

**THE W. L. GILBERT SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Wednesday, April 22, 2026**  
**THE GILBERT SCHOOL**  
**6:30 PM Library**  
**MINUTES**

**1. OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting is called to order at 6:30PM by Holly Cassaday (School Corp Chair). Members in attendance include Scott Beecher, Shane Centrella, Ellen Marino, Jonathan Morhardt, Frank Oliveri, Theresa Padin, Tara Sundie, Kurt Werner, Michael P. Susi (Head of School), Cameron Picard (Student Representative HS), Makayla DeSanti (Student Rep MS), Shelby Salius (Student Rep HS), Ashlynn Glinsman (Student Rep MS).

A. Pledge of Allegiance - Theresa Padin

B. Vision and Mission Statement - Theresa Padin

**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).

✚ Payton Call (77 Pratt Street)

✚ Nora Mocarski

✚ Tim Strahan

✚ Rachel Maxwell

✚ Julie Luby

B. Student Representatives Report

Spring Sport update. Seniors are getting excited as we get closer to the end of the school year. 8 new NHS members. Music department received donations to fund instruments. Pearson Drama Club Beauty and the Beast is to be performed at Gilbert this weekend. High school spring music concert is coming up. Middle school band will perform in Pet Marade May 16. TGS Fest Rock Concert May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Eighth graders chose superlatives for yearbook. Student council tour guides for incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. Eighth grade field trips are coming up. High Meadow field trip for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. 7<sup>th</sup> grade will have field day that same day. Middle school sports are underway and going well. S-back coming up in early May for Middle School students.

**3. CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS**

***Motion to add item 6B, budget discussion and possible cut as requested during public comment, made by Holly Cassaday, seconded by Ellen Marino and unanimously approved.***

**4. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

A. Commendations 1. Debra Lewis (Exhibition Night) 2. Adam Atkins (Musical) 3. Sarah Frechette (Musical) 4. Scott Minnerly (Musical) 5. Patrick Brintle (7th Grade Parent Night) 6. Donald Crossman (7th Grade Parent Night) 7. Maura Hurley (7th Grade Parent Night) 8. Debra Lewis (7th Grade Parent Night) 9.

Marijo Thompson (7th Grade Parent Night) 10. Christopher Affie (Family Game Night) 11. Jeanine Affie (Family Game Night) 12. Lauren Bannon (Family Game Night) 13. Madison Fritch (Family Game Night) 14. Sarah Guenther (Family Game Night) 15. Charles Harbach (Family Game Night) 16. Tina Keegan (Family Game Night) 17. Hyewon Noh (Family Game Night) 18. Maryann Salvatore (Family Game Night) 19. Catherine Vaillancourt (Family Game Night) 20. Ron Williams (Family Game Night).

## **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

A. Sent 1. Ethan Cavajani (All-State Drummer) 2. Gioia Ettanji (Middle School Northern Region Festival Representation) 3. Ella Jeannette (Named All-State Cheer) 4. Addyson Lillie (1,000 Career Basketball Points Milestone) 5. Evan Schibi (All-American Wrestling Champion)

B. Received 1. Tim Cronin (W.L. Gilbert Trust Corp. Donation)

## **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***Motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting - March 18, 2026, made by Ellen Marino, seconded by Theresa Padin and unanimously approved.***

## **6B. BUDGET DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE CUT**

Winchester Selectmen cut the WPS budget by \$1 million dollars. The WPS Board and Superintendent asked Gilbert if TGS would consider reducing our 2026-27 budget. Mike Susi suggested options for reductions for the budget, proposing a \$100,000.00 reduction if we were to self-insure, and also eliminating two instructional aide positions for approximately \$200,000.00. Board members discussed these options at length.

***Motion to cut \$300,000.00 from Gilbert's budget in efforts to support WPS \$1 million dollar reduction by Holly Cassaday, seconded by Theresa Padin and unanimously approved.***

## **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Finance 1. Monthly Finance Report 2. Next Meeting - May 20, 2026 Ellen Marino presents. Waiting on Eversource to figure out what we are owed from solar.

B. Policy 1. Report on Meeting - April 2, 2026 2. Next Meeting - May 7, 2026 Ellen Marino presents. Many policies are to be read and acted upon this evening.

C. Building & Grounds 1. Report on Meeting - April 22, 2026 2. Next Meeting - May 20, 2026 Scott Beecher presents. Bus loop project and gym project funding and plans in motion. Mike Susi thanks Jay Case and Senator Harding who have been instrumental in discussions regarding the funding of the bus loop project.

D. Personnel 1. Next Meeting - TBD No Meeting. Need to set a date!

E. Nominating Committee 1. Next Meeting - TBD No update.

F. AD HOC Negotiating Committee 1. Next Meeting -TBD No update.

## **8. RESIGNATIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

A. Resignations 1. Linda Bishop, Receptionist 2. Donald Crossman, Associate Principal 3. Katharine Gillette, School Nurse.

## 9. OUT OF STATE FIELD TRIP REQUEST

A. Music Dept. students to Broadway, New York (5/30)

***Motion to approve Music Dept students' Field Trip to Broadway, New York by Ellen Marino, seconded by Tara Sundie and unanimously approved.***

B. Aerial Drone Competition Team to Northeast Regional Championships, West Virginia (5/13)

***Motion to approve the Aerial Drone Competition Team to Northeast Regional Championships in West Virginia by Ellen Marino, seconded by Scott Beecher and unanimously approved.***

C. World Languages Field Trip to Italy (April 2027)

***Motion to approve World Languages Field Trip to Italy by Theresa Padin, seconded by Ellen Marino and unanimously approved. (Motion contingent upon geo-political world issues...)***

## 10. ENHANCEMENT GRANT REQUEST

Aerial Drone Competition Team to Northeast Regional Championships, West Virginia (5/13)

***Motion to approve the Enhancement Grant Request for the Aerial Drone Competition Team to attend the Northeast Regional Championships in West Virginia by Ellen Marino, seconded by Theresa Padin and unanimously carried. Request is not to exceed the Enhancement Grant Fund balance of \$1688.26.***

## 11. MAY MEETING DATE CHANGE

***Motion to change the May 20, 2026, W.L. Gilbert School Corp. Regular Meeting to Wednesday, May 13, 2026, by Holly Cassaday, seconded by Ellen Marino and unanimously carried.***

## 12. FIRST READING OF POLICIES

A. Policy #1205 - Agenda Format/Preparation and Dissemination

B. Policy #1350 - Senior Citizens' Benefits

C. Policy #5140.1 - Wellness Policy

## 13. SECOND READING OF POLICIES

A. Policy #4135.11 - Emeritus/a Status

## 14. APPROVAL OF POLICIES

A. Policy #9271 - Code of Ethics

***Motion to approve Policy #9271 by Ellen Marino, seconded by Theresa Padin and unanimously carried.***

B. Policy #9271.1 - Confidentiality for Directors

***Motion to approve Policy #9271.1 by Ellen Marino, seconded by Thresa Padin and unanimously approved.***

C. Policy #9300 - Methods of Operation

***Motion to approve Policy #9300 by Ellen Marino, seconded by Thersa Padin and unanimously approved.***

D. Policy #9310 - Development, Distribution and Maintenance of Manual of Policies, Regulations, Bylaws

***Motion to approve Policy #9310 by Ellen Marino, seconded by Theresa Padin and unanimously approved.***

E. Policy #9311 - Policy Adoption, Revision, Reaffirmation

***Motion to approve Policy #9311 by Ellen Marino, seconded by Theresa Padin and unanimously approved.***

F. Policy #9312 - Amendments to Bylaws

***Motion to approve Policy #9312 by Ellen Marino, seconded by Thersa Padin and unanimously approved.***

G. Policy #9313 - Formulation, Adoption, Amendment of Administrative Regulations

***Motion to approve Policy #9313 made by Ellen Marino, seconded by Theresa Padin and unanimously approved.***

H. Policy #9314 - Suspension of Policies, Bylaws and Regulations

***Motion to approve Policy #9314 by Ellen Marino, seconded by Theresa Padin and unanimously approved.***

Policy #9320 - Public Meetings

***Motion to approve Policy #9320 by Ellen Marino, seconded by Theresa Padin and unanimously approved.***

J. Policy #9321 - Time, Place and Notification of Meetings

***Motion to approve Policy #9321 by Ellen Marino, seconded by Theresa Padin and unanimously carried.***

K. Policy #9322 - Public and Executive Sessions

***Motion to approve Policy #9322 by Ellen Marino, seconded by Theresa Padin and unanimously carried.***

L. Policy #9323 - Construction of the Agenda

***Motion to approve Policy #9323 by Ellen Marino, seconded by Theresa Padin and unanimously approved.***

## **15. HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT**

Michael Susi, Head of School

1. Budget Reduction Request Discussion
2. Bus Loop Update

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3. Strategic Long-Range Plan Update Ongoing... Process of working with Trust on planning will begin soon for 10year plan.

4. Scheduling Revamping entire schedule. English and Mathematics will be taught everyday rather than every other.

**16. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT**

Winchester. Ongoing budget workshopping.

**17. SCHOOL CORPORATION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Holly Cassaday. Budget workshopping has been the most important topic of discussion over the last month or so.

Reminder: Town Meeting May 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00PM!

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion to adjourn at 8:22PM by Scott Beecher, seconded by Johnathan Morhardt and unanimously approved.***

Respectfully submitted,  
Lauren Jones Dombrowski