

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order by Chair, Mr. Hebert, at 7:01 pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Mr. Hebert, Mr. Steere, Mr. Skeffington and Ms. Anne E. Ejnes, Ms. Mary Elizabeth Keeling, and Mr. Steven A. Sette. Mr. Mainville, Business Manager, and Mr. Piccirilli and Mr. Robert Wallace, Superintendent, were also in attendance.

IV. COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION

A motion from Mr. Skeffington, seconded by Mr. Steere to nominate Mr. Sette as Chairman of the Committee. Vote was 3-3-0. A motion from Ms. Ejnes seconded by Ms. Keeling to nominate Mr. Hebert as Chairman of the Committee. Vote was 3-3-0. Mr. Piccirilli explained that if there is a tie vote, the current Chairman would remain Chairman unless a School Committee member wishes to nominate another individual at another meeting (as long as all Committee members are present).

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Steere and seconded by Mr. Sette that the actions of the School Committee at the meeting scheduled on December 16, 2008 Open Meeting and Executive Session (sealed) be approved as presented.

Motion passed 3-0-3.

VI. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion by Mr. Skeffington seconded by Ms. Ejnes that the approval of bills dated 12/1/2008 to 12/31/2008 in the amount of \$393,573.43 be approved as presented.

Motion passed 6-0-0.

VII. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT - NWSE COLLABORATIVE

On a motion from Mr. Sette and seconded by Mr. Steere to open for discussion the Northwest Special Education Memorandum. Mr. Sette asked Mr. John Magner for clarification of this agreement. Mr. Magner explained that Foster/Glocester, Foster and

Scituate all contribute a LEA share in support of the plan. Beginning September 2009 the following formula will be instituted:

The cost of the regional collaborative is \$86,156.24.

Scituate - 50% of the total cost = \$43,078.24

Foster/Glocester - 34% of the total cost = \$29,293.12

Glocester - 16% of the total cost = \$13,785.00

Foster will continue to provide in-kind support as per Rental Agreement, which provides space & upkeep of the building and grounds.

Percentages are based on a prorated portion of "one half of total cost" using the October 2008 total student enrollment of Foster/Glocester and Glocester and will be updated.

On a motion from Mr. Sette and seconded by Mr. Steere to except the Northwest Special Education Memorandum as presented. Motion passed. 5-1-0

VIII. TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE

Nothing to report at this time. Ms. Ejnes relayed to the Committee that Mr. Burlingame is the Town Council's liaison to the School Committee. Mr. Hebert invited the Town Council to budget meetings.

IX. BUSING CONTRACT

Mr. Piccirilli suggested waiting until the Executive Session to discuss the contract.

X. BUDGET 2008-2009

Mr. Mainville informed the Committee that the budget is status quo and should break even. However, Mr. Mainville would like a discussion with the Town Council to discuss the Governor's proposals and how these cuts will impact the current budget. Mr. Wallace informed the Committee that he has instituted a spending freeze for both schools unless it is a necessary expense. Mr. McGovern, building supervisor, will also be informed of the spending freeze.

XI. BUDGET 2009-2010

The Budget Sub-Committee, consisting of members - Mr. Steer, Mr. Hebert, Mr. Wallace and Mr. Mainville met on December 23, 2008 to discuss the 2009-2010 Budget. The Budget Sub-Committee will present the budget at the January 28th meeting of the Budget Board.

XII. REGIONAL/GLOCESTER MUTUAL EXPENSE ASSISTANCE

Dr. Barnes, Superintendent of the Foster Glocester Regional School District gave Mr. Mainville a cost-share plan review. The region keeps track of data, i.e. Attendance, records etc. This item has been placed on the agenda for February for further review.

XIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Personnel – Resignations/Leaves/Appointments/Layoffs

Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 16-13-2, Mr. Wallace recommended the employment for the following teachers be non-renewed for the 2009-2010 school year:

Bethany Coia
Nancy O'Reilly
Olivia Queenan
Lisa Giorgianni
Laura Livingston
Suzanne Greenwood
Jennifer Harris
Kate Volino
Amy Sullivan
Tina Crawley
Nancy Saccoccio
Erin MacPhee
Lynn Benetti

On a motion from Mr. Skeffington and seconded by Mr. Steere, the Committee accepted the Superintendent's recommendation as set forth in the layoff letter sent to the above teachers, i.e., "the level of state and local funding for the upcoming year is uncertain...employment may be adversely affected by budget driven economy and/or declining enrollment."

Motion passed. 6-0-0

XIV. COMMUNICATIONS

None at this time.

XV. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Glocester Special Education Staffing Policy
- Regional/Glocester Mutual Expense Assistance
- Appointments to the Budget Sub-Committee
- Long-term Fuel Oil Contract
- Audit
- Distribution of School Committee Minutes
- 2008-2009 Budget
- 2009-2010 Budget
- Re-organization of the School Committee

XVI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lisa Sargent, representing the staff from the Fogarty Memorial School, expressed their heart-felt thanks to Mr. Robert McKenna, Interim Principal. They thanked him for his time and energy and he would be sorely missed. Mr. Hebert asked the Superintendent to send a letter from the School Committee expressing their thanks.

Lorrain O'Connor expressed her concern of moving the Capital budget to the Town and the School Department receiving reimbursement for housing aid.

Lisa Giogianni expressed her concern of the lay-offs including senior teachers and programs being completely cut from the budget.

Mr. Hebert expressed the Committees thanks for the "meet and greet" that the Gloucester Teachers Association put on.

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

Motion by Mr. Sette seconded by Ms. Ejnes, that the Committee recess into Executive Session per R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 at 8:05 pm to consider Collective Bargaining/Contract Negotiations/Busing contracts/Grievances/Potential Litigation - Special Education. Motion passed 6-0-0.

Motion by Mr. Sette, seconded by Mr. Steere that the Committee reconvene to Open Session at 9:43 pm. Motion passed 6-0-0.

XVIII. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Motion by Mr. Skeffington seconded by Mr. Steere, to seal the minutes of Executive Session.

- a. General Disclosure of Executive Session Procedures
- b. Disclosure of any votes taken -
 1. Grievance denied. Vote 6-0-0.
 2. Busing Contract with Jacques Bussing and Hopkins Transportation Company for one year 2008-2009 passed. Vote 6-0-0.
 3. Negotiating team for GTA Contract:
 - a) Mr. Steve Sette
 - b) Mr. Chris Hebert
 - c) Ms. Beth Keeling

Motion passed 6-0-0.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Ejnes seconded by Mr. Sette that the meeting be adjourned at 9:45 p.m. Motion passes 6-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Helena McCullough