

Glocester School Committee
Glocester Town Hall, Room 9
1145 Putnam Pike
Glocester, RI 02857

March 12, 2024
6:30 pm

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Glocester School Committee was called to order by Chair, Ms. Keeling, at 6:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

Present: Ms. Keeling, Mr. Dupuis, Ms. Henry, Mr. Rizzo, Ms. Ferreira

Absent: Ms. Joyce

Also present: Ms. Dubois, Mr. Piccirilli

3. Pledge of Allegiance

DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Dupuis, seconded by Ms. Ferreira, to approve the Open and Executive Session minutes from the January 30, 2024 School Committee meeting as presented.

Motion passed 5-0-0

5. Approval of Bills for January and February 2024

Motion by Mr. Dupuis, seconded by Ms. Henry, to approve the check register dated January 31, 2024 in the amount of \$376,699.13 and February 29, 2024 in the amount of \$240,060.25.

Motion passed 5-0-0

6. Superintendent's Report-Personnel: Leaves/Resignations/Non-Renewals/ Appointments/Recalls and other Personnel Actions

7. Director of Facilities Position– Cost Share with Region

Motion by Mr. Dupuis, seconded by Mr. Rizzo, to approve the plan to cost share the Director of Facilities position with the Region as presented.

Motion passed 5-0-0

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

9. Accomplishments/Recognitions of Fogarty Memorial and West Glocester Schools

10. Review of 2023-2024 School Budget

A. Notification of Overspending of School Department Appropriations

Ms. Dubois reviewed the steps she has taken to reduce the amount of the projected deficit including freezing all spending, transferring funds from the OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits) line item to the general fund, and using fund balance.

B. Fund Balance

C. Vote to Move Funds from Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Line Item to the General Fund

Motion by Mr. Dupuis, seconded by Ms. Henry, to move \$150,929.00 from the OPEB Line Item to the General Fund.

Motion padded 5-0-0

11. Review of 2024-2025 School Budget

A. Vote to Move Funds from Fund Balance to Out-of-District Tuition and Transportation

Motion by Mr. Dupuis, seconded by Ms. Henry, to move \$250,000 from Fund Balance to Out-of-District Tuition and Transportation

Ms. Dubois explained that the Budget Subcommittee felt comfortable moving \$300,000 from Fund Balance to Out-of-District Tuition and Transportation.

Original motion and second withdrawn.

Motion by Mr. Dupuis, seconded by Ms. Henry, to move \$300,000 from Fund Balance to Out-of-District Tuition and Transportation.

Motion padded 5-0-0

12. Review of Gender Non-Conforming and Transgender Students Policy

Mr. Piccirilli reviewed his correspondence with the attorney at RIDE regarding the need to change the district's transgender policy currently in place. RIDE is conveying that the policy must be changed to include certain language; Mr. Piccirilli disagrees on what the law says regarding this policy. RIDE issued a regulation in 2018, which was vague and said that school district policies should be consistent with state and national best practices (which was never defined), guidance and model policies. RIDE has never produced a model policy. The policy that was developed by Mr. Piccirilli, the superintendent, and the two principals was submitted to RIDE in 2018 until February of this year, when the superintendent received an email from RIDE making it sound as though the policy must be conformed to RIDE's guidance. Mr. Piccirilli questions the legal basis for changing the current policy. Ms. Ferreira pointed out that a policy subcommittee was recently formed and will be reviewing this policy soon.

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

A representative from Amnesty International attended the meeting to say they have been working with many groups in the state all focused on one thing: making sure that communities stay welcoming places with a core and a fabric that fits the community. He stated that, looking at Gloucester's Transgender Policy, all the necessary components are there. He added that Amnesty International will continue to support the committee and superintendent should the policy be challenged.

14. Seek to Convene to Executive Session per RI General Laws 42-26-5(a) (1) Job Performance of an Individual –Superintendent's Contract; (3) School Safety

Motion by Mr. Dupuis, seconded by Ms. Keeling, to convene to Executive Session per RI General Laws 42-26-5(a) (1) Job Performance of an Individual - Superintendent's Contract (3) School Safety (8) Privacy of Student Records – Home School Requests

Motion passed 5-0-0

15. Reconvene to Open Session

16. Vote to Seal the Minutes of Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Dupuis, seconded by Mr. Rizzo, to seal the minutes of Executive Session.

Motion passed 5-0-0

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

18. Future Agenda Items – Identification of Future Agenda Items

- NRIC
- Transportation Contract

19. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Keeling, seconded by Mr. Dupuis, to adjourn at 7:40pm.

Motion passed 5-0-0

Kathryn Ritter-Smith, Clerk