

**MINUTES ~ April 14, 2009**  
Ponaganset High School-Library

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Gregory Laramie, Chair of the Foster Glocester Regional Building Committee, called the meeting of the Foster Glocester Regional Building Committee to order at 6:30 PM in the Ponaganset High School, Library.

**2. Roll Call**

Mrs. Kecia Pierce called the roll. In attendance were Mr. Gregory Laramie of Glocester, Mr. Warren Ducharme of Foster, Mrs. Anne Ejnes of Glocester, Mr. Bill Abt of Foster, Mr. Raymond Fogarty of Glocester and Mr. George Jacques of Glocester. Mr. Dennis Chretien of Foster was absent as he is out of town and Mrs. Julie Capobianco of Foster was absent.

**3. Financial Report**

Ms. Sarah Hann reviewed the Treasurer's Report which committee members had received prior to the meeting. The Treasurer's summary report is attached as reference 1. Ms. Hann noted that on the summary page, the date through which the accounts have been reconciled should read 2009, not 2008. Ms. Hann reported that she has not provided the committee with the general ledger detail pages as she is still reviewing and reconciling the accounts but she will have this information for next month's meeting. Mr. Jacques moved and Mr. Ducharme seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as presented with the change to the year as noted. So voted, 6-0.

Ms. Hann reported that she and Mr. Ron Cervasio signed the ESCO bond closing documents and noted that the closing will take place tomorrow (April 15<sup>th</sup>). She reported that they received the same housing aid reimbursement rate, 67%, as the last bond. It was noted that the rate approved by voters at the regional financial meeting was 60% so the project has received 7.2% higher than what was approved. Mr. Fogarty stated that this amounts to \$1.7M more than originally calculated for reimbursement from the state that the community will not be responsible for.

**4. Middle School Biomass Update**

Before discussing the middle school, Mr. Laramie welcomed everyone to the new high school library and noted that this is the first public meeting to be held in the renovated space. He stated that the library looks good and will serve the school and community well.

Mr. Bob Grzyb reported that they have paved the finish coat on the driveway around the biomass building and they will start landscaping this week. He noted that the athletic field will be included in the seeding. Mr. Laramie asked if they've coordinated with the athletic director regarding the seeding of the fields. Mr. Grzyb and Mr.

McGovern reported that the fields are not being used yet as they are still soft so the seeding should not be an issue.

Mr. Steve Manwell reported on the punch list saying that the HVAC has been closed out with a few minor loose ends remaining. Mr. Grzyb reported that Mr. McGovern has given them the HVAC punch list items and they are working on it while school is out. He reported that the band room door is scheduled to come in April 20<sup>th</sup>, the other hardware issues have been fixed and there are a few plumbing items that they are working on. He stated that most of the items should be taken care of by Friday.

Mr. McGovern reported that there had been an issue with the bioclear as water was seeping in from a grease trap causing bad readings. The issue has been resolved and everything is working well now.

Mr. Walter Steere asked whether they need to wait for both schools to be commissioned before they see the realized savings. Mr. Manwell reported that the calculations had been made based on full savings once both buildings are fully commissioned; they have not laid out an interim level of guarantee. Mr. Laramie noted that Mr. Alex Ziemba, Mr. Grzyb and ConEd have committee to commission this building much faster than the middle school. Mr. Abt asked if it would be done before the start of school in September. Mr. Manwell said that is reasonable but it depends on the contractors and how quickly they finish their punch list. Mr. Grzyb said there will be some remediation work to do this summer but the building should be done and commissioned by September. Mr. Manwell reported that the balancing is ongoing.

The committee agreed that they want the biomass up and running for September. Mr. Manwell reported that there are some punch list items to do but they should be taken care of for September. When asked, Mr. Manwell confirmed that regarding the middle school biomass, the overall heating use was better than expected.

## **5. High School Project Update**

Mr. Tim Alix reported that since the last meeting the library is up and running, the bathrooms are open and functioning and they have repaired the parking lot lights with the exception of the one near the construction area in the rear. He noted that there has been a lot of activity over the April vacation, the lockers have been moved from their temporary location to the second floor, the vinyl tile at the doorway is going in, the punch list for the South building is ongoing, the solar tubes and skylights are going in, the elevator shaft infill is ongoing with the shaft and elevator having been removed and the concrete going in this week, the kitchen under slab work is ongoing with the pipes and electrical conduit in, the slab will be poured Thursday and the lighting controls and programming are ongoing. Regarding site work at the biomass areas they will be paving on Thursday, loam has been spread, the seeding will follow and they will finish plantings.

Mr. Fogarty noted that he was pleasantly surprised by how much of a difference the natural lighting from the solar tube made. Mr. Fogarty questioned whether there is a group that could plant flowers, maybe as an Ag project for the students. Dr. Barnes said he supports that idea and stated that they recently had a meeting about maintaining and doing landscaping.

Mr. Alix reported that the areas still under major construction include the elevator shaft which impacts the science room on the second floor. This work should be complete by the end of May. The old library area is still under construction and is scheduled to be

completed late May. The kitchen which was targeted to be complete in mid-May has had some issues which delayed the construction; they will have a new schedule for that work. Regarding the kitchen Mr. Laramie reminded the committee that they had not authorized the kitchen equipment purchases which include the hood which goes through the ceiling. Mr. Laramie stated that this purchase needs to be approved. He noted that the food service manager has identified some things that were originally requested to be purchased as not being necessary and they will review the equipment again to see what is necessary. Mr. Fogarty moved and Mrs. Ejnes seconded to allow the chair, co-chair and Treasurer to review the quote and release all of the kitchen equipment including free standing kitchen equipment that is identified as necessary. So voted, 6-0.

Mr. Fogarty asked when the science rooms will be completed. Mr. Grzyb said the changes have been approved and they are targeting the end of the week for completion. Mr. Laramie reported that the changes in the science rooms related to the emergency shut off which the committee agreed to have installed based on a recommendation from the fire marshal.

Mr. Laramie informed the committee that he received the decision from the Fire Safety Code Board of Appeals and Review today. Mr. Ducharme noted that the decisions are posted on the Board of Appeals website at <http://www.ri.gov/RIFSC/decisions/>. The file number for this appeal is 080358. Mr. Laramie summarized the decision by stating that on item 1 the board agrees that the school will conform with the required 'No parking Fire Lane' signage, item 2 they have approved the cited roll up gate to separate the field house and the educational occupancy and items 3 and 4 were recommendations by the Fire Marshall's office not required with item 3 being the gas shut off and item 4 the fire communication system. Mr. Laramie reported that the decision from the Board notes that items 3 and 4 are voluntary upgrades and should not interfere with the final certificate of occupancy.

Mr. Fogarty questioned whether additional lighting will be put in the library. Mr. Ziembra stated that some above ceiling lighting will be added as called for in the original specs.

Mr. Fogarty noted that the plans for the energy lab are progressing thanks to the work of Mr. Mike Franklin, Mr. Ross McCurdy, Mr. Chretien, the contractors and many others. He noted that they need to have a meeting next week to discuss the construction piece as they are ready to begin. Mr. Fogarty said that the two classrooms have been drawn up and Mr. Grzyb noted that they have given a general cost estimate but it is not a bid. Mr. Fogarty stated that they want the energy lab substantially complete by September 1<sup>st</sup> and noted that the funds will be forthcoming.

Mr. Laramie read a letter from Ms. Terri Spisso thanking the building committee for the new library space and thanking the volunteers who helped move the books and shelving. The letter is included as reference 2. The committee and audience discussed the library and agreed with Ms. Spisso that the library is a welcoming place that is frequented highly. Mr. Laramie reported that there is one issue with the library in that they had intended to purchase stools for the kiosks but that wasn't done as part of the budget cuts. The chairs that the library has now are not the correct height for the kiosks and students are sitting on books on the chair to be at the correct height. Ms. Spisso has requested that the building committee approve the purchase of the stools at a cost of \$3,4020.48. Mr. Laramie reported that they had set aside \$2,500 for moving the books

and shelving and that money wasn't spent as volunteers moved the library. The committee discussed the issue and agreed that the stools are necessary. Mr. Fogarty moved and Mr. Abt seconded the authorize \$3,420.48 to be spent on the purchase of stools for the library kiosks. So voted, 6-0.

Mr. Fogarty stated that there were two flat screens in the high school, one is now in the renovated library and he questioned where the other is. No one knows where the second screen is. Dr. Barnes said that the one in the library is used as a communication tool for current events at the school.

Mr. Fogarty stated that they need messages on the sign outside to inform the kids and the community as to what is going on. Dr. Barnes said he will speak to the principal about that.

Regarding the 'naming recommendation to the School committee' agenda item, Mr. Fogarty asked Mr. Jacques to leave the meeting as he would have a conflict of interest. Mr. Fogarty reported that he would like the committee to agree to make a recommendation to the school committee to have the gymnasium named after Mr. Jacques. Mr. Fogarty noted that Mr. Jacques has been a Ponaganset community member for 40 years in several capacities, as a coach, teacher, disciplinarian and he is involved with Camp Ruggles. Mr. Fogarty noted that his is no longer directly involved with the school as he is retired. Mr. Fogarty reported that Mr. Jacques went to the grants committee eight years ago for a field house which was the start of this whole project and stated that he has put in a lot of work into the community bringing to light the athletic conditions at the school. Mr. Fogarty noted that he has spoken to the athletic director and other people who said they would support this recommendation.

The committee members and audience commented on Mr. Fogarty's suggestion. Mr. Steere stated that he doesn't agree with naming part of the school for just one person. He would be happy with a plaque or something recognizing Mr. Jacques' contributions but would really have to think about voting to approve the naming of the facility. Mrs. O'Connors stated that she agreed that in the past there has been hesitation to name something after an individual but that has been when the person is still involved in the school. She noted that Mr. Jacques is now retired and she said it's an excellent recommendation, she feels it is appropriate and deserving. Mrs. Ejnes, Mr. Ducharme, Mr. Laramie and Mr. Abt all stated that they would fully support this recommendation noting that he was the genesis of this project and it's not just what he has done for this building project but his overall work and his impression in and outside of the community is excellent. Mr. Fogarty moved and Mr. Ducharme seconded to forward a recommendation to the School Committee to have the large gymnasium in the North building named for George Jacques in recognition of his numerous commitments to the community. So voted, 6-0.

Mr. Fogarty suggested that an open house be held on June 13<sup>th</sup> for the public to see the facilities with students available for tours. He noted that he would rather not wait until September and stated that the building should be substantially complete by June. Dr. Barnes said that he supports the idea but would like to consider combining it with another event to draw as many people as possible. The committee discussed different things they could do and Dr. Barnes said he, the school committee and the administration will work on this.

## **6. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Ducharme moved and Mrs. Ejnes seconded to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2009 regular and executive session meetings. So voted, 5-0-1 with Mr. Jacques abstaining as he was not at the March meeting.

## **7. Executive Session**

Mr. Ducharme moved and Mr. Abt seconded to convene to Executive Session in accordance with RI General Laws 42-46-5(a) (2) Litigation and Potential Litigation and 42-46-5(a) (7) Investment of Public Funds. So voted, 6-0.

Mr. Laramie asked Mr. Grzyb, Mr. Alix, Mr. Aharonian, Dr. Barnes and Ms. Hann to stay for the executive session.

## **8. Reconvene to Open Session**

Mr. Laramie reconvened the meeting to open session at 8:25PM.

Mr. Fogarty moved and Mr. Ducharme seconded to seal the minutes of the April 14, 2009 executive session. So voted, 6-0.

Mr. Ducharme moved and Mr. Fogarty seconded to recognize the vote taken in executive session related to personnel issues. So voted, 6-0.

Mr. Laramie reported that a vote was taken in executive session and the committee unanimously voted to conclude the contract agreement with the owner's rep, SBS as of April 30, 2009.

## **9. Adjournment**

Mr. Jacques moved and Mr. Ducharme seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 8:27 PM. So voted, 6-0.

Prepared by: Kecia Pierce, Building Committee Clerk

Approved by: Foster Gloucester Building Committee, May 12, 2009