

Joint Meeting

6:30 pm

Glocester Town Hall, 1145 Putnam Pike

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-uDvZc5IBUXfF-8geLVgZg>

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Meeting Called to Order by Town Council President William Worthy at 6:30 pm

Glocester SC Members Present: Mrs Joyce, Ms. Keeling, Mr. Dupuis, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Rizzo, & Ms. Ferreira

Town Council Members Present: President William Worthy, Jonathan Burlingame, Walt Steere Jr., Cheryl Greathouse, Stephanie Calise, & Town Clerk Jean Fecteau

Also Present: Auditor General David Bergantino, Superintendent Dr. Renee Palazzo, & Glocester School Committee Attorney G. Piccirilli

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Auditor General Letter of May 22, 2026 - Discussion and/or Action

Town Council President introduced the Auditor General David Bergantino and thanked him for attending.

The Auditor General explained the different deficits, cumulative deficit, and 5 year trends. He commended the town and school for the detail that went into creating the budget. He stated that the most important thing to do first is hire a Finance Director.

V. Town Council and Glocester School Committee

A. Discuss financial issues relating to past, current and future budgets - Discussion and/or Action

Town Council President William Worthy went over the rules. Only facts and moving forward. He went over the charter changes and proposed a five year plan. Mr. Worthy also asked for the Glocester school committee to add to their next agenda "Special Education Extraordinary Cost".

School Committee Chair Beth Keeling & Superintendent Dr. Palazzo reviewed the budgetary process and anticipated challenges; cost of transportation, out of placement tuition and rise in health & benefits.

Auditor General Bergantino reaffirmed districts across the state have the same challenges. He stated to wait until the audit is complete for the final FY26 number. He restated to the Town and School Committee to shift focus to hiring a Director of Finance to ensure close eye on FY 27.

VI. Potential Ballot Question for November General Election -Discussion and/or Action

Town discussed with school committee the plan to put a referendum to the voters in November changing the town charter -- have the school department fund their own finance director.

Public comments made by: Brian Kelly, Walt Steere, Heidi Andrews.

V. Adjourn

Glocester Town Council Adjourn

Motion by W. Steere supported by W. Worthy to adjourn Joint Meeting of Glocester Town Council and Glocester School Committee at 8:56 pm

Glocester School Committee Adjourn

Motion by C. Joyce supported by A Dupuis to adjourn Joint Meeting of Glocester Town Council and Glocester School Committee at 8:56 pm

MOTION PASSED: 5-0-0

(Ms. Ferreira left meeting prior to adjourn)