

Glocester School Committee
Ponaganset High School Library
137 Anan Wade Road
Glocester, RI 02857

April 4, 2023
6:00 pm

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
- DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:
4. Approval of Minutes from the March 7, 2023 School Committee Meeting – Open and Executive Sessions
5. Approval of Bills - Approval of bills for March 2023
6. Finance Director's Report - Report on activities relating to the Finance Office
7. Town Council Update - Update on activities relating to the School Department
8. Update on Capital Projects
9. Revisions to Pupil Transportation Policy - Attached
10. Revisions to Proposed 2023-2024 Budget
11. Revisions to School Committee Meeting Dates
12. Public Comment – Relating to Current or Future Agenda Items
13. Communications From/To Members of the School Committee and/or School District
14. Future Agenda Items – Identification of Future Agenda Items
15. Adjournment

DRAFT

Policy 3545

GLOCESTER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT Glocester, RI

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION POLICY

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish School Committee expectations in regards to the transportation of students to and from school in support of meeting its obligations to provide for the education of its school age children.

PHILOSOPHY:

- A. This policy is established in keeping with RIGL 16-2-9 (21), which states that school committees are responsible “to provide transportation services that meet or exceed standards of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education.” The School Committee believes that the foundation of any transportation system is efficiency and safety and sets forth its policy in keeping with that belief.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Committee shall, through its administrators, arrange the bus routes so as to ensure maximum efficiency without sacrificing safety. In consideration thereof, students shall be eligible for transportation services as herewith set forth:

1. The maximum walking distance normally required of a student to reach either a school building or a scheduled bus route stop within the Town of Glocester shall not exceed the following distances, including out of district transportation:
 - a. Grades K – 5 one-half (1/2) mile
 - b. Grades 6 – 8 one (1) mile
 - c. Grades 9 – 12 one and one-half (1½) miles

Whenever distances exceed these maximums, school bus transportation will be provided if such transportation does not endanger the children already on the bus or the equipment of the bus contractor.

2. No student will be required to cross a highway.
3. No elementary student will be required to walk more than one-half mile to a bus stop. **Private roads may require a different protocol with regards to safety.**
4. Students for whom the district provides out of district transportation may be assigned to a centralized bus stop in order to shorten the time of the route.

5. All daycare drop-off and pick-up arrangements are to be for the entire year.
6. All students in Kindergarten and First Grade are to be met at the bus stop.
7. In compliance with RIGL 16-21-17, Gloucester School District will provide bus safety instruction for all students in grades Kindergarten through five (5). This instruction shall be given no fewer than four (4) times per school year with two (2) taking place during the months of September and October. These sessions shall be scheduled in conjunction with the companies providing transportation services to the district.
8. All students shall be given a copy of the bus rules and expectations for student behavior. An acknowledgment indicating that the parent/guardian has read the handbook must be signed and returned to school.
9. Safety equipment required by state law shall be provided to all bus monitors.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

The Committee, through administration and the bus **companies** ~~contractor(s)~~, delegates bus safety to the bus drivers. The Committee will support any reasonable action by the driver to ensure safety.

~~Whereas~~ Adjudication of alleged misbehavior is the responsibility of the administration, **Consequently, administration** they will define acceptable limits of behavior as well as **define** the appeal procedures to be followed when administrative action against a violation is challenged. **Appeals must be made within 10 days and directed to the Superintendent's Office (401-568-6206 X 237). Appeals to the Superintendent's decision may be directed to the School Committee.**

At no time will the driver have the authority to put a student off the bus **prior to arriving** at the home or school end of any trip.

EXCLUSION OF **BARRING STUDENTS FROM A SCHOOL BUS:**

The Principal, Transportation Coordinator and Bus Driver, collectively may determine that a student be barred from riding the bus if he/she has created disturbances on school buses that pose a threat to the safety of students and adults on the bus.

Students **who have been barred from riding the bus** ~~so removed~~ shall not be eligible to resume riding any school bus operated under the jurisdiction of the Gloucester School Department until such student, together with his/her parent or guardian, has an interview with the Principal and **is granted** permission to resume riding **the bus**. ~~has been granted.~~

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:

In the event of an ~~unfortunate~~ accident or incident that causes a disruption to ~~meeting~~ the regular schedule ~~operation~~ of a school bus, the following procedures will be followed. Bus drivers will:

1. ~~Bus drivers will~~ Remain with the children at all times.
2. ~~Bus drivers should~~ Stay with the vehicle, using emergency lights to stop other vehicles.
3. ~~Bus drivers~~ Attempt to have the driver of another vehicle notify ~~owners~~ the bus company and the school department of any problem preventing them from continuing.
4. ~~Bus driver may send a responsible child to a nearby house to use phone if they cannot reach assistance using the bus radio.~~
5. Notify superintendent's office as soon as possible of any accident.
6. Notify the police department.
7. If in doubt about the extent of any injuries Rescue will be called.
8. Submit a written report to the Superintendent within 24 hours.
9. Emergency drills will be administered **conducted twice a year by the bus company approximately in September and January.** ~~each school bus – September each year, and perhaps in January. to redrill children because of the snow conditions.~~

BUS TRANSPORTATION Guidelines PROCEDURES;

Safety and efficiency are primary concerns of school bus transportation. Bus routes shall be arranged so as to ensure maximum efficiency without sacrificing safety. No elementary student will be required to cross a highway or walk more than .5 mile to a bus stop. Every attempt will be made to pick up and **drop off** students as close to home as possible.

- The school department agrees to continue to transport children to day care providers when such a service is along the normal neighborhood bus route.
- Parents are required to confirm daycare plans in writing with the school.
- To the extent possible, the school department must insist that day care providers be consistent every week.
- It may not be possible for a child to be transported to a daycare provider who is not on the child's normal neighborhood bus route. The school department will try to accommodate requests but cannot guarantee that all requests will be met.

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- Special requests should be directed to the Transportation Coordinator (globusco@gloc.schools.org), who will in turn notify the Principal's office. Contact the ~~Business Office~~ or Superintendent's office with questions concerning bus policies.
- Under no circumstances are children allowed to change busses and/or stops without a completed Bus Consent Form. (~~enclosed in this packet and~~ posted on each school website)
- Children in Kindergarten and First Grade must have someone to meet them at the bus stop or they will not be dropped off. The child may be brought back to the school for parent pick-up **depending upon access to the school building, the bus location, and/or the bus route. If the school is closed at that time, the child will be taken to the bus yard and the bus driver and bus coordinator will stay with the child until he or she is picked up. A second attempt to safely drop off the student at home may be made if the bus travels past the home on the way to the bus yard.** If you miss your child's bus, please call the school office @ 568-6211 (FMS) or 567-0350 (WGE) to inform them. Bus locations:
Hopkins Transportation: 1378 Snake Hill Road, N Scituate, RI 02857 (568-5093)
Jaques Bus Line: 1402 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI 02814 (568-8433)

BUS BEHAVIOR/ RULES:

Proper conduct is required of all students riding the bus. The safety of students will not be jeopardized by inappropriate behavior. The bus driver is the authority on the bus; parental support for the driver is essential. Students may be temporarily suspended from riding the school bus if behavior interferes with the operation of a safe and orderly transportation system. **Children must:**

- Take you're **Take a** seat and remain seated until you **they** have reached you're **their** destination.
- Use respectful language; no loud talk or noises that may distract the driver.
- Keep aisles clear of objects at all times.
- Not throw anything out of bus windows.
- No eating, drinking, smoking or lighting matches allowed on the bus.
- Upon leaving the bus, **children must** wait until the driver signals that it is safe to cross the street and always check traffic in both directions before crossing.
- In the event of an emergency, emergency exit procedures will be followed.

First Reading: February 12, 2002
 Second Reading: March 12, 2002
 Final Adoption: March 12, 2002
 Revised: