

FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
CAPTAIN ISAAC PAINE SCHOOL CAFETERIA
7:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 28, 2006

ATTENDANCE:

Chairwoman Donna Mansolillo, Vice Chair Patricia Fountain, Member Paul Darcy, Superintendent Robert Wallace, Principal Gary Moore.

OPENING:

School Committee reconvened to open session from executive session at 7:10 p.m. Chairwoman Mansolillo reported no votes were taken in executive session. The "Pledge of Allegiance" was recited. The floor was opened for public comment from 7:11 to 7:21.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT ATTORNEY:

Chairwoman Mansolillo wanted it known that Maryanne Carrol, legal advisor to Jonathan Mitchell, called each individual school committee member at home to ask their consent to allow the law firm of Robinson & Associates to represent her client. Each individual school committee member met with Ms. Carrol to sign a letter indicating their consent for her request. These letters were given to Judge Fortunato. At no time was a meeting convened to discuss this issue. Mrs. Fountain made a motion to approve that the school committee approve the representation of the town treasurer, Mr. Mitchell, by Maryanne Carrol of the law firm of Robinson & Associates. Chairwoman Mansolillo seconded. Mr. Darcy noted that he does not endorse this. Motion passed, 2-1-0, with Mr. Darcy dissenting.

TOTAL REGIONALIZATION:

This item was moved up on the agenda. Presentation by Lorraine Connors. Discussion followed with public comment and questions allowed. School committee membership being at-large, state funding incentives and transportation were the main issues.

FOSTER TEACHERS' ASSOC. CONTRACT:

This item was tabled.

COMMUNICATIONS:

No communications.

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES:

-Tiny Hands Group requested use of the facilities on April 1, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mr. Darcy made a motion to approve. Mrs. Fountain seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

RECREATION COMMITTEE:

David Costa related that the planning board is seeking documentation from the school committee supporting the proposed plans for a baseball field on the school grounds. Discussion followed. Ron Cervasio would like to see some type of contract between the school committee and the recreation committee allowing the recreation committee to control the use of the facility after school hours. Mr. Darcy will be the point person

between the school committee and the planning board on this issue. Mrs. Mansolillo recommended a motion that the school committee agrees to support the recommendation by the recreation committee for construction of a baseball field at the school and bowing to the wishes of the planning board to support it. Mrs. Fountain moved the motion. Mr. Darcy seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0. Mr. Costa made a request to Superintendent Wallace to look into state funds for improvement on school grounds.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE:

Presentation by Kathleen Walsh.

CURRICULUM COORDINATOR REPORT:

Presentation by Karen Seitler.

PROPOSED BUDGET 2006-2007:

Superintendent Wallace reported the bottom line on the proposed budget is \$4,670,780, which is a 4.05 percent increase over the '05-'06 budget. He noted that healthcare costs are up over 50 percent, which was addressed in budget workshops. The school committee had authorized the budget to go to the town council for its February 25th workshop. That budget was sent to them in a timely fashion. The superintendent recommended that the committee formally adopt the budget. Mrs. Fountain moved the motion. Mr. Darcy seconded. Mr. Darcy noted this is a no-frills budget and he believes it is too lean. Chairwoman Mansolillo noted the teacher contract is not yet ratified. Motion passed, 2-1-0, with Mr. Darcy dissenting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment was held, 8:48 - 8:51.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Principal Moore reported that Ms. Rothberg is hosting Library Night this weekend at 6:00 p.m. Also on March 3 representatives from Smith's Castle will be visiting the 5th grade, and March 15 is Spring Picture Day.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

No report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Fountain made a motion to accept the minutes from January 24, 2006. Mr. Darcy seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

WARRANTS:

Mrs. Fountain made a motion to accept Check Registers from January 24, 2006, 2:45 p.m. and February 9, 2006, 6:20 p.m. Mr. Darcy seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Librarian report
- Mission statement

RECESS:

Mrs. Fountain made a motion to recess into executive session at 8:58 p.m. Mr. Darcy seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.