

FOSTER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT  
MINUTES

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

June 22, 2010  
Open Session - 7:00 pm

**1. Convene Meeting**

Chair, Ron Cervasio, called the meeting of the Foster School Committee to order at 7:00pm on June 22, 2010.

*a. Roll Call –*

All members were present: Ron Cervasio, Chair, Cindy Bernard, Vice Chair, Dennis Chretien, member, Davida Irving, Superintendent and FSC secretary, Mrs. McCullough. Also, present was legal counsel, Greg Piccirilli.

*b. Pledge of Allegiance –*

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**2. Requests to Use School Facilities –**

There were no Requests to Use School Facilities.

**3. Approval of Minutes –**

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

**4. Approval of Warrants –**

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, Warrant #24 dated June 10, 2010 in the amount of \$92,587.04, for First Student and Sunoco, was approved. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-1.

Vote as follows:

Mr. Cervasio – yes

Mrs. Bernard – recuse

Mr. Chretien – yes

On a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Chretien, the Foster School Committee approved the balance of \$109,588.89 for Warrant #24 dated June 10, 2010. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Chretien, the Foster School Committee approved Warrant #25 dated June 14, 2010 in the amount of \$36,632.01. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

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

*a. Transportation –* Members of R.I.D.E. were present to present and discuss the State-Wide Transportation Mandate for Special Education. Representatives were: Carolyn Dias, Carol Brown and Paul Larson, who is a liaison between First Student (who was awarded the

transportation bid) and the R.I.D.E. Mrs. Bernard recused herself at this time. Carolyn Dias presented three scenarios to the School Committee for the cost.

Scenario #1. Maintaining the current operation with the two special education buses would equal \$218,000 per year.

Scenario #2. Leasing one bus for special education transportation would equal \$209,000 per year.

Scenario #3. No buses being leased from First Student and First Student transporting all special education students would equal \$161,000 per year. Discussion followed.

At this point 8:54pm Mr. Chretien made a motion to recess for five minutes with Mr. Cervasio seconding. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0. Meeting recessed.

At 8:57pm, Mr. Cervasio reconvened the meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the Foster School Committee voted to table choosing which scenario they would choose. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.

A discussion of increasing the bus routes from 8 buses to 9 followed. Dr. Irving read an email from Bill Roche, First Student Regional Manager that the reduction to 8 buses was possible – route 1 & 2 remain the same; route 5 will be eliminated; and remaining bus routes will be re-worked. Should there be an increase in enrollment, the routes could be re-worked at that time.

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the Foster School Committee voted to table the increase of one bus. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.

*b. Building & Grounds – Painting*

Dr. Irving informed the School Committee that the painting of the school bid was awarded to RFD Painting in the amount of \$4000.00 for the interior corridor walls, trim and doors. The School Committee had approved the painting at the May meeting.

*c. Bullying Policy –*

Dr. Irving informed the School Committee that she has observed bullying in the school and plans on building a task force to look into ways to deal with the issue. The task force will report to the SIT every month. If the policy needs updating or changing, then we will.

Right now it's more of a procedure to enforce it.

**6. New business (for discussion/action)**

*a. School Improvement Plan –*

This item was tabled.

*b. Tractor Mower –*

Dr. Irving presented a quote for a new tractor/mower for the school, given to her by Joe McGovern. The mower is a ToroLX468/w 46" mower deck for \$1,895.00 and would need to be funded by using the surplus. Dr. Irving recommended the replacement. On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mrs. Bernard the School Committee voted to approve the replacement of the tractor not to exceed \$1,895.00. Mr. Cervasio recommended that the School Committee wait to approve the purchase until the July monies come in, we can't keep dipping into the surplus. A member in the audience suggested talking to the DPW Director about borrowing a mower from the Town that is not in use but does run. Motion was withdrawn. On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mrs. Bernard the School Committee voted to ask the Town about borrowing the Town's mower. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

c. School Yard – Loam

Shelly Pezza presented the School Committee with a quote from A.Cairo Services, LLC for the purchase of screened loam for the playground. Labor, hydro-grass seed and labor to install temporary irrigation system would be provided and paid for by the PTG. Dr. Irving recommended approval. On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mr. Cervasio the School Committee voted to approved the purchase of screened loam not to exceed \$4625.00. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

d. Personnel – appointments, lay-offs, retirements

This item was tabled.

**7. Communication/Reports**

a. Correspondence –

Dr. Irving relayed a Home Schooling request from Julia Boyce for her children grades 2 & 4. On a Bernard / Chretien motion , the School Committee approved the home schooling request. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

b. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Irving relayed her feelings about the completion of her first academic year here at Paine School. She felt it had been a successful year for students, staff, and parents. She thanked everyone for their input and help through the year and she looks forward to the 2010-2011 academic school year.

c. Public Comment –

Mrs. Rothberg informed the School Committee the RI Media Association had awarded Dr. Irving with their ‘Wilfred Berube Memorial Award for Administrative Excellence’ for 2010. Dr. Irving was presented with the award at a Learning Celebration.

Mrs. Pezza commented that since K through 5 is required to have an adult home for drop off ‘bus stops’ should be considered.

d. Future Agenda Items –

Review door to door policy.

Building Committee – 5 year Capital plan.

**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.**

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mrs. Bernard, the School Committee voted to enter into Executive Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

**9. Return to Open Session**

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mrs. Bernard the School Committee reconvened into Open Session at 9:20pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

**10. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mrs. Bernard, the School Committee voted to adjourn at 9:22pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough  
Secretary Foster School Committee