

**THE W. L. GILBERT SCHOOL CORPORATION
SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 28, 2026
THE GILBERT SCHOOL
6:00 PM
Library
MINUTES**

1. OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:05Pm by Ellen Marino (Chair). In attendance is Scott Beecher (6:16PM), Frank Oliveri (6:25PM), Kurt Werner, Michael Susi (Head of School), Holly Cassaday (School Corp. Chair), Diane Cook (Business Affairs Manager). Also in attendance Shane Centrella, Tara Sundie, Theresa Padin, Jared Fritch, Tim Cronin, Joe White, Chris Stanford

2. 2026-2027 BUDGET WORKSHOP

Zero-based budgeting. Start from the ground – up. Teachers, dept heads identify what they need and explain everything...what do you need for each class? How many classes? Define goals.

What is the target? Are these “have to” or “recommended to”? Admin then meets with finance office. Take a look at last year and justify what we will need for next year. Review of adjustments to all departments. Take a look at the budget as a whole. What is a “must have” and what is a “need to have”. What can the town afford? Presentation to the board. Board asks questions and a decision is made whether or not to move forward to give to the town.

Next week full budget presentation with binder.

Will take a vote on budget, TBD on the 11th or 18th. We will want to give WPS a number sooner than later.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:59PM by Ellen Marino, seconded by Kurt Warner and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Jones Dombrowski