

THE W. L. GILBERT SCHOOL CORPORATION
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, October 15, 2025
THE GILBERT SCHOOL
6:30 PM
Library
MINUTES

1. OPENING OF MEETING

Holly Cassaday (School Corp Chair) calls the meeting to order at 6:30PM. Scott Beecher is absent excused. Also in attendance are Joanne Galenski-Girardin, Ellen Marino, Jonathan Morhardt, Theresa Padin, Tara Sundie, Renata Waldron, Kurt Werner, Michael P. Susi (Head of School), Cameron Picard (HS Student Rep), Makayla DeSanti (MS Student Rep), James Slauta (HS Student Rep), Ashlynn Gilnsman (MS Student Rep)

- A. Pledge of Allegiance - Joanne Galenski-Girardin
- B. Vision and Mission Statement - Joanne Galenski-Girardin

2. PUBLIC FORUM

- A. General Public None
- B. Student Representatives Report : Cameron, Makayla, James and Ashlynn provide the board with an update on sports, Homecoming, music and other activities around the school.

3. CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Motion to add a discussion (item 8.5) on unified arts/sports teams by Renee Waldron, seconded by Joanne Galenski-Girardin and unanimously approved.

4. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

- A. Commendation to Scott Minnerly, Director of Bands
First place in recent band competition.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve Minutes of Regular Meeting - September 17, 2025 Ellen Marino, seconded by Theresa Padin and approved as amended*. Renee Waldron abstained.

Mis-spelling of Jonathan Morhardt on page 3, also "l" should be "He" in WPS liaison report.

Motion to approve Minutes of Special Meeting - September 24, 2025 Ellen Marino, seconded by Theresa Padin and approved. Renee Waldron and Joanne Galenski-Girardin abstained.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Finance Monthly report is on track. End of year line-item transfers determined, and budget is balanced.

- 1. Monthly Finance Report
- 2. Next Meeting - November 12, 2025

Motion Ellen Marino to approve line-item transfers as discussed, seconded by Holly Cassaday and unanimously approved.

- B. Policy Did not meet.
 - 1. Next Meeting - November 6, 2025

C. Building & Grounds : Jonathan Morhardt reported that the gym reno is just about complete, boiler needs to be replaced, some painting around the building, plumbing/leak issue in boys bathroom. Bus loop project underway.

1. Report on Meeting - October 15, 2025

2. Next Meeting - November 12, 2025

D. Personnel Did not meet

1. Next Meeting - TBD

E. Nominating Committee Will meet in November

1. Next Meeting - TBD

F. AD HOC Negotiating Committee Discussion with July Luby is going well. Collaboration in progress. Hopeful to reach a contract agreement soon.

1. Report on Meeting - September 24, 2025

2. Next Meeting -TBD

7. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Open House Participation Appreciation: Great participation. Goal accomplished.

B. Thank You from W.L. School Trust Corporation : Thank you for the support in this event to the trustees, recreation department, Torrington Youth services, Fire Department, Police Department, recruiters and more. Thank you letters have been written to the above.

C. Trustee Appreciation Tim Cronin sent a thank you letter to Mike Susi for this event. Collaboration is going well between Trust and Corp

D. Tenure Notifications letters sent to those individuals who achieved this status.

E. Condolences Maryanne Schaffer's mother passed away. Dotty Robins (former secretary) husband passed away. Batista death in the family.

F. Northwest Community Bank Manufacturing Grant Application Support grant will support manufacturing education for our students. Development of program with grant funding. Goal is to introduce the program to the 7th & 8th graders, providing options to our students in efforts to keep them at Gilbert.

8. SECOND READING OF POLICIES

A. Policy #3280 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations, Gift Acceptance

B. Policy #3453.1 (revised) - Business/Non-Instructional Operations, Unexpended Class Funds

C. Policy #6172.6 - Instruction, Virtual/Online Courses/College/University Courses

D. Policy #1330 - Community Relations, Use of Buildings and Grounds

Vote will be next month.

8.5 Discussion on Unified Sports

Renee Waldron shares the idea; great program with funding available for special education children to participate in sports. Perhaps other activities geared specifically towards special education children and families, such as drama.

9. BOARD GOALS

Motion to approve board goals Holly Cassaday, seconded by Theresa Padin and unanimously approved.

10. HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

A. Michael Susi, Head of School

1. Collaboration with Winchester Superintendent: Contract negotiations underway, positive progress.

2. Recording of Meetings Update: Now in progress
3. Contract Negotiations Meeting
4. Homecoming/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: Many events happening... The 1975 football team (State Champions) will be recognized.
5. Long Range Planning Update: Meeting with Tim and Chris (from the Trust) to answer what will school look like in 10 years? Collaboration between the Corp, Trust and WPS.
6. Debate: Board of Education next Wednesday (October 22) at 7PM in the auditorium
7. Facility Improvements Update: Bus loop, gym project completion, science lab is next, followed by the auditorium.
8. Graduation Date: Need to reach 180 days and gradation date can follow.

Motion Holly Cassaday to set graduation date for Thursday June 11th, 2025. Motion seconded by Kurt Warner and unanimously approved.

11. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

A. Winchester: Jonathan Morhardt presents. Negotiations with Gilbert on-going. Renee Waldron's last meeting as a board member.

12. SCHOOL CORPORATION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. Holly Cassaday : Thank you to Renee Waldron for her service. Homecoming Oct 25th, long range planning, congratulations to Joanne on earning her doctorate.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:14PM by Jonathan Morhardt, seconded by Theresa Padin and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Jones Dombrowski