

## FOSTER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

### MINUTES

Captain Isaac Paine School  
160 Foster Center Road  
Foster, RI 02825

June 23, 2009  
Executive Session - 6:30 pm  
Open Session – 7:00 pm

#### **1. Convene Meeting**

Chair, Ron Cervasio called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

*a. Roll Call -*

All Committee members were in attendance: Ron Cervasio - Chair, Cindy Bernard - Vice Chair, Dennis Chretien - member, Dr. James Halley - Interim-Superintendent, Gregory Piccirilli, Legal Counsel, and Helena McCullough - School Committee recording secretary.

*b. Vote to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) Personnel (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation.*

There was no need for an Executive Session.

*c. Pledge of Allegiance - was recited.*

#### **2. Consent Agenda (for action)**

*a. Requests to Use School Facilities - approved on a Chretien / Bernard motion. Vote: 3-0-0.*

*b. Approval of Minutes - approved on a Chretien / Bernard motion. Vote: 3-0-0.*

*c. Approval of Warrants*

Warrant dated 5/27/2009 in the amount of \$23,493.61 was approved on a Bernard / Chretien motion. Vote 3-0-0. Warrant dated 5/27/2009 for First Student Transportation in the amount of \$143,322.26 was approved on Chretien / Cervasio motion. Vote 2-0-0-1. Mrs. Bernard recues.

Warrant dated 6/18/2009 in the amount of \$125,321.11 was approved on a Bernard / Chretien motion. Vote 3-0-0. Warrant dated 6/18/2009 for first Student Transportation in the amount of \$78,185.50 was approved on a Chretien / Cervasio motion. Vote 2-0-0-1. Mrs. Bernard recues.

*d. Personnel*

*i. Approval of .5 Kindergarten Position*

Discussion ensued as to how this affects next year's budget. At this point Dr. Halley suggested that the Committee move to Agenda Item # 3d (2009-2010 Budget).

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio the School Committee voted to approve an additional .5 Kindergarten classroom and recall a .5 Kindergarten teacher position for the morning. Vote 2-1-0. Mrs. Bernard voting no.

*ii. Recall/appointment*

The recall is part of the motion above.

**3. Old Business (for discussion/action)**

*a. Administrative Review Committee – Recommendation/Report*

The Chair of the Administrative Review Committee (ARC), Patricia Fountain, reported on the findings of the ARC. On a vote of 7-0-0 the Committee recommends hiring a Superintendent / Principal for the Captain Isaac Paine School. She said their decision was not based on financial considerations nor was compensation discussed. On a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Chretien the School Committee voted to accept the Administrative Review Committee's recommendation to hire a Superintendent / Principal. Vote 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Bernard seconded by Mr. Chretien the School Committee voted to direct the Administrative Search Committee to search for one full-time position combining the duties of Superintendent / Principal. Mr. Chretien suggested that the School Committee needs to look to the future of sharing Administrative Services with the Region; this will share services, benefits and save money. Vote 2-1-0.

Mr. Chretien voting no.

*b. Administrative Search Committee – Update/Report*

At this point there is no report or update.

*c. 2008-2009 Budget*

Dr. Halley reported that this year's budget is in good shape and the Committee was supplied with a current expenditure report. On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mrs. Bernard the School Committee voted to accept the budget report for 2008-2009. Motion passed. Vote 3-0-0.

*d. 2009-2010 Budget*

This item was moved ahead on the agenda in order to understand the bottom line of this budget and the ability to accommodate an added .5 Kindergarten classroom in the morning. Discussion ensued on the budget

for 2009-2010. Dr. Halley provided the School Committee with his comfort level pertaining to the 2009-2010 budget being able to handle the school's monetary commitments for 2009-2010 and the fact that the Town had approved this budget. Mrs. Bernard asked the Business Manager, Malcolm Moore the status on the new chart of accounts, Gatsby 45 evaluation, OPEB, and the 403b regulations. Mr. Moore relayed the progress of these items. On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the School Committee voted to accept the 2009-2010 budget as presented.

Vote 2-1-0. Mrs. Bernard voting no. The School Committee returned to Agenda Item 2di.

*e. Child Abuse and Neglect Policy #5141.1 - Second Reading*

On a motion by Mr. Chretien seconded by Mrs. Bernard the School Committee voted to accept the second reading of Policy #5141.1 'Child Abuse and Neglect' and remove the 'draft' from the policy. Motion passed. Vote 3-0-0.

*f. Kindergarten Age Requirement Policy - Second Reading*

On a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Chretien the School Committee voted to accept Kindergarten Age Requirement Policy, second reading. Motion passed. Vote 3-0-0.

*g. Foster and Gloucester Human Resources Sharing*

Mr. Chretien reported that this group is still continuing to meet and discuss options for sharing services and curriculum coordination between the school departments.

**4. New Business (for discussion/action)**

*a. Adoption of School Committee Code of Conduct*

On a motion by Mr. Chretien seconded by Mrs. Bernard the School Committee voted to adopt a 'code of basic management principles and ethical school standards (16-2-9.1)' as presented. Motion passed. Vote 3-0-0.

**5. Communications/Reports**

*a. Correspondence*

None

*b. Superintendent's Report*

Dr. Halley relayed to the Committee he would be out of the country but that the staff and School Committee could keep in contact with him through e-mail. He also suggested making provisions to keep the Superintendent through the month of July or until such time the School Committee has hired a new Administrative person. Mr. Cervasio said they would need a special meeting to conduct this area of business.

*c. Public Comment*

A parent questioned the size of and the number of classrooms for 2009-2010. Dr. Halley said this information would be posted on the school's web-site.

A parent asked to have the maximum allowable time the Superintendent would be out of the building to be on the agenda; Mr. Cervasio said that item would be at the pleasure of the School Committee.

A parent questioned the expense of legal services and where it was on the budget; Mr. Cervasio explained the budget is a bottom line budget. The parent asked to have the charges for legal services to the School Committee on the next agenda.

A parent questioned the possibility of bringing back the 'behavioral program' and putting it on the agenda; Mr. Cervasio said not at this time.

*d. Future Agenda Items*

First grade policy

**6. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mrs. Bernard, the School Committee voted to adjourn at 9:10 pm. Motion passed. Vote 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Helena McCullough  
Foster School Committee Secretary