary schools and region.

b. Schools Day (Calendar)

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Joyce to remove the March PD (3/20/26) day even if waiver is not granted. Discussed removing the PD day regardless of waiver. Ms Joyce suggested to Mr. Dupuis to amend motion and take out "even if waiver not granted".

Mr. Dupuis amended motion supported by Ms. Joyce to remove the March PD day (3/20/26).

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

Dr. Palazzo stated that almost every school in the state was closed the first 3 days and is asking for some of those days to be waived. Will find out from RIDE to see if they get waived. Will keep you posted.

11. Approval of Virtual Learning Plan

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr Rizzo to approve the Virtual Learning Plan as presented in the packet.

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

12. Discussion on Lifetouch Service Agreements

West Gloucester does not use Lifetouch although Fogarty still does. Mr. Joyce stated he looked into the connection that Lifetouch may have and stated that they are still connected. Attorney Piccirilli stated that should have the representative at Lifetouch contacted first. Have the principal reach out initially. Add it to the next school committee agenda.

13. Town Charter Review

No update

14. Strategic Planning Workshop

Table

15. Fiscal Strategy and Advocacy Working Group

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Keeling to establish a Fiscal Strategy and Advocacy Working Group and assign it to Ms. Ferreira to start the process of getting interest and gathering members.

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

Ms Joyce read a statement from Ms Ferreira regarding the creation of a work group with School Committee members, town council, tax payers, teachers and parents to move the district forward. Strengthen cooperation and collaboration. Ms. Joyce, Mr. Rizzo stated they would sit in the working group. The attorney stated it may be an open meeting - advertise. . Assign Ms. Ferreira to start the group. Will have additional information at a later date/next meeting.

16. Resolution in Support of RI House Bill 7356 & Senate Bill 2216 "School Employee Background Check"

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr. Risso to support the Resolution in Support of RI House Bill 7356 & Senate Bill 2216 "School Employee Background Check" as presented in the packet.

The resolution has been passed by the Gloucester Town Council, Foster Town Council. Ms. Keeling concerned that false allegations - any allegations have to be reported. Recommend that it be sent to the Policy Committee. Also concerned that RIDE is not mentioned anywhere in the Resolution. RIDE should take responsibility to report to school any teachers with violations. Even if it is a false allegation, the resolution states that it has to go into your file. Mr. Dupuis would like to see the hiring policies strengthened also.

Mr Dupuis rescinds the motion, asks for resolution to be tabled and sent to the policy committee.

17. Town Council Update - Update on activities relating to the School Department  
No update at this time

18. Seek to Convene to Executive Session at 6:03 pm to Discuss and/or Vote on the following matters:  
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: 5-0-0**

- a. Per RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(2) - Collective Bargaining
  - i. MOA Gloucester ESP/NEARI (Lunch & Recess Aides)
- b. Per RI General Law 42-46-5(a) (4) Legal Advice/Pending Litigation
  - i. OMA Complaint 12.16.2025 - Whitfield v Gloucester School Committee - *Update*
  - ii. OMA Complaint 1.04.2026 - Sullivan v Gloucester School Committee
    - 1. Rebuttal submission 2/13/26 : Sullivan v Gloucester SC - *Update & Attorney Response*
  - iii. APRA Complaint 12.16.2025 #G-02 - Whitfield v Gloucester School Committee - *Update*

**Return to public session at 6:37 pm and chair announcement of votes, if any**

Chair announces, that 0 votes were taken - Collective Bargaining, Legal Advice were discussed

19. Reconvene to Open Session

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Mr Rizzo 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. Public Comment – Relating to Open Session Agenda Item

No public comment at this time

22. Adjourn Public Meeting

Motion by Mr. Dupuis supported by Ms. Joyce to adjourn Public Meeting at 6:39 pm

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