

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

JUNE 15, 2006

ATTENDANCE:

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

OPENING:

The "Pledge of Allegiance" was recited. Chairwoman Mansolillo reported no votes were taken in executive session.

FULL REGIONALIZATION:

Update by Lorraine O'Connors. Discussion followed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Superintendent Wallace reported on the following communications:

- Linda Ogulewicz and Karen Seitler were elected to Who's Who Among America's Teachers. Mr. Darcy made a motion to send a letter of commendation to both and to place an ad in the Foster Home Journal. Mrs. Fountain seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.
- The American Cancer Society sent congratulations on eleven years of successful fundraising.
- A letter from Marianne Soscia, the school nurse, recognizing the efforts of Dr. Beverly Brown, the school physician, for over 10 years. Chairwoman Mansolillo requested a thank you card be sent to Dr. Brown.
- A letter from a concerned parent regarding the nurse's availability during the day, with attached response from Marianne Soscia and Ms. Ogulewicz.

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES:

No requests.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY:

This committee is looking for an Eagle Scout to help with this project.

RECREATION COMMITTEE:

No update.

F.E.L.T. REPORT:

Presentation by Lori Greenleaf.

STATE TESTING RESULTS:

Presentation by Ms. Seitler.

CURRICULUM:

This item was moved up on the agenda.

- Presentation by Ms. Seitler concerning 4th grade Social Studies textbooks.

Superintendent Wallace recommended the school committee approve the expenditure of \$5,781.70 to purchase these texts. Motion was moved by Mrs. Fountain. Seconded by Mr. Darcy. Motion passed, 3-0-0. Chairwoman Mansolillo suggested a public review for parents in the future of textbooks being considered.

-Presentation by Ms. Seitler and Ms. Dixon concerning science kits. Superintendent Wallace recommended the school committee approve the expenditure of \$15,000 from the '06-'07 budget on the science kits. Teacher training is included in the price. Motion was moved by Mrs. Fountain. Seconded by Mr. Darcy. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

-Presentation by Ms. Seitler concerning a math pilot program in conjunction with Gloucester. Mr. Darcy made a motion to approve the startup of the math program. Mrs. Fountain seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Mr. Darcy shared a draft of a summary of statements.

GOALS:

Mr. Darcy will present a draft for the next meeting.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE:

No report.

BUSINESS MANAGER CONTRACT:

Chairwoman Mansolillo reported the contract of Malcolm Moore is valid for the next three years under the full regionalization proposal.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST. OF TECHNOLOGY CONTRACT:

Chairwoman Mansolillo recommended Superintendent Wallace draft a contract for Kathleen Walsh.

TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT:

Superintendent Wallace provided a draft of the contract with Laidlaw to the school committee. He noted the contract for next year would cost the school department \$594,480, which represents a 2.6 increase over the current contract with Laidlaw. The contract also includes a fleet of nine new buses, along with two new mini buses already in use. There is no fuel escalator provision. Superintendent Wallace recommended approval of the contract. Mr. Darcy made a motion to approve the contract. Mrs. Fountain seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

GRADE 1 '06-'07:

Superintendent Wallace recommended the creation of a third 1st grade classroom to reduce the number of students per 1st grade class because of multiple behavior and attention issues among this group of students. Mrs. Fountain moved the motion. Mr. Darcy seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public Comment was held, 9:07 p.m. to 9:09 p.m.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Principal Moore reported the Bike Hike was moved to Monday. The 5th Grade Celebration will be June 15, and Space Day is June 16.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

-Superintendent Wallace recommended the action of January 24 concerning Ms. O'Hare be rescinded. Mr. Darcy moved the motion. Mrs. Fountain seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

-Superintendent Wallace seeks the creation of an ad hoc writing workshop task force. This would involve six teachers attending a two-day workshop, four hours each day, at a cost of \$1,440. Mrs. Fountain moved the motion. Mr. Darcy seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

-Superintendent Wallace seeks the creation of an ad hoc math pilot preparation task force. This would consist of three days work with seven teachers at a cost of \$2,520. Mrs. Fountain moved the motion. Mr. Darcy seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

-Superintendent Wallace distributed to the committee a draft of a parent involvement policy to be reviewed by the committee with a first reading on the August agenda.

-Superintendent Wallace recognized the good job done by Jill Hefner, who has been the long-term sub in the physical education class. Mrs. Fountain made a motion that a letter of commendation and thanks be written to include in her professional portfolio. Mr. Darcy seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

-Mr. Darcy made a motion to approve the May 23 executive session minutes. Mrs. Fountain seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

-Mr. Darcy made a motion to approve the May 23 open session minutes. Mrs. Fountain seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

-Mrs. Fountain made a motion to approve check register 5-25-2006 in the amount of \$24,265.50. Mr. Darcy seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

-Mrs. Fountain made a motion to approve check register 5-18-2006 in the amount of \$74,322.31. Mr. Darcy seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

Mrs. Fountain made a motion to approve check register 6-6-2006 in the amount of \$76,445.26. Mr. Darcy seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Mission statement
- Goals
- Technology
- Late bus
- ad hoc committees

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Darcy made a motion to adjourn to executive session at 9:19 p.m. Mrs. Fountain

seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

Submitted by Melanie M. Chace