THE W. L. GILBERT SCHOOL CORPORATION
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, May 13, 2026
THE GILBERT SCHOOL
6:30 PM
Library
MINUTES

1. **OPENING OF MEETING**
   The meeting is called to order at 6:31PM by Holly Cassaday (School Corp Chair). Members in attendance include Ellen Marino, Theresa Padin, Michael P. Susi (Head of School), Jonathan Morhardt, Shane Centrella, Frank Oliveri, Kurt Werner, Tara Sundie and Student Representatives Mackenzie Hale (HS) James Slauta (HS) Makayla DeSanti (MS) Ashlynn Glinsman (MS).
   Scott Beecher is absent excused.

2. **Public Forum**
   A. Pledge of Allegiance - Jonathan Morhardt
   B. Vision and Mission Statement - Jonathan Morhardt
   A. General Public The W. L. Gilbert School Corporation welcomes comments from the public.
   B. Student Representatives Report Final exams, College Commitment, Spring Concert, AP Exams, Teacher Appreciation, Memorial Day Parade, Broadway Show for students, Prom, NHS

3. **Call for agenda Items**
   Motion, Holly Cassaday, to move "Early Retirement Plan" under item 12 up to Item 8B, seconded by Ellen Marino and unanimously approved.

4. **AWARDS**
   A. CAS High School Arts Award Recognition (Kate Hudak & Shelby Salius)
   B. CAS Middle Level Scholar Leader Award Recognition (Isabella Biraga & Henry Combs)
   C. CIAC Scholar-Athlete Award Recognition (Daisy Leach & Addyson Lillie)
   D. LCSA Superintendent Award Recognition (Zairalis Fernandez, Nathan Murphy, Ethan Cavajani, Keegan Connolly)
   E. Student Representative Recognition (Makayla DeSanti, AshLynn Glinsman, Mackenzie Hale, Cameron Picard, Shelby Salius, James Slauta)
   F. CABE Leadership Awards (Mikayla DeSanti, Jose Sued, Arkell Roberts, Shelby Salius)
   G. Valedictorian & Salutatorian Recognition (Catherine Marino & Christina Harrington)

BRIEF BREAK FOR REFRESHMENTS

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**
   A. Received

1. Jared Fritch (Edward F. Keeley Memorial Auditorium)

Motion to approve the naming of the auditorium the "Edward F Keeley Memorial Auditorium" made by Holly Cassaday, seconded by Theresa Padin and unanimously approved.

2. Christopher Sandford (John Adam Groth '06 Memorial Gymnasium)

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting - April 22, 2026 by Ellen Marino, seconded by Jonathan Morhardt and unanimously approved with corrections; SBAC and spelling of Theresa Padin name.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance 1. Monthly Finance Report 2. Next Meeting - June 17, 2026 Everything looks good. Ontrack for the end of the year.

B. Policy 1. Report on Meeting - May 7, 2026 CANCELED 2. Next Meeting - June 4, 2026 No meeting.

C. Building & Grounds 1. Report on Meeting - April 22, 2026 2. Next Meeting - June 17, 2026 Huge "win" with bus loop funding coming through from the state. See Head of School Report.

D. Personnel 1. Report on Meeting - May 13, 2026 2. Next Meeting - TBD No meeting.

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

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

8.

A. ***Motion to approve cafeteria meal price increases from $2.00 to $2.50 for breakfast and from $3.75 to $4.25 for lunch by Kurt Werner, seconded by Jonathan Morhardt and unanimously approved.***

B. "Early Retirement Plan" Hoping folks will take advantage of this opportunity. Cash payout of $10,000, single health care paid for, up to one year, 75% of total amount will be covered, as an encouragement for people to retire. I.E. an employee who has worked for at least 20 years can take advantage of this offer.

Motion to approve the Early Retirement Plan by Holly Cassaday, seconded by Ellen Marino and unanimously approved.

9. SPECIAL EDUCATION MOU DISCUSSION AND VOTE

Motion to approve the Special Education MOU, Frank Oliveri, seconded by Ellen Marino and approved. Theresa Padin votes NO.

10. Second Reading of Policies

Will vote on the following, next month.

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

B. Policy #1350 - Senior Citizens' Benefits

C. Policy #5140.1 - Wellness Policy

11. APPROVAL OF POLICIES

A. Policy #4135.11 - Emeritus/a Status

Motion to approve Policy #4135.11 – Emeritus/Status by Ellen Marino, seconded by Jonathan Morhardt and unanimously approved.

12. HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

A. Michael Susi, Head of School

1. Bus Loop Update

Due to incredible efforts by Jay Case, Senator Harding our lobbyist (Kevin Hill) AND Head of School Susi, good news prevails. The bus loop project will be state-funded up to $4,685,000.00. Hope to break ground next summer. We will need to come up with about 23% of the cost. Huge win, excellent for Gilbert. Zero cost to the town.

~~2. Earlier Retirement Plan~~

3. Insurance Update Self-insured process is happening. Q&A for employees, if needed.

4. Scheduling Just about done with getting incoming 6th graders in computer with schedules so we can determine class sizes, efficiencies, under/over enrolled.

13. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

A. Winchester

Budget passed at Town Meeting for Referendum on May 30th

Two consultants hired to work together to look at the way that our schools function and how we can improve ($20,000 cost for both) WPS takeover? Gilbert takeover? Considering options.

Presentation August 11th.

14. SCHOOL CORPORATION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. Holly Cassaday

May 30th VOTE

15. MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AND INVITE HEAD OF SCHOOL SUSI

Motion to enter Executive Session and invite Head of School Susi made Shane Centrella, seconded by Jonathan Morhardt and unanimously approved.

Executive Session ends at 8:15PM.

1. Pursuant to C.G.S. Sections 1-200(6)(A): Discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health, or dismissal of a public official or employee;

2. Discussion and possible action on the employment performance, evaluation, health, or dismissal of a public employee.

16. HEAD OF SCHOOL CONTRACT DISCUSSION & VOTE

Motion to compensate for 5 vacation days by Frank Oliveri, seconded by Johnathan Morhardt and unanimously approved.

Motion to have Board Chair sign updated contract as discussed and extend the contract for one additional year by Ellen Marino, seconded by Jonathan Morhardt and unanimously approved.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:18PM by Jonathan Morhardt, seconded by Theresa Padin and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Jones Dombrowski