

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order by Chair, Mr. Hebert, at 7:02 pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Mr. Chris Hebert, Mr. Walter Steere, Mr. Peter Skeffington, Mrs. Anne E. Ejnes, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Keeling, Mr. Steven A. Sette, Mr. Tom Mainville, Business Manager, and Mr. Greg Piccirilli, Legal Attorney and Mr. Robert Wallace, Superintendent.

IV. AUDIT

A motion by Mr. Sette and seconded by Mr. Steere, the School Committee voted to table the presentation of the Audit to a later date. Motion passed. 6-0-0.

The next item on the Agenda - Glocester Special Education Policy was moved down on the Agenda in order to have Mr. Magner address the policy and be in attendance in case the School Committee had questions.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Steere and seconded by Mrs. Ejnes that the actions of the School Committee at the meetings scheduled on February 26, 2009 and March 17, 2009 Open Meeting and Executive Session (sealed) be approved as presented.
Motion passed 6-0-0.

VII. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion by Mrs. Keeling seconded by Mr. Skeffington that the approval of bills dated 3/1/2009 to 3/31/2009 in the amount of \$434,140.40 be approved as presented.
Motion passed 6-0-0.

VIII. FOOD SERVICES CONTRACT

On a motion by Mrs. Ejnes and seconded by Mrs. Keeling, the School Committee voted to go out to bid for Food Services. Motion passed. 6-0-0.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

Mr. Wallace provided the School Committee with a copy of the R.I.G.L. 16-16-24 pertaining to employment of retired school personnel. In essence the law states that a School Committee must make a "good faith" effort to find a non-retired Superintendent. Mr. Wallace recommended advertising the position. Mr. Piccirilli was called on by the Chair for any legal recommendations but Mr. Piccirilli agreed with Mr. Wallace. On a

motion by Mr. Sette and seconded by Mr. Skeffington, the School Committee approved the Superintendent's recommendation to advertise for a non-retired Superintendent with no time limit. Motion passed. 6-0-0.

X. SUPERINTENDENT / CLERICAL ASSISTANT

Mr. Wallace shared with the School Committee that there might be a need to provide a new clerical assistant for the School Committee but there is not. So on a motion by Mr. Sette and seconded by Mr. Skeffington the School Committee voted to remove this item from the agenda. Motion passed. 6-0-0.

XI. PLAYGROUND - FOGARTY

Mr. Joseph McGovern, maintenance Supervisor, shared the safety issues with a swing set at Fogarty school. Mr. McGovern had representatives from The Trust view the swing set and The Trust declared the area unsafe. A possible \$1500 to \$2200 cost would be needed to bring the area up to safety standards. Mr. McGovern relayed that the monies are budgeted and there is no extra expense and that The Trust would be involved with the upgrade and approval of the process.

XII. NATURE TRAIL - WEST GLOCESTER

A parent from West Gloucester updated the School Committee on the progress being made on the Walking Trail. The trail is approximately 1/4 of a mile long with two picnic tables (one more to be purchased). There is still more raking and widening to be done. Mr. Hebert expressed his and the School Committee's appreciation for the extensive work and time by all individuals who participated in this project.

XIII. TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE

Mr. Steere informed the School Committee that there was nothing new to report.

XIV. BUDGET 2008-2009

Mr. Mainville informed the School Committee that he is anticipating finishing the year within the Budget.

V. GLOCESTER SPECIAL EDUCATION POLICY - 1ST READING

At this time the School Committee invited Mr. Magner to review the first reading of the Gloucester Special Education Policy. On a motion by Mr. Sette and seconded by Mrs. Keeling the School Committee accepted the first reading of the policy. The second reading of the policy will be placed on May 2009 agenda. Motion passed. 5-0-1.

Vote as follows:

Mr. Hebert - yes

Mr. Steere - yes

Mr. Sette - yes

Mrs. Ejnes - yes

Mrs. Keeling - yes

Mr. Skeffington - abstain

XV. BUDGET 2009-2010

The Town Council asked the School Committee to present a flat funded budget with a zero increase. On a motion by Mr. Skeffington and seconded by Mrs. Keeling, the School Committee adopted the budget as presented, zero increase. Motion passed. 6-0-0.

Mr. Hebert wished to thank the Budget Sub-Committee for their work and with this budget the School Committee should be able to sustain the level of student education but is aware of the possibility of unforeseen changes and that those would need to be addressed at that time. Mr. Steere thanked Mr. Mainville and Jackie and staff for their undaunted efforts. Mrs. Ejnes wished to thank the Superintendent, Mr. Wallace and Dr. Bowen and Mr. McGovern for their contributions. Mr. Sette echoed that sentiment and felt that they had approved an educationally sound budget. In other words no programs have been cut and class size will be within contractual agreements.

XVI. PTO LIAISON

Mrs. Ejnes and Mrs. Keeling were appointed by Mr. Hebert to be liaison's to the PTO's at both elementary schools.

XVII. ADDITIONAL SUB-COMMITTEES

Mr. Hebert suggested that members of the School Committee think about the sub-committees that they feel should be formed to address several issues and bring their ideas with definite beginnings and endings to the May 19, 2009 meeting.

XVIII. REGIONAL / GLOCESTER MUTUAL EXPENSE ASSISTANCE

Mr. Steere let the Committee know that this item would be ongoing. An extra \$75,000 to \$80,000 would be expensed to Gloucester by the Region for IT services. A committee is being developed to cover this item.

XIX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Skeffington and seconded by Mrs. Keeling, the School Committee approved Superintendent Wallace's recommendation to accept with regret the retirement of Laura Henderson with her last day being the last day of the current school year. Motion passed. 6-0-0.

XX. COMMUNICATIONS

None at this time.

XXI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Glocester Special Education Staffing Policy
- Regional/Glocester Mutual Expense Assistance
- Audit
- 2008-2009 Budget
- 2009-2010 Budget
- Liaison to PTO
- Sub -Committees - additional

Food Services - contract
Superintendent Search Committee - Formation
Appointment of Principal - Fogarty
2009-2010 School Calendar
Superintendent's Report - Recalls

XXII. PUBLIC COMMENT

An audience member relayed that the Regional Financial Meeting had not been posted on the Town's web site.

Deborah Audiello, West Gloucester's Secretary, wanted to be informed of any IT changes when the Committee is formed.

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

Motion by Mr. Sette seconded by Mrs. Keeling, that the Committee recess into Executive Session per R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 at 8:00 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 Mrs. Keeling that the Committee reconvene to Open Session at 8:45 pm. Motion passed 6-0-0.

On a motion by Mr. Sette and seconded by Mr. Steere the Committee voted to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Motion passed. 6-0-0.

XXIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Ejnes seconded by Mrs. Keeling that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Motion passed. 6-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Helena McCullough