

**THE W. L. GILBERT SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Wednesday, January 21, 2026**  
**THE GILBERT SCHOOL**  
**6:30 PM**  
**Library**  
**MINUTES**

**1. OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting is called to order at 6:36PM by Chair Holly Cassaday. Members in attendance include Scott Beecher, Jonathan Morhardt, Frank Oliveri, Theresa Padin, Tara Sundie, Kurt Werner, Michael P. Susi (Head of School), James Slauta (HS Representative) Makayla DeSanti (MS Representative), Cameron Picard (HS Representative), Ashlynn Glinsman (MS Representative). Shane Centrella and Ellen Marino are absent excused.

- A. Pledge of Allegiance - Frank Oliveri
- B. Vision and Mission Statement - Frank Oliveri

**2. PUBLIC FORUM**

A. General Public

The W. L. Gilbert School Corporation welcomes comments from the public.

Please state your name and address. Speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes. (Board Policy 1120).

None

B. Student Representatives Report

Winter sports are coming to an end after successful seasons : basketball, indoor track, cheer. Special shoutout to communication coordinator Madison Fritch as we look to increase student participation. Music regional festival, all-state and concerts coming up. Adams Family musical to be performed by the drama club. Course selection process is starting soon. New courses including AP Cyber Security, Project Lead the Way – engineering. Mid-year exams are approaching.

**3. CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**4. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

A. Commendations

Collection of and delivery of gifts to families of those in need.

1. Michaela Cutarelli (Christmas Angels)
2. Sarah Goldie (Christmas Angels)
3. Tina Keegan (NJHS Winter Wear Clothing Drive) “Thank you”
4. Shannon McGrane (Christmas Angels)
5. Mike Pelletier (Holiday Party Assistance) “Thank you”, successful and important event
6. Darlene Webb (Christmas Angels)

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***Motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on December 17, 2025 Jonathan Morhardt, seconded by Theresa Padin and unanimously approved.***

***Motion to approve the minutes of the Organizational Meeting on December 17, 2025 Kurt Warner, seconded by Jonathan Morhardt and unanimously approved.***

## **6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Finance: Kurt recaps/provides update. Waiting on checks from the Trust and WPS

1. Monthly Finance Report
2. Next Meeting - January 28, 2026 (Special Finance Meeting)

B. Policy: Cleaning-up by-laws. Moving this along currently.

1. Report on Meeting - January 8, 2026
2. Next Meeting - February 5, 2026

C. Building & Grounds: Scott provides update. Small gym renovation. Funding by donations. Bus loop funding/plans in the hands of Senator Steve Harding, waiting on recommendations for funding.

1. Report on Meeting - January 21, 2026
2. Next Meeting - February 18, 2026

D. Personnel: No meeting

1. Next Meeting - TBD

E. Nominating Committee: No meeting

1. Next Meeting - TBD

F. AD HOC Negotiating Committee: No meeting

1. Next Meeting -TBD

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

A. Tim Cronin "Thank you" for support with Holiday Party

1. Holiday Party Assistance
2. Class Funds : Tim Cronin will reach out to individual classes. Money to be used for a new van via class gift or use money for their own reunions.
3. Band Donation: \$200 for band program
4. Speaking Engagement Donation: \$1500 donation

B. HOS Christmas Message

C. HOS New Year's Message

D. Gene Michaud, Condolences: Death in family.

E. Josh Penn, Congratulations: Birth of child.

F. Chris Sandford, Holiday Party Assistance "Thank you"

G. Sandi Lynn Scherer, Holiday Party Assistance "Thank you"

H. Gubernatorial Candidate Erin Stewart, Invitation

## **8. RESIGNATIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

A. Resignations

1. Jillian Kazienko: Cafeteria worker. Thank you for time and efforts.

## **9. SECOND READING OF POLICIES**

A. Policy #9020 - Public Statements

B. Policy #9030 - Commitment to Democratic Principles in Relation to Community, Staff, Students

C. Policy #9040 - Board-Related Responsibilities

D. Policy #9110 - Classes of Directors/Terms of Office

E. Policy #9132 - Standing Committees

F. Policy #9133 - Ad Hoc Committees

G. Policy #9140 - Board Representatives

H. Policy #9222 - Resignation/Removal from Office/Censure

## **10. POLICY FOR APPROVAL**

A. Policy #7551 - Naming of Facilities

***Motion to approve Policy #7551 Naming of Facilities Theresa Padin, seconded by Scott Beecher and unanimously approved.***

## **11. HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT**

A. Michael Susi, Head of School

1. School Counselor Presentation provided by Patrick Brintle, head of School Counseling  
Teamwork is the framework/responsibility of the department, i.e. student may work with one counselor; however, all counselors work interchangeably. CJR therapists work inside of school making it easier for students to receive services. Individualized processing.

2. Student Performance Presentation Presented by Principal Deb Lewis: Where we're at, what we're doing now and how we are moving forward. Continuing to analyze data, school improvement plans, goals set with benchmarks in place, preparatory courses, partnerships with Ed Advance, tutors available five days a week after school. Next year math will be every day; currently on block scheduling and this will change next school year. Forty minutes of math instruction for every student, every day. The same will go for English. Connectivity is important for student success. Pulling out all the stops to help increase students' SBAC scores. Looking at numbers, causes, environmental factors.... doing all that is within our power, while thinking outside of the box, to have a positive impact on scores. Balance amongst instruction and test content.

3. Feature a Teacher Report: Two new teachers Nichole Fortin (Grade 7 Science) and Jared Lacher (HS Chemistry) were recognized. Mike shared some of the creative & interesting lesson plans Nichole's been doing, as well as accolades for Jared and the multiple courses he's prepping for and teaching. Both new faculty members are working closely with Science Department head Craig Levesque, as they are new teachers in those subject areas, and doing a terrific job. Mike indicated that "Feature a Teacher" may be added to the agenda on a regular basis.

Mike recently met with July Luby and Paul Harrington. Budget and insurance are two topics of importance right now. Collaboration is the top goal. Insurance plans/pricing going up across the board. How to combat...conversation will be on-going.

## **12. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT**

A. Winchester: Jonathan Morhardt reports. Budget to be presented to BOS in February. Potential to expand/build universal pre-K program requiring an addition to Hinsdale School. In process of collecting more data before going to referendum. 100% reimbursement : deadline to apply for funding is June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **13. SCHOOL CORPORATION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

A. Holly Cassaday

***Motion to add February 11, 2026 budget discussion meeting, if needed, by Holly Cassaday, seconded by Kurt Warner and unanimously approved.***

Upcoming dates to remember as we move into budget season/budget prep: January 28<sup>th</sup> 6PM, February 4<sup>th</sup> 6PM, February 11<sup>th</sup> 6PM, February 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30PM.

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion to adjourn at 8:30PM Jonathan Morhardt, seconded by Scott Beecher and unanimously carried.***

Respectfully submitted,  
Lauren Jones Dombrowski