

FOSTER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
MINUTES

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

May 25, 2010
Open Session - 7:00 pm

1. Convene Meeting –

Chair, Ron Cervasio, called the meeting of the Foster School Committee to order at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 25, 2010.

a. Roll Call –

All members were present: Chair, Ron Cervasio, Vice-Chair, Cindy Bernard, member, Dennis Chretien, Legal Counsel, Greg Piccirilli, Superintendent / Principal, Dr. Davida Irving and FSC Secretary, Mrs. McCullough.

b. Pledge of Allegiance –

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

2. Requests to Use School Facilities –

The School Committee approved a motion by Mrs. Bernard seconded by Mr. Chretien to move the 'Request to Use School Facilities' to item #9 (which is after Executive Session). Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

3. Approval of Minutes –

On a motion by Mrs. Bernard seconded by Mr. Chretien, the School Committee approved the Minutes of April 25, 2010 Open and Executive. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

4. Approval of Warrants –

On a motion by Mrs. Bernard seconded by Mr. Chretien the School Committee approved Warrant # 23 in the partial amount of \$94,297.41. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mr. Chretien ad seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the School Committee approved the remainder of Warrant #23 in the amount of \$69,105.90 (which included First Student and Sunoco). Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-1.

Vote as follows:

Mr. Cervasio – yes

Mrs. Bernard – recuse

Mr. Chretien - yes

5. Old Business (for discussion/action)

a. Foster and Glocester Resource Sharing –

Mr. Cervasio shared with the audience and school committee members that he had contacted Sara Hahn, Business Manager for the Foster-Glocester Regional school district, about handling the Foster School Department accounting. The F/G business Manager bowed out of the arrangement after several calls from the Foster Treasurer and members of the Town.

The Superintendent suggested that 'Foster and Glocester Resource Sharing' item be put on the Agenda when the School Committee has information to report.

b. 2009-2010 Budget Report –

Malcolm Moore, Foster School Department Business Manager, provided the School Committee with a report for the current school year (2009-2010) and where different accounts stand at this point. The School Committee decided to take the report home and look it over and return to next month's meeting with any questions.

c. 2010-2011 Budget –

This item was requested by Mrs. Bernard but her questions had been previously answered by Mr. Moore, so the School Committee moved on in the agenda.

d. Model Classroom Grant Report –

Dr. Irving had reported at an earlier school committee meeting that she had applied for the 'Model Classroom Grant', and reported at this meeting that the School had been awarded \$59,885.00 for fifteen classroom teachers, who will receive \$4000.00 worth of technology equipment. One of the requirements, that each teacher had to agree to, is to attend a workshop during July from 8 to 5 with no compensation.

6. New business (for discussion/action)

a. Physical Education Requirements –

Dr. Irving provided the school committee with the law relating to Education Curriculum in regards to 16-22-4 "Instruction in health and physical education" which requires all children in grades one through twelve attending public schools shall receive instruction in health and physical education on an average of at least 100 minutes per week. This however does not include recess. Dr. Irving reported that she is working on the schedule for next year to include the 100 minutes per week.

b. 2010-2011 School Calendar –

On a motion by Mr. Chretien seconded by Mrs. Bernard, the school committee approved the 2010-2011 calendar for the next school year. This calendar follows the approved F/G regional calendar. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

c. Technology / Engineering Expo – presentation

Mrs. Swanson, PTG representative, shared with the school committee that the group would like to sponsor a USA Science & Engineering festival to held at the school October 23 & 24, 2010. This festival will be free and opened to students kindergarten to grade five. On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mrs. Bernard, the school committee approved the PTG's use of the building for the festival. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

d. Building Maintenance – Painting Bid

Dr. Irving provided the School Committee with a list of the bidders. RFD was the lowest bidder. RFD would paint the corridors for \$4000.00 w/o providing the paint and \$5350.00 /w the provision of paint. RFD would paint the classrooms w/o paint for \$23,200.00 and with paint included for \$30,700.00. As the successful bidder, RFD, will need to provide 100% performance bond, 100% labor and materials bond with the required certification and execute the agreement within 5 days of acceptance of the bid. The Superintendent made the recommendation to paint the hallways for \$4000.00 and the district provide the paint for \$1,135.00; Mr. Chretien made a motion to accept RFD to paint the hallways with the district providing the paint which was seconded by Mrs. Bernard. Discussion followed. Mr. Cervasio amended the motion to approve that the first monies be taken if there's any Capital and the second monies taken if there's any building facilities supplies and then anything that's left be taken out of the surplus for the

approval of \$5,135.00. Mr. Cervasio then restated the motion that we expend \$4000.00 to the painter, and the \$1,135.00 be drawn out the following way, what's left in the Capital budget, what's left in the supplies budget and then what's left in the surplus about \$40,000, Mrs. Bernard seconded. Mr. Chretien suggested stating it as expending \$4000.00 plus the cost of paint. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

e. Business Manager Position –

Mrs. Bernard made a motion to have the Business Manager Position renewed for a two year contract. Mr. Cervasio seconded for discussion. Mr. Chretien amended the motion for a one year contract and add a one year option. Mr. Cervasio wanted to hold the motion until Dr. Irving had a discussion with the Regional Business Manager to see if she's interested for this year, if not this year maybe next and bring this item to the table at the June meeting. Mrs. Bernard seconded the amendment. Motion for the amendment failed. Vote = 1-2-0.

Vote as follows:

Mr. Cervasio – no
Mrs. Bernard – no
Mr. Chretien – yes

Mr. Cervasio called for the main motion to be voted on. The main motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mr. Cervasio – no
Mrs. Bernard – yes
Mr. Chretien - yes

7. Communication/Reports

a. Correspondence –

None at this time.

b. Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Irving reported that the FTA signed the seconded version of 'Race to the Top'. Two schools with NEA affiliation signed on, Foster and Gloucester. Dr. Irving feels there is a better chance to receive the money this time. Dr. Irving praised the teachers for the difficult decision they made.

Dr. Irving also reported her efforts to get a one year waiver from the required state wide busing mandate.

c. Public Comment –

Mrs. Portney informed the public of the 13th annual "Walk-a-Thon" for the American Cancer Society which will be held June 7, 2010 at 9:15am. This event and donations help with research and Camp Hope.

Mr. Piccirilli clarified the Physical Education provision: 20 minutes per day equaling 100 minutes per week. The provision does not differentiate between health and physical education. Any variation would need to be presented to R.I.D.E. for approval.

d. Future Agenda Items –

Bullying Policy – developing a more stringent policy.

8. Vote to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5a (1) Personnel, (7) Investment of Public Funds, Swamp Meadow Theater. Motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Cervasio. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0. Mr. Chretien then recused himself from the Swamp Meadow discussion.

9. Return to Open Session

On a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the School Committee voted to return to Open Session. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.

Mr. Cervasio informed everyone that the Swamp Meadow Theater and the Foster School Committee entered into an agreement where the Swamp Meadow Theater will pay 20% of their gate starting July 1, 2010. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Cervasio the School Committee approved the Swamp Meadow Building Use Request for their rehearsals and performance of Dracula (Sept – Nov 2010) with the stipulation that teacher's formally sign an approval for the use of their classroom during the performance. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Cervasio the School Committee returned to Executive Session concerning (1) Personnel – Superintendent Evaluation. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0. (Mr. Chretien was in attendance for this part of the Executive Session.)

On a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Chretien the School Committee returned to Open Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0. There were no votes taken in the second Executive session concerning (1) personnel.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Chretien the School Committee voted to adjourn at 8:55pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough
Foster School Committee Secretary