

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

MAY 22, 2007

ATTENDANCE:

Chairman Michael Paolucci, Vice Chair Dennis Chretien, Member Ron Cervasio, Superintendent Robert Wallace, Principal Gary Moore.

OPENING:

The “Pledge of Allegiance” was recited. Votes taken in executive session were a salary increase of 3.5% for Malcolm Moore and a salary increase of 3.5% for the superintendent. Both votes passed, 3-0-0. The floor was opened for public comment, 7:01 - 7:05.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Superintendent Wallace reported on thank-you notes received from various staff members for Teacher Week. The superintendent also received correspondence from Rebecca Bates, which is addressed in the Superintendent’s Report.

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES:

The Foster Recreation Committee requested to use the library or gym on June 7, 2007 from 5 to 7 p.m. Mr. Chretien made a motion to approve. Chairman Paolucci seconded, motion passed, 2-0-1, with Mr. Cervasio abstaining.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Representative Nicholas Gorham expressed his opinion on the availability of state funding.

SCHOOL COMM. INFORMATION:

Mr. Chretien expressed a desire to see policies, minutes, budgets, and other materials on the internet. Superintendent Wallace felt Ms. Walsh would be able to handle that. No vote taken.

POLICY REVIEW:

- Superintendent Wallace recommended Policy 4201 be eliminated. Mr. Cervasio made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation. Chairman Paolucci seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.
- Superintendent Wallace recommended Policy 5101 be updated with new verbiage, which would be subject to two readings. No vote was taken, the issue will be a future agenda item.
- Policy 5111.2 has been given to John Magna for review, and has not been received back yet.
- Superintendent Wallace recommended in Policy 5111.1 to strike “beginning of school year” and replace with “at time of enrollment.” Mr. Chretien made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation. Mr. Cervasio seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.
- Superintendent Wallace recommended Policy 5118 be updated with “when

recommended by superintendent and approved by school committee.” Mr. Cervasio made a motion to table. Chairman Paolucci seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

BUDGET/SCHOOL COMM. INITIATIVE:

Superintendent Wallace reported that following the Financial Town Meeting there is a clearer picture to fund a part-time foreign language teacher, a SPED teacher and a 1/5 Physical Education teacher, along with new textbooks. The superintendent, in discussion with Malcolm Moore, feels this meets the criteria for a one-time excess funds expenditure.

No vote was taken. See Superintendent’s Report that follows.

TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE:

Mr. Chretien is interested in information on student access to the internet at home. Superintendent Wallace recommended inviting Ms. Walsh to a future meeting to discuss this issue.

ADVERTISING SCHOOL COMM. AGENDAS:

Superintendent Wallace is still waiting to hear from Attorney Bevilacqua.

AUTO PARKING RESTRICTIONS:

Mr. Cervasio is concerned about the number of parents dropping off and picking up children at the school, as the added number of cars creates a safety concern. Mr. Cervasio made a motion to direct the superintendent to send a letter encouraging parents to put children on the bus. Mr. Chretien seconded for discussion. Discussion followed along the lines that safety is important, but parents have a right to transport their children. Mr. Cervasio withdrew his motion. Mr. Chretien withdrew his second. It was recommended that the superintendent send a letter reminding parents of the rules and policies in place for transporting children.

POSTING/ADVERTISING POSITION OF SUPERINTENDENT:

In accordance with RIGL 16-16-24, Superintendent Wallace recommended the committee advertise for the position of superintendent. Mr. Cervasio moved the motion. Mr. Chretien seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

2007/2008 SCHOOL CALENDAR:

Mr. Chretien made a motion to approve the proposed 2007/2008 school calendar. Mr. Cervasio seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT:

Principal Moore reported on May 30 is the walk-a-thon, May 24 at 10:00 and 2:00 is the play, “Dinosaurs Dress Rehearsal,” June 7 at 10:00 and 1:45 the Paine Panther Players will be performing, June 8 is the Bike Hike, and the 1st grade goes to the zoo that day, June 14 is the 5th grade graduation.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

-Superintendent Wallace recommended the action of 1/25/05 for non-renewal of employment of Rebecca Iannuccilli be rescinded to fill the SPED initiative. Mr. Chretien moved the motion. Mr. Cervasio seconded for discussion. Discussion followed. Motion passed, 2-0-1, with Mr. Cervasio abstaining.

-Superintendent Wallace recommended the action of 1/25/05 regarding Cathy Santosuosso be rescinded to fill the Physical Education initiative. Mr. Cervasio moved the motion. Mr. Chretien seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

-Superintendent Wallace recommended student Alexis Bates be allowed to attend Paine School for the 2007/2008 school year. Mr. Chretien moved the motion. Chairman Paolucci seconded. Motion passed, 2-1-0, with Mr. Cervasio dissenting.

-Superintendent Wallace recommended utilizing the selected budget lines as recommended to the school committee under the Budget discussion. Mr. Cervasio moved the motion.

Mr. Chretien seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

-Mr. Chretien made a motion to approve the minutes of 3/27/07 as presented. Chairman Paolucci seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

-Mr. Cervasio made a motion to approve the minutes of 4/24/07 as presented. Chairman Paolucci seconded. Motion passed, 2-0-1, with Mr. Chretien abstaining. Principal Moore pointed out under Adjournment, it should be Chairman Paolucci seconding, as Mr. Chretien was not in attendance that evening.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

Mr. Chretien made a motion to accept Check Register dated 4/19/07. Mr. Cervasio seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Policy review
- Technology
- Rep. Gorham
- Bus monitors
- Number of students on buses
- Connecticut students

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Paolucci made a motion to adjourn at 9:13 p.m. Mr. Cervasio seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.