

FOSTER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

MINUTES

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

July 28, 2009
Executive Session - 6:30 pm
Open Session – 7:00 pm

1. Convene Meeting

The meeting of the Foster School Committee was called to order by Chair, Ron Cervasio at 7:00 pm.

a. Roll Call

The following members were present: Ron Cervasio, Chair, Cindy Bernard, Vice-chair, Dennis Chretien, member. Interim-Superintendent, Dr. James Halley and Mrs. McCullough, School Committee Secretary were also present.

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 Executive Session.

c. Return to Open Session

d. Pledge of Allegiance – was recited by all in attendance.

2. Consent Agenda (for action)

Mrs. Bernard made a statement for the record that her packet had no information about what was on the agenda, no back-up notes, no review notes, and no research.

a. Requests to Use School Facilities

There were no requests.

b. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Chretien the School Committee accepted the Minutes of June 9, 2009 (Open - only), June 23, 2009 (as amended) and July 9, 2009 (both Open Sessions). Motion passed. 3-0-0. The Executive Minutes of June 9, 2009 were tabled to be discussed in an executive session.

c. *Approval of Warrants*

On a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Chretien the school Committee approved the warrant dated June 30, 2009 in the amount of \$51,894.25. Motion passed. 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio the School Committee approved the First Student and Sunoco (fuel) section of the warrant dated June 30, 2009 in the amount of \$1,778.26.

Motion passed. 2-0-1.

Vote as follows:

Mr. Cervasio – yes

Mrs. Bernard – recuse

Mr. Chretien – yes

d. *Personnel*

i. *Recall/Appointment*

Dr. Halley reported that the position of the Foreign Language teacher was accepted by Mrs. Pamela Del Vecchio for the 2009-2010 school year.

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

- a. *2008-2009 Budget* – Malcolm Moore, Business Manager, updated the School Committee on this year's budget situation. Final revisions have not been completed but the School Department should close out the year in good shape.
- b. *2009-2010 Budget* – Mr. Moore shared that there are no changes for the 2009-2010 budget. Discussion ensued about reducing the transportation by one bus. No decisions or votes were taken.
- c. *Foster / Gloucester Human Resources Sharing* – Mr. Chretien updated the Committee about ongoing conversations in the areas of sharing resources with the Region and Gloucester in the future. A discussion followed. No votes were taken.

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

- a. *Student Bus Transportation Policy Revision* – Dr. Halley shared that the present policy on bus transportation was not enforceable and based on this current policy the school department cannot deny transportation portal to portal. The School Department needs a policy that is enforceable. Mr. Cervasio suggested Dr. Halley and Dr. Irving work on tightening up the policy. Mr. Cervasio also suggested involving the Attorney to help with language. Discussion continued.

- b. *Technology Infrastructure Improvements* – Dr. Halley shared with the School Committee the Infrastructure purchases to update the technology in the classrooms. Kathleen Walsh, Technology Assistant to the Superintendent, explained the purchases and the need for the updates to the infrastructure system, with the purchase of a new server, switches, APC battery back-up, and a new program for the required Chart of Accounts update.
- c. *Chart of Accounts* – Mr. Moore updated the Committee that he was on track for establishing the new Chart of Accounts and that once the new server was installed and the program installed, the Chart of Accounts would then be able to run.
- d. *Data Driven Reform* – Dr. Halley stated that this is related to the technology infra-structure and will be used to assess student's progress. He suggested that our current SAS (student information system) MMS is not being utilized to its capacity for these assessments. The discussion continued. No motions or votes were taken.
- e. *Work Study Program* (discussion/action) – On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mrs. Bernard the School Committee approved allowing student, Josh Morgan, to go forward with his senior exhibition project of repairing the fields behind the school. Motion passed. 3-0-0.

5. Communications/Reports

- a. *Correspondence* - None
- b. *Superintendent's Report* – Dr. Halley introduced to the audience the new Superintendent / Principal, Dr. Davida E. Irving, that the School Committee appointed. At this point Dr. Irving introduced herself and expressed her enthusiasm and joy to the upcoming year in Foster. Dr. Irving is scheduled to begin her tenure August 25, 2009.
- c. *Public Comment* – Ms. Pezza, PTG president, updated the school Committee and let them know that the PTG would be bringing in mulch for the playground.
- d. *Future Agenda Items:*
 - First Grade Age Requirement Policy
 - Request for an informational packet, with back-up notes, etc.

6. **Adjournment** - On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mrs. Bernard the School Committee voted to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Motion passed. 3-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helena McCullough
Foster School Committee Secretary