

**FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
CAPTAIN ISAAC PAINE SCHOOL LIBRARY
AUGUST 26, 2008**

**Executive Session – 6:30PM
Open Session – 7:00PM**

CONVENE MEETING:

Meeting was convened at 7:00PM

ATTENDANCE:

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

OPENING:

The “Pledge of Allegiance” was recited.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

-Mr. Paolucci stated that votes were taken to change the non-certified contract language. The following items were approved: Healthcare buyback of \$5,500 per year minus co-pay, Step increases of about 2% per year for the next three years, added language to include an additional fifty cents per hour for personal care assistants, a stipend of \$300 for teacher assistants that complete training and become certified, and an additional stipend of \$150 for any non-certified staff that obtain a CDL licensing to be used when a school bus driver is needed. All of the above were approved by a 3-0-0 vote.

COMMUNICATIONS:

-Superintendent Wallace reported no communications.

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES:

-Mr. Wallace reported that there were two requests.

- The Recreation Department requests use of the cafeteria on October 24th for the Halloween Dance and November 22nd for the Turkey Trot. All paperwork was in order and Mr. Wallace recommended approval. Mr. Paolucci made a motion to accept with Mr. Chretien seconding. Motion passed 3-0-0.
- The Girls Scout of RI Troop #359 requested the use of the Teachers’ Lounge every other Thursday from October 9th through June 4th for Girl Scout Meetings. All Paper work was in order and Mr. Wallace recommended approval. Mr. Paolucci made a motion to accept with Mr. Chretien seconding. Motion passed 3-0-0.

TECHNOLOGY:

-Mr. Chretien reported that he has been in contact with Mr. Bill Gayle and discussed the possibility of upgrading the area schools’ internet by direct fiber connection instead of connecting through the Rhode Island Department of Education site.

TUITION STUDENTS

-This item was tabled to the September Meeting with the School Committee waiting for information from the Town Solicitor.

FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT

-Mr. Wallace reported that the bids received for the Food Service contract from ARAMARK at \$85,313 and Sodexho at \$74,266. The Superintendent stated that in awarding the contract to Sodexho, the district would realize a savings of over \$11,000. Mr. Wallace made the recommendation that Sodexho be awarded the food service contract. Mr. Chretien made a motion the Superintendent's recommendation. Mr. Cervasio seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

-Mr. Wallace reported that the committee has not yet met.

HOME SCHOOLING REQUEST

-Superintendent Wallace received the following requests for home schooling:

- Mrs. Boyce for her daughters Julia Boyce who is in 2nd grade and Kendra Boyce who is in kindergarten. Mr. Wallace recommended approval. Mr. Chretien made a motion to accept the home school request. Mr. Cervasio seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.
- Mrs. Mackie for her daughters Faith who is in 1st grade and Emily who is in 2nd grade. Mr. Wallace recommended approval. Mr. Chretien made a motion to accept the home school request. Mr. Cervasio seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

HEATING SYSTEM UPDATE

-Superintendent Wallace reported that the old boiler system has been removed and the new system is 99% ready. He also stated that the new system will be 100% ready when school opens.

PLAYGROUND/RECREATION DEPARTMENT

- Mr. Wallace reported that this is a discussion item. Mr. Paolucci asked if the playground should be removed based on its age and condition, citing that there has already been an injury. Mr. Wallace also pointed out that as reported last year, there is a health issue with the materials that are applied to make pressure treated wood, as well as the splintering of the wood, makes the playground unsafe. The Superintendent stated that in his judgment the playground should be removed and replaced. Mr. Cervasio suggested that perhaps a plastic unit would be the best replacement. The committee was in agreement that the playground needs to be removed as soon as possible. Mr. Wallace stated he will contact the highway department and try to get possible dates for the removal of the playground. Mr. Wallace also stated he would contact the recreation department.

KINDERGARTEN PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

-Mr. Cervasio stated that he had been approached by Mr. David Costa to donate a pressure treated playground to the kindergarten. Mr. Wallace suggested that Principal

Moore, Kindergarten Teacher Mrs. Cardullo and someone from the Trust look at the playground before bringing it to the school.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

-Mr. Paolucci stated he had reviewed all of the applications and decided that our current superintendent's qualifications best fit the needs of the Foster School System. Mr. Paolucci asked that Superintendent Wallace's contract be extended for one year with a 2% raise. Mr. Chretien made a motion to extend Superintendent Wallace's contract for one year with a 2% increase in pay. Mr. Cervasio seconded. The motion passed 3-0-0.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

-Principal Moore reported that state reports and the Crisis Intervention Plan were completed during the summer. The student handbook was also revised and that he had reapplied for the Rural Schools Grant. Mr. Moore reported that orientation was going to be on September 4th and that students would report on September 8th.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

-Mr. Wallace reported that 1st grade teacher, Rebecca Payette, has been nominated for Teacher of the Year by Mr. Chippendale, a parent with two children attending Captain Isaac Paine School. The Superintendent stated that Mrs. Payette is an enthusiastic teacher, well-respected by peers and parents, and demonstrates outstanding school spirit with her organization of Box Tops and the Courtyard Project. Mr. Wallace asked the School Committee endorse Mrs. Payette's nomination for Teacher of the Year. Mr. Paolucci made a motion to accept with Mr. Cervasio seconding. Motion passed 3-0-0.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT

-Mr. Wallace reviewed the busing contract stating that the current contract could be extended for two more years with the per day cost of each bus of \$377 for the 2009-2010 year and per day cost of \$398 for the 2010-2011 year. Mr. Wallace noted the potential for major savings as the contract does not have a fuel escalator clause. The Superintendent recommended that he be allowed contact First Student Bus Company to extend the bus contract for an addition two years. Mr. Chretien made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation. Mr. Cervasio asked that there be a discussion with the busing coordinator about the possibility of consolidated the student pick-ups of the middle and high school students. Mr. Cervasio then seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

-Mr. Chretien made a motion to accept the minutes from the June 10th meeting with the change from Swan Meadow to Swamp Meadow. Mr. Cervasio seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

-Mr. Chretien made a motion to accept the warrants of 7/07/2008 as written. Mr. Cervasio seconded. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Technology Update
- Tuition Students

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Paolucci made a motion to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. Mr. Cervasio seconded.
Motion passed, 3-0-0.

Submitted by Gary G. Moore