

FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Ponaganset Middle School Library
November 25, 2008

Executive Session – None
Open Session – 7:00 PM

CONVENE MEETING:

- Meeting was convened at 7:00 PM

ATTENDANCE:

- Chairman Michael Paolucci, Vice Chair Dennis Chretien, Member Ron Cervasio Superintendent Wallace, Principal Gary Moore and new member Cindy Bernard.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

- The “Pledge of Allegiance” was recited.

COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION:

- Vice Chair Dennis Chretien nominated Member Ron Cervasio as Chairman, seconded by Cindy Bernard. Votes taken 3-0-0. The gavel was then passed to the new Chair Ron Cervasio. Chairman Cervasio made a motion to nominate Cindy Bernard as Vice Chair, seconded by Dennis Chretien. Votes taken 3-0-0.

ROLL CALL:

- Roll call was taken by Karen Shewcov, Clerk to the School Committee indicating that all members were present: Chairman Ron Cervasio, Vice Chair Cindy Bernard, Member Dennis Chretien and Superintendent Wallace.

REQUEST TO USE SCHOOL FACILITIES:

- Superintendent Wallace reported that there were two requests to use the school facilities: The Girl Scouts are looking to use the cafeteria from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays. Their paperwork is in order and Superintendent Wallace requests approval. The Cub Scouts are looking to use the cafeteria from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. on various dates for meetings. Their paperwork is in order and Superintendent Wallace requests approval. Motion made by Member Dennis Chretien, seconded by Vice Chair Cindy Bernard. Motion passed 3-0-0.

TECHNOLOGY:

- Member Dennis Chretien met with Joe McGovern and obtained a sample of contracts between Verizon and National Grid for Smithfield. If fiber was going to be run from the high school to Paine it would have to be run on their poles and there is a monthly per pole fee for this. Member Dennis Chretien suggested that the services of Bill Gale, Technology Consultant for the Region be retained so that more details can be obtained. One of the things would be to be able to tie the phone system in and have an entire paging system that is linked. A Motion was made by Member Dennis Chretien to retain the services of Bill Gale, seconded by Vice Chair Cindy Bernard. Votes taken 3-0-0.

BUILDING COMMITTEE:

- Member Dennis Chretien spoke about starting to organize this committee which would consist of a minimum of eight (8) people including members of the community, Superintendent of Schools, building principal, school committee members, teachers etc. The responsibility of this committee is to develop an ongoing five year asset protection plan. Determining what needs to be done to maintain the building, determining a budget

for that, and if the district does not fund at least 50% of that budget then there will be no state housing aide received. The bottom line is that they are making sure that schools maintain their buildings.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- None

BUDGET 2009-2010:

- Superintendent Wallace provided the committee with an initial draft of the 2009-2010 budget. Superintendent Wallace stated that he was not going to go over it in detail he felt this should happen in a scheduled Budget Workshop Session. The Paiva Weed cap is 4.75% for the 2009-10 budget. This equals \$207,435.00 which is the maximum that the 2009-10 budget can show. The budget in the packet is \$19,942.00 beyond the cap. If nothing else is done, we still have to find savings of \$19,942.00. The enrollment figures are the figures that drive the staffing for the school year. Kindergarten is the one grade that we really don't know what is going to happen as far as enrollment goes. Superintendent Wallace stated that as of November 25, 2008, we have twenty-two (22) potential kindergarten students for next year. Superintendent Wallace feels it is safe to say that by September 2009 that number will have increased. Hopefully that number will increase and be the same as this year which is thirty-two (32) students). Two sessions (morning and afternoon) with needing only one (1) teacher. Grade 1 has a potential decrease of three (3) students which still requires two classes. Grade 2 is decreased by fourteen (14) students from 49 to 35 and the staffing has been decreased from 3 teachers to 2. Grade 3 has an increase of seven (7) students which does not change the current staffing which is 3 teachers. Grade 4 goes from thirty-seven (37) to forty-two (42) which would change the current staffing from 2 teachers to 3 teachers. Superintendent Wallace stated that if we wanted to be "uncaring" you could function with 2 teachers in grade 4 next year. Superintendent Wallace stated that as he has previously stated for the past 3 years that this particular class because of its uniqueness the class sizes should be kept to a very small number to maximize the educational benefit for the students in that grade. Grade 5 goes from fifty-seven (57) students to thirty-seven (37) students which changes the staffing from 3 teachers to 2 teachers. In K – 5 there is a net reduction of one (1) staff member which is reflected in the budget. There is a total overall projected decrease of twenty-five (25) students next year. Superintendent Wallace further explained that if you take the salaries of the certified and non-certified staff based on the contractual agreements that are currently in place it amount to 50.86% of the budget. Transportation costs both Paine and Regional that represents 20.33% of the budget. The overall fringe benefits that represents 22.02% of the budget. Total all these and 93.21% of the budget is spoken for. This leaves \$311,383.00. From this figure we have to purchase supplies (educational and janitorial), consumable items, field trips, audits, advertising costs (meetings and/or staffing needs), electricity, heating oil, property insurance, telephone, data processing, legal line, non-public school textbooks, out of district tuitions and property services. After all is said and done, there is very little left that is not spoken for. Finally, Superintendent Wallace felt that a date be set to hold a Budget Workshop. A date for the Budget Workshop was set for Monday, December 8, 2008, at 4:15 p.m.

REINSTATE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TEMPORARY BUDGET COMMITTEE:

- Vice Chair Cindy Bernard spoke about the Recommendations that were voted on in 2005 by the School Committee. They just tighten down the budget and the warrants. Vice Chair Bernard has recently spoke with Malcolm Moore, Business Manager. The first recommendation is Warrants. This would be to provide more information on Warrants to show what account it came from, the balance. Right now, the Warrants are presently paid for before we get to them. By speaking with Malcolm Moore this has been taken care of. The second is Tracking system implemented for moving money around within the budget. The third is two signatures for all checks except for payroll. This is a safety issue for having two signatures on checks. The fourth is more information provided at budget hearings. This has happened and is in place now. The fifth is insuring continuity in school financial operations. This is also now being done. After much discussion on the recommendations, everything is being done except the third which calls for two signatures for all checks. Member Chretien is not in agreement with this. Vice Chair Bernard stated she is available at any time for her signature. Chairman Cervasio stated that this would be a responsibility for future school committees and Vice Chair Bernard's availability is only for 2-years. Something has to be set up that works for the future. Vice Chair Bernard further stated that when these recommendations were set up it was also to make sure that a sitting school committee member was responsible and could be held responsible in the future if something went wrong, not just administrators. A Motion was made by Chairman Cervasio to have the Business Manager produce a second report indicating the current balances of the accounts, seconded by Member Chretien. Votes taken 3-0-0. After a very lengthy discussion requiring two signatures on checks Chairman Cervasio tabled this and it will be put on next month's agenda. Chairman Cervasio is also going to try and find the minutes. Vice Chair Bernard stated she had the minutes and Chairman Cervasio requested that she produce the minutes (3 copies) to be gone over at the next meeting.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- Principal Moore reported that on November 24, 2008, there were Parent/Teacher Conferences. On November 25, 2008, there was a Learning Celebration featuring You're a Grand Old Flag by Ms. Cosgrove's First Grade class, Fourth grade singing the French Song, The Fish, Birds and Rabbits, a book talk by Mrs. Murphy's students, Mrs. Dixon's students' project on the length of the day, a Rap of the Presidents by Mrs. Stallbush's class and a Paine Panther Roars on Caring and Sharing. On December 6, 2008, there will be a PTG Breakfast with Santa. There will be a Family Library Night on December 17, 2008 with Mrs. Rothberg and the Polar Express is the featured story. There will be a Learning Celebration on December 23, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. Also, the school gave a really big thank you to Mrs. Pezza for allowing students to visit her farm.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- Superintendent Wallace just wanted to give an informational piece of a communication from Tim Duffy who is the Executive Director of the School Committee Association. In the pamphlet Mr. Duffy talks about the new Worker's Compensation Safety Service Group. The purpose of the group is to for participating school systems would see a savings in their worker's compensation insurance. Superintendent Wallace signed Foster up for this program. There are no costs involved and can leave this association at any time. The second item is the 2008-2013 Capital Projects. There are five items listed for

the five years. FY2009-2010 A/C server in server room, library, teacher's lounge at a cost of \$27,000.00. FY2010-2011 Resurfacing the playground at a cost of \$39,680.00. FY2011-2012 Replace public address system at a cost of \$9,700.00. FY2012-2013 interior paint at a cost of \$40,000.00. FY2013-2014 add on to garage at a cost of \$30,000.00. Superintendent Wallace has letters from the Planning Board asking that he send them the Capital Projects for these five (5) years upon approval by the School Committee. A Motion was made by Member Chretien, seconded by Vice Chair Bernard. Votes taken 3-0-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Member Chretien made a motion to approve the Minutes as written both regular an executive session of October 28, 2008, seconded by Chairman Cervasio. Motion passed 2-1 abstain-0.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

- Member Chretien made a motion to approve the Warrant for First Student in the amount of \$87,750.79, seconded by Chairman Cervasio. Motion passed 2-1 abstain-0. Member Chretien made a motion to approve all others in the amount of \$63,669.62, seconded by Chairman Cervasio. Motion passed 2-1 abstain-0.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Building Committee
- Budget 2009-2010
- Technology
- Two signatures on checks
- Playground

ADJOURNMENT:

- Chairman Cervasio made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. seconded by Member Dennis Chretien. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Submitted by Karen L. Shewcov