

FOSTER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
MINUTES

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

February 23, 2010
Open Session - 7:00 pm

1. Convene Meeting –

Ron Cervasio, Chair, called the meeting of the Foster School Committee to order on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 7:0pm.

a. Roll Call –

Committee members in attendance were Ron Cervasio, Chair, and Dennis Chretien, member. Cindy Bernard, Co-Chair, was absent. Dr. Davida Irving, Superintendent/ Principal and Helena McCullough, School Committee secretary were in attendance.

b. Pledge of Allegiance –

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Requests to Use School Facilities –

The Superintendent asked that the request by ‘FosteringArts.org’ to use cafeteria and gym on Dec. 3, 4, & 5, 2010 be tabled, as these dates are usually used by the PTG for one of their fund raisers. The Superintendent will confirm with the PTG and suggest another date for the ‘FosteringArts.org’ group.

The Superintendent recommended approving the request of the ‘Foster Recreation Committee’ to use the building for a variety of activities for children and adults. On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio the School Committee approved the Superintendent’s recommendation. Vote – 2-0-0. Motion passed.

3. Approval of Minutes –

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio the School Committee approved the minutes for the January 28, 2010 meeting. Motion passed. Vote – 2-0-0.

4. Approval of Warrants –

The following warrants were approved on a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio:

Warrant #14 dated 1/25/2010 totaling: **\$70,826.57**

Warrant #15 dated 2/6/2010 totaling **\$67,664.25**

Warrant #16 dated 2/16/2010 totaling **\$183,394.98**

Motion passed. Vote – 2-0-0.

5. Old Business (for discussion/action)

a. Foster and Gloucester Resource Sharing –

Dr. Irving shared with the Committee that she has been working with Superintendent Barnes (Foster/Glocester Regional) and Superintendent DuBois (Glocester) on sharing items like technology, and consolidating busing. These are in the beginning stages.

b. Non-Resident Student Tuition Policy (#5119)

Mr. Cervasio tabled this item.

6. New business (for discussion)

a. Personnel – non-renewals

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio the School Committee approved Dr. Irving's recommendation on the following non-renewals for the 2010-2011 school year:

1. Art, Dawn Bergstrom, from four days of Art instruction to three days.
2. Music, Margery Jones, from four days Music instruction to three days.
3. Foreign Language, Pamela DelVecchio, non-renew for the 2010-2011 school year.

Discussion: Mr. Chretien said that the School Department will just meet the State standards and that things will be tight. Mr. Cervasio said the state is going to pass a funding formula for districts and that the Town is required to fund the School at the present level and absorbed any deficiencies from the state. The School Department will be level funded for several more years either by the School Committee or the Town.

Motion passed with regret. Vote – 2-0-0.

7. Communication/Reports

a. Correspondence – None.

b. Superintendent's Report –

The Superintendent shared with the Committee the following:

On 2-4-2010, the Board of Regents held their meeting at the school and honored and recognized the Paine School teachers for their commitment to 'Race to the Top'. The teachers were also recognized for their quality of teaching and the some of the highest test scores on the NECAP.

The School Improvement Team (SIT) held its second meeting (which is held the fourth Tuesday of the month). The SIT developed a skeleton outline for goals from 2010 through 2013 with the ability to re-adjust each year.

The faculty met in February, combining two staff meetings, for PD360, which involved teachers and teacher assistants. PD 360 is an on-line program with professional development topics, speakers and group discussions.

On Feb 12, 2010 there was a full day of Professional Development. In the morning the teachers analyzed data and grade teams met with each other. In the afternoon the teacher assistants joined the workshop learning about de-escalation which helps to note and work with students before something happens.

The fourth graders held a fund raiser 'Hair for Haiti' where the students either wore crazy hair or hats and donated money to send to the relief fund set up by the Red Cross. Haiti had been devastated by a huge earth quake. The students raised \$1200.00.

There are three student teachers for the spring semester: Mrs. Dixon – Tracey Marriccio, Mrs. Portney – Ashley Lyons, and Mrs. Cardoso – Jesse Duquette.

Dr. Irving reported on the RIDE Special Education audit; the Team spent one and half days at the school reviewing I.E.P.'s, observing and speaking to teachers, students and staff.

Mr. Chretien made a motion to accept the Superintendent's report, Mr. Cervasio seconded. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.

c. Public Comment –

A member of the audience, a Burrillville resident with four young adults that take part in the SMT and wanted to share her feelings about the SMT (Swamp Meadow Theater) and her support of this organization.

d. Future Agenda Items –

Mr. Cervasio wants a discussion with the SMT as to paying 25% of the gate net to offset heating, electrical, janitorial, damage to the schools, damage to teacher's inventory and as a result of five years worth of use and five plays this year with the donation going to support the Arts at the Paine School this year.

The Executive Session will be listed as "the expenditure of public funds as dealing with SMT."

Dr. Irving's requested the discussion of State-wide Special Education Transportation mandate, the NECAP results, and Full Day Kindergarten.

8. 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 (7) Investment of Public Funds. Executive Session was tabled to the March 23, 2010 meeting.

9. Return to Open Session

10. Adjournment –

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the School Committee voted to adjourn at 7:36 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helena McCullough
Secretary Foster School Committee