

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order by Chair, Mr. Hebert, at 7:00 pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Mr. Hebert, Mr. Steere, Mr. Baker, Mr. Skeffington and Ms. Michalik. Mr. Gieck was absent. Mr. Mainville, Business Manager, and Mr. Piccirilli and Mr. Robert Wallace, Superintendent, were also in attendance.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mr. Steere that the actions of the School Committee at the meeting scheduled on October 21, 2008 be approved as presented. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mr. Steere that the Executive Minutes (sealed) from October 21, 2008 be accepted as presented. Motion passed 5-0-0.

V. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion by Mr. Skeffington seconded by Ms. Michalik that the approval of bills dated 10/1/2008 to 10/31/2008 in the amount of \$579,089.54 be approved as presented. Motion passed 5-0-0.

VI. GLOCESTER SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFFING POLICY

Mr. Skeffington asked which School Committee members were going to be on the sub committee for the Special Education Staffing Policy. Mr. Wallace relayed that Mr. Baker from the Glocester School Committee and Mr. Chretien from the Foster School Committee along with parents and teaching staff would be on the Committee.

VII. NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

Mr. Wallace informed the Committee that the families in question had been thoroughly investigated. One group of children are foster care students. The other group in question have summer residence but rent in Glocester during the winter months. At this time there

are no other families in question. All new students are verified before acceptance into the school system.

VIII. TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE

Mr. Steer relayed to the Committee that the Town Council has identified where they will be cutting in their budget to cover the \$63,000 deficit. The Town council would like the School Committee to identify where the cuts will take place in order to cover their share of the \$90,000 deficit.

IX. BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. Mainville informed the Committee that reports have not been adjusted. He is waiting on the State amounts and grants in order to have a better picture of where things will end up. The Audit is in final stages and that will determine a better number to work from.

X. PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW IF DEFICIT IS ANTICIPATED

The Committee understands and has a procedure to follow but are still waiting for numbers to work with.

XI. BUSING ISSUES – REGION

The problem of charter busing (this is a separate contracted service) for extra curricular activities and the need for this service to be billed to the Region not the Gloucester School Department was discussed again. It was decided that the bus company needs to keep track of miles and the price per gallon for those miles and will make a formal request. Mr. Mainville will contact the Regional Financial Director on this matter also. It was also suggested that the total amount for fuel and busing etc. be given to the Region from the get go and expense out the monies through the region along with the busing contract (have one busing contract) but this would need a charter revision. A motion by Mr. Baker and seconded by Ms. Michalik to request that the providers keep track of mileage for any charter busing for the high school and the middle school was accepted. Motion passes: 5-0-0.

XII. BUSING CONTRACTS

Mr. Steere informed the Committee that the busing contract committee had not met since the last meeting. Mr. Mainville would like to look into the Gloucester School Department purchasing the diesel fuel and supplying the bus companies. In theory this might work and foresees a substantial savings.

XIII. 2008-2009 BUDGET RECONCILIATION

Mr. Hebert requested an official letter from the Town Council stating the Town's share and the School Committee's share. Mr. Settee was present and by the end of the meeting the Town Council had issued the letter.

XIV. 2009-2010 BUDGET

Mr. Wallace expressed his regret for not having a preliminary budget for the Committee but has been working with the Principals of Fogarty and West Gloucester and has instructed the principals during these astir times that they level fund where possible.

XV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Personnel – Resignations/Leaves/Appointments –
 - a. Mr. Wallace recommended the retirement of Eunice Young, teacher assistant at the West Gloucester Elementary School, be accepted with regret effective December 26, 2008. Ms. Young has 34 years of devoted service to the students of West Gloucester. On a motion by Mr. Skeffington and seconded by Ms. Michalik the retirement was accepted with much regret. Motion passes 5-0-0.
 - b. Mr. Wallace recommended that the retirement of Lydia Steere, Special Education Clerk be accepted with regret effective December 29, 2008. Ms. Steere has thirty seven years of devoted service to the students of Gloucester. On a motion by Mr. Skeffington and seconded by Ms. Michalik the retirement request was accepted with regret. Motion passes 5-0-0.

Mr. Hebert expressed for the whole Committee their heartfelt thanks and wished them both good luck.

Mr. Wallace informed the Committee that the Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC) is creating a new workers' compensation safety / service group designed to help alleviate injuries with training and to reduce premiums paid by public and private school departments. Mr. Wallace has authorized the RIASC to act on Gloucester's Elementary School District's behalf in negotiating the terms and conditions of the District's participation on a workers' compensation safety / service group. This will hopefully save money for workers' compensation in the future.

XVI. SIX YEAR CAPITAL PROJECTS SCHEDULE

Mr. Wallace let the Committee know he had received a letter from the Town Planning office requesting a six year Capital Project list. Mr. Wallace and Mr. McGovern worked together in preparing the Capital Project Report, which was also supplied to the Committee for Fogarty and West Gloucester. See attached proposals. On a motion by Mr.

Baker and seconded by Mr. Skeffington to accept the Projected Capital Project Report as presented was passed. 5-0-0.

XVII. HOME SCHOOLING REQUESTS

On a motion by Mr. Baker seconded by Mr. Steere the request by Raymond and Ann Goff, parents to Nikolaus (5th grade), Juliana (3rd grade) and Raymond (1st grade), to home school her children was approved.

Motion passed 5-0-0.

XVIII. COMMUNICATIONS

None at this time.

XIX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following items were expressed to be included on next month's agenda –

- Glocester Special Education Staffing Policy
- Town Council Update
- Budget Update
- Budget Deficit Procedures
- Bussing Issues
- Bussing Contract
- Gate Keeper Contract
- Non-Glocester students attending Glocester Schools
- 2008-2009 Budget Reconciliation
- 2009-2010 Budget

XX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. O'Connor expressed her gratitude towards the two retirees, Ms. Young and Ms. Steere, and wished them well.

XXI. Move to Executive Session per RI General Laws (42-46) Open Meeting Law

Motion by Ms. Michalik seconded by Mr. Skeffington, that the Committee recess into Executive Session per R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 at 7:58pm to consider Non-Certified Contract Negotiations/Collective Bargaining/Potential Litigation/Busing Contract. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Steere that the Committee reconvenes to Open Session at 8:30pm. Motion passed 5-0-0.

XXII. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Motion by Ms. Michalik seconded by Mr. Baker, to seal the minutes of Executive Session.

- a. General Disclosure of Executive Session Procedures
- b. Disclosure of any votes taken - none

Motion passed 5-0-0.

XXIII. ADJOURMENT

Motion by Mr. Skeffington seconded by Mr. Steere that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Motion passes 5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Helena McCullough