

FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Town House Building
182 Howard Hill Road
Foster, RI 02825

Tuesday, August 23, 2011
Executive Session – 7:00pm
Open Session – 7:30pm

1. **Convene Meeting** – Kathleen Swanson, Chair, called the meeting of the Foster School Committee to order at 7:02pm on August 23, 2011, which was held at the Foster Town House.
 - a. Roll Call – All members were present, Kathleen Swanson, chair, Shelley Pezza, Vice Chair, member Patricia Fountain and Superintendent / Principal, Davida Irving, Legal Counsel, Greg Piccirilli and FSC Secretary, Mrs. McCullough.
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance – was recited.
2. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the Foster School Committee **voted 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) (1) Personnel (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation.** Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
3. **Reconvene Open Session** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the Foster School Committee voted to reconvene Open Session at 7:40pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Mrs. Swanson relayed that the FSC discussed collective bargaining and litigation and that the FSC voted to authorize the Superintendent to notify the Essential Support Personnel (ESP) Union that the FSC wishes to commence negotiations on the successive contract for the one that will expire June 30, 2012.
4. **Public Comment** – there were two individuals that ask questions. The Chair redirected the questions to items on the agenda.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the Foster School Committee voted to accept the Minutes of the August 9, 2011 meeting as presented. Mrs. Fountain wanted to rescind her vote on item #4. Mrs. Swanson wanted legal advice and made a motion to table the approval of the August 9th Minutes with Mrs. Fountain seconding. This motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain the Foster School Committee voted to accept the Executive Session Minutes from August 9, 2011. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
6. **Approval of Warrants** – as there were no Warrants to approve, the FSC tabled this item on a Pezza / Fountain motion. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

7. Old Business (for discussion/action)

a. Budget 2011-2012

1) Potential Arbitration Costs – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the Foster School Committee voted to table this item for lack of information. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

b. FSD Employment Policy – 1st Reading Dr. Irving explained that Foster needs its own policy due to the BEP (basic education plan) and recommended the FSC approve the first reading. Discussion followed. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the Foster School Committee voted to table the FSD Employment Policy in order to add more description and clarification. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

c. Legal Services – Research Mrs. Fountain presented her research of the Town Charter superseding state law for going out to bid for legal services. Mr. Kettle, Representative, agreed. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain the Foster School Committee voted to table Legal Services - Research until more information is found. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

d. BRC – Policy Draft Mrs. Fountain recommended the Superintendent merge the Foster and Foster/Glocester policies to enable more stability and accountability of purchasing and expending. Discussion followed. On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC voted to table the BRC – Policy Draft to the next school committee meeting where the Superintendent will present a succinct policy. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

e. Resource Sharing with the Region – Technology Dr. Irving informed the Committee that she still had not received a proposal from the Region in terms of the cost sharing, however, after speaking with Dr. Barnes late afternoon, she believes there is one on its way. She did inform the FSC that there are still needs for completion of the technology from the roof collapse. The Insurance Company has approved the company DMY Technology who will get the school up and running for the beginning of school. On a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Ms. Pezza the FSC voted to proceed with incurring the services of DMY technology. Discussion followed. Mrs. Swanson and Ms. Pezza withdrew their motion, no motion on the floor. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to table Resource Sharing with the Region – Technology. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

8. New Business (for discussion/action)

a. Technology Position for 11/12 Dr. Irving recommended that the FSC approve DMY Technology to continue to cover the technology needs until a technology person has been appointed. On a motion by Ms. Pezza seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted for Dr. Irving put into the other options for permanent resolution for technology, in the meantime hire Dan Yee to resolve any problems

with technology needs at Paine School. Discussion followed. Motion passed.

Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

- b. After/Before School Programs for 11/12 Dr. Irving presented an ever changing proposal for before and after school programming and how to manage it. FSC suggested surveying the parents to find out how many children would be interested and to help determine the cost. Discussion followed. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC tabled the After/Before School Programs for 11/12. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- c. Instructional ½ time Specialist Position On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza the FSC tabled item 8c. Instructional ½ time Specialist Position. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- d. Superintendent / Principal Evaluation Dr. Irving asked if this item should be discussed in Executive Session. The School Committee was looking for a tool and Dr. Irving will provide a preliminary tool. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC voted to table Superintendents/Principal Evaluation on 8d. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- e. Teacher Evaluation Dr. Irving presented the new RIDE Evaluation Tool and explained that this tool goes into effect this academic school year. In the Foster District the implementation will be gradual and full in the 2012-2013 school year.
- f. Ten (10) Year Budget Ms. Pezza was actually looking for actuals and budgeted from the Business Manager. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain the School Committee voted to indefinitely table Ten (10) Year Budget. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- g. Volunteers as Bus Monitors Dr. Irving addressed this item and clarified that there never was an intension to have volunteers as bus monitors. However, Ocean State Transit will provide training for any volunteers but would not be considered monitors. RIDE granted the requested transportation variances and Dr. Irving will have the variances posted on the web site.
- h. Home Schooling Requests On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza the FSC approved the Homeschooling requests as presented. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

9. Communication/Reports

- a. Correspondence There was no correspondence.

- b. Superintendent's Report Dr. Irving reported that she had been asked to look into developing a Budget Sub-Committee. Marianne Knight expressed her interest in being on the Subcommittee. Dr. Irving would like people with an accounting/financial background. The Committee will advise the School Committee during the budget process.
There will be a ribbon cutting for the re-opening of the cafeteria and library. Dr. Irving acknowledged the three fifth grade teachers who dedicated a year developing their social studies skills. On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC directed the Superintendent to write letters of recommendation to be placed in the three teachers files.
Mrs. Rothberg, Librarian, was commended for going above & beyond getting the library back together and has not been compensated.
- 1) Personnel – Resignations, Appointments, Re-calls On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC approved the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Dr. Lorraine Bowen, retired administrator, to provide administrative support no more than 90 days at \$350.00 per day. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- c. Business Manager's Report Mr. Moore provided the FSC with his financial report.
- d. Future Agenda Items
Budget Sub-Committee
Policy for Students Dropped Off at Home
Potential Arbitration Costs

10. Reconvene Open Session – Not applicable

11. Adjournment on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helena McCullough
FSC Secretary