

FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

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

Thursday, September 27, 2012  
Open Session – 7:00pm

1. **Convene Meeting** – Chair, Kathleen Swanson, called the meeting of the Foster School Committee (FSC) to order on Thursday, September 27, 2012 at 7:06 pm.
  - a. *Roll Call* – present were, Chair, Kathleen Swanson, Vice Chair, Shelley Pezza, member, Patricia Fountain was absent at the time of roll call and arrived at 7:11 pm, Superintendent, Davida Irving and secretary, Helena McCullough.
  - b. *Pledge of Allegiance* – was recited by all in attendance.
2. **Public Comment** – there was no public comment.

At this point, Chair, Kathleen Swanson, moved item *6b, Heating Oil, for discussion and/or action*. – Joe McGovern, Building Maintenance Supervisor, introduced Mr. William Reichert, owner of Reichert & Son Fuel Oil, Inc., who relayed to the FSC the issue facing the school department. The issue and concern is the excessive amount of oil sludge, several inches, which has built up over the years in the underground oil tank. The tank needs to be cleaned out, which will involve special company/individuals with special licenses and capabilities to be hired and take on the job. He explained that the company/individual has given a price of \$6,600, which is on the high end of the price scale. On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC authorized the Superintendent to authorize Mr. McGovern to go forward with the procedure not to accede \$6,600. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Mr. Reichert also shared the cost of *heating oil* and said the current price for heating fuel as of today was \$3.19 per gallon. As the FSC had not locked in on an earlier offering from Reichert Fuel Oil of \$3.03 per gallon in June 2012 due to the fact that the school department did not have the down payment of \$9,000.00, Mr. Reichert offered the school department to lock-in at the present price but not to exceed the price of \$3.30 per gallon. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to take advantage and lock in at \$3.30 per gallon. Discussion followed. Ms. Pezza and Mrs. Swanson withdrew their motions. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC voted to lock-in on the current price not to exceed \$3.30 per gallon with Reichert Fuel Oil for 2012-2013. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

The FSC moved onto item *6d, Heating Pipe Update*. Mr. McGovern informed the committee that 40% to 50% of the project has been completed. No “old” pipes will be disconnected until 100% of the “new” pipes are installed. On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to have the bid information and breakdown attached to the minutes of August 23, 2012. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

**3. Building Use Requests**

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC approved the Building Use Requests as presented. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain the FSC approved the Executive Session Minutes of August 14, 2012. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Fountain, the FSC approved the Open Session Minutes of August 14, 2012 as amended (typo). Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

**5. Approval of Warrants**

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted approve the warrant dated 8/1/2012 for \$500.00. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to approve the warrant dated 8/22/2012 for \$59,389.21. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to approve the warrant dated 8/29/2012 for \$7,423.29. Discussion followed. Motion passed.

Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain – no

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to approve the warrant dated 9/18/2012 for \$88,343.09. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mrs. Fountain - no

- a. *Business Manager's Report* – Mr. Moore was not in attendance but supplied the FSC with a monthly report and a UCOA report. Discussion followed. No motions.

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

- a. *Legal Services* –  
Mrs. Fountain commented that the committee never went forward with bids for legal services from last year. She explained that a new school committee next year would be best served to interview new candidates and should probably go out to bid for future legal services.
- b. *Heating Oil Update* – this item has already been discussed.
- c. *OPEB* –  
The FSC discussed the future of OPEB liabilities and felt legal counsel should review in order to make sure that monies are not used and put back into the general fund.
- d. *2013-2014 Heating Pipes Update* – this item was discussed earlier.

**7. New Business (for discussion/action)**

- a. *Report on Other District TAs* – Dr. Irving gave her report on the other districts' teacher assistants.
- b. *Building Use Fees – Review of Costs* – Dr. Irving requested the FSC table this item for future discussion. This will be a future agenda item. Discussion followed. No votes were taken.
- c. *Resignations*  
On a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC approved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the resignation request of Mr. Malcolm Moore, Business Manager, with regret. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- d. *School Improvement Team Committee*  
The Superintendent informed the FSC, that this item and items e, f, & g will have the meeting dates and times in the next newsletter.
- e. *Building Committee* - NNN
- f. *Wellness Committee* - NNN
- g. *Technology Committee* – NNN

**8. Communication/Reports**

- a. *Correspondence* – the Superintendent acknowledged that correspondence was included in the FSC packets for their information.

b. *Superintendent's Report* –

Dr. Irving reported that the student population is holding at 282 students. NECAP testing will begin in October beginning with Language Arts, then Math and finally Writing.

RTI will begin with first and second grades and grades 3, 4, & 5 will begin after NECAPS.

PTG has planned an After School Program for the fall.

The second faculty meeting will held on Oct. 2 where professional development will take place and school issues discussed. The first full day of professional development will be held on November 13, 2012.

c. *Future Agenda Items*

- Robert Coin Police Chief – residency cards - Swanson
- August Minutes - Fountain
- Oil & heating update - Fountain
- Status of filling the Business manger's position - Fountain
- Building Use fees – SMCT - Fountain
- TA schedule with student names whited out - Fountain
- NECAP scores - Fountain
- Dr. Bowen – one year appointment - up for reconsideration - Fountain

**9. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mrs. Fountain and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC voted to adjourn at 8:36 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough  
Secretary Foster School Committee