

FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES

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

Tuesday, February 26, 2013
Open Session – 7:00pm

1. **Convene Meeting** – Chair, Kathleen Swanson, called the meeting of the Foster School Committee (FSC) to order at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, February 26, 2013.
 - a. *Roll Call* – Present were Kathleen Swanson, Chair, and member, Ron Cervasio, Superintendent / Principal, Dr. Davida Irving and Secretary Mrs. McCullough. Ms. Pezza was in attendance at 7:06 pm.
 - b. *Pledge of Allegiance* – was recited by all in attendance.
2. **Public Comment** – there was no public comment.
3. **Building Use Requests** - the following building Use Requests were approved on a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Mr. Cervasio:

Swamp Meadow Theatre to use the café for auditions on March 13, 2013 from 4:30 pm – 8:30 pm.

Girl Scouts of RI Troop #287 to use the cafe (where available or room #2) on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Foster Town Council to use the Library and Teacher Lounge for Interviews on February 5, 6, & 7 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

Girl Scouts, Daisy Troop #781 to use the cafe on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

Motions passed. Vote = 2-0-0.
4. **Approval of Minutes** – on a motion by Mr. Cervasio and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved the Open Session Minutes of January 30, 2013. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.
5. **Approval of Warrants** – on a motion by Mr. Cervasio and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved the Warrants as presented. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-0.
 - a. *Business Manager's Report* – there was no report this month.
6. **Old Business (for discussion/action)**
 - a. *Curriculum Coordination with Glocester* – Dr. Irving informed the FSC that the three districts are working on a Strategic Plan. The three Superintendents' collaborated and put a plan together for the fifth and sixth grade teachers to implement. There will be a curriculum meeting at the region.
 - b. *2012-2013 Budget* - tabled
 - c. *2013-2014 Budget*
 - 1) *Public Hearing* – Kelli Russ, Interim Business Manager, reviewed the 2013-2014 Budget with the FSC and the Audience and answered questions by both.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the 2013-2014 Budget as presented. Motion passed. Vote = 3-

0-0. Mrs. Russ will present the Budget to the Town Council on February 28, 2013.

7. New Business (for discussion/action)

- a. *Personnel – Non-renewals* – on a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the following non-renewals for the 2013-2014 school year. It was noted that these non-renewals do not reflect job performance and has to be done before March 1st.
- 1) ¼ of Dawn Bergstrom’s current employment as Art Teacher
 - 2) ¼ of Marge Jones’s current employment as Music Teacher
 - 3) ¼ of Sharron Rothberg’s current employment as Librarian
 - 4) ¼ of Cathy Santosousso’s current employment as Physical Education Teacher

Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-1.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mr. Cervasio – abstained

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved the layoff of Ms. Lisa Ricci, Reading Specialist, for the 2013-2014 school year. It was also noted that this position was for one year for a teacher’s one year leave of absence and does not reflect her job performance. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

- b. *MOA – Foster Teachers’ Association* – Chair moved to discuss after Executive Session and then tabled.
- c. *2013-2014 Calendar* – Chair shared information that the Region School Committee is considering eliminating February vacation in 2014.
- d. *FSD Communications* – tabled – no update - Future Agenda Item.
- e. *Policies*
- 1) *Security & Safety* – Dr. Irving informed the FSC that she is working with a team and reviewing and revising policies. Also being considered is the possibility of the school being locked for twenty –four hours per day.
 - 2) *Homework* – Dr. Irving has this item on for discussion at the March faculty meeting and plans to present at the March meeting.
- f. *Lay-off Resolution Notification* – tabled.
- g. *Strategic Plan Update* – Dr. Irving reported that there have been four meetings and now are developing an action plan for each of the goals. There was also good conversation about how to further improve the education of the students.
- h. *Foster Town Council / Foster School Committee – Cost Sharing* – the Chair suggested reaching out to the Town Council about saving and long-term planning.

8. Communication/Reports

- a. *Correspondence* – Dr. Irving read a report that Joe McGovern, Building Maintenance Supervisor, emailed for the Committee. After the February snow storms, the installer of the roof of the school cleared off excessive snow build up and the roof tested well. The engineering firm of Odeh Engineering performed an

investigation to determine the condition of the roof due to snow drifting and build up was in no immediate structural safety hazard. (Odeh's report is available at the school.)

There were some heating repairs due to a damper not closing.

As of February 22, 2013 the ground tank holds 6869 gallons of fuel oil.

- b. *Superintendent's Report* – there was no report.
 - 1) *Facilities Update* – see above communication.
 - c. *Future Agenda Items* –
 - Joe McGovern to report out on Odeh Engineering Report
 - Report on 5 year NECAP's
 - Phone System
 - Electronic grade book, backpack, & attendance
 - Mission Statement
9. On a motion by Ms. Pezza seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC **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)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation – Foster Teachers' Association and Educational Support Personnel.** Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

The FSC recessed for five minutes.

On a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to reconvene Open Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to “seal” the minutes from Executive Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Mrs. Swanson relayed that Collective Bargaining and Litigation were discussed and no votes were taken.

10. **Adjournment** – on a motion by Mr. Cervasio and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC voted to adjourn at 8:28 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helena McCullough
Secretary Foster School Committee