

Glocester School Committee  
Glocester Town Hall  
1145 Putnam Pike  
Chepachet, RI 02814

October 18, 2022  
6:30 pm

## AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
- DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:
4. Approval of Minutes from the September 20, 2022 School Committee Meeting – Open and Executive Sessions
5. Approval of Bills - Approval of Bills for September 2022
6. Superintendent's Report-Personnel: Leaves/Resignations/Lay Offs/ Appointments/Recalls and other Personnel Actions
7. Finance Director's Report - Report on activities relating to the Finance Office
8. Town Council Update - Update on activities relating to the School Department
9. Accomplishments/Recognitions of Fogarty Memorial and West Glocester Schools
10. Possible Withdrawal from Northern Rhode Island Collaborative
11. Buildings and Grounds Safety and Security Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading (Attached)
12. Compensation for Administrative Aide Supporting District Facilities Supervisor
13. Seek to Convene to Executive Session per RI General Laws 42-26-5(a) (3) School Safety; (2) Legal Advice Regarding Transportation Contract
14. Reconvene to Open Session
15. Vote to Seal the Minutes of Executive Session
16. Communications From/To Members of the School Committee and/or School District
17. Future Agenda Items – Identification of Future Agenda Items
18. Public Comment – Relating to Current or Future Agenda Items
19. Adjournment

**GLOCESTER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**Glocester, RI**

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS SAFETY AND SECURITY**

**PURPOSE:**

The primary uses of the surveillance cameras are to:

- Promote a safe environment by deterring conduct that violates the law, school committee policy, or school-based rules
- Record images for future identification of individuals in the event of a violation of the law, School Committee policy, or school-based rules
- Aid in the search of missing children
- Assist emergency services personnel

**PHILOSOPHY:**

The Glocester School Department recognizes its responsibility to promote and foster school safety and a safe and effective educational work environment.

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

The Glocester School Committee, after carefully considering and balancing the individuals' right to be free from invasion of privacy with the Committee's interest and duty to promote the health, welfare, and safety of students, staff, and members of the general public who enter our facilities, supports the use of surveillance cameras in schools, school facilities, and on school grounds. The Glocester School Department believes that the use of surveillance cameras, while not a guarantee of safety, will assist in protecting school property, deterring crime and enforcing school policy.

Surveillance cameras use is limited to uses that do not violate state or federal law including a reasonable expectation of privacy including, but not limited to, the use of audio. Cameras will be used in public areas of the buildings and in areas on the grounds where protecting the safety of students, staff, and visitors; protecting school property; and deterring crime and/or misconduct are necessary. Surveillance cameras will not be used in restrooms, showers, locker rooms, dressing rooms, or any other area in which there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Surveillance cameras will also not be used in private offices or classrooms. Cameras will not have views into or through the windows of adjacent buildings, or onto adjacent properties. The determination of where and when to use monitoring equipment will be made in a nondiscriminatory manner.

## **Signage and Notification Regarding Use of Surveillance Cameras**

Appropriate and conspicuous signage will be posted at entrances to schools and school facilities notifying students, staff, and members of the general public of the District's use of surveillance cameras.

## **Destruction and/or Tampering with Surveillance Cameras**

Any individual who tampers with or destroys a surveillance camera or any part of the surveillance system will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as possible criminal charges.

## **Use of Recordings for Disciplinary Action**

Surveillance recordings may be used as a basis for student disciplinary action. Surveillance recordings involving students are, in most cases, considered to be educational records under FERPA.

Recordings of students will be treated as confidential, to the extent allowed by law. Parents or guardians of minor students, and students who are eighteen (18) years of age or older, who are charged with disciplinary violations may view relevant portions of any recording related to the charge, upon request to the building principal provided that viewing the recording does not violate state or federal law (i.e. the privacy rights of any other students whose images appear in the recording).

Surveillance recordings may be only used as evidence towards a school employee should probable cause exist. Surveillance recordings involving employees may still, in certain circumstances, be considered to be educational records under FERPA and subject to certain disclosure prohibitions.

School personnel may also view relevant portions of any recording relating to any disciplinary charge against them, upon request to the building principal, provided that viewing the recording does not violate state or federal law (i.e. the privacy rights of any other students whose images appear in the recording).

## **Emergency Use of Surveillance Systems Equipment**

In the event of an active threat or safety concern, first responders and other emergency personnel may be granted access to surveillance equipment, systems, and recordings with the approval of the Superintendent or designee.

First Reading: October 18, 2022