

FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES

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

Tuesday, May 28, 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, May 28, 2013.
 - a. *Roll Call* – all members were present at the time of roll call: Cahir, Kathleen Swanson, Vice-Chair, Shelley Pezza, and member, Ron Cervasio. Dr. Davida Irving was also present after the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - b. *Pledge of Allegiance* – was recited.
2. **Public Comment** – Field Day was a success.
3. **Building Use Requests** – there were no Building Use requests.
4. **Approval of Minutes** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the “Sealed” Executive Minutes for April 23, 2013 as presented. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Open Session Minutes for April 23, 2013 as presented. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
Also noted: Foster Town Council received the monthly report for April’s meeting.
5. **Approval of Warrants** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Warrant #22, dated April 25, 2013 for \$129,961.37. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Warrant #24, dated May 10, 2013 for \$101,766.16. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved Warrant “April Exp” dated April 26, 2013 for \$9,447.00. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

 - a. *Business Manager’s Report* – Kelli Russ, Interim Business Manager, supplied the FSC with April Monthly Expenditures. Discussion. The FSC asked Dr. Irving to have legal counsel provide the FSC with an updated invoice for services rendered and a projection of legal expenses through June 30, 2013.

At this point, Chair, Kathleen Swanson, moved Item # *8b1, Facilities Update*, up on the Agenda for discussion with Mr. Joseph McGovern, Building and Grounds Supervisor. Mr. McGovern had just received the State Fire Marshall’s Report but had not finished going through the report. He has a couple more companies coming out to look at the chimney and hopes to have prices for the FSC review.

Item #*6d Capital Projects* up on the agenda for discussion with Mr. McGovern, who reported that the RFP’s are complete and the ads were going in the paper this week for bids on Security Cameras, Fencing of the Kindergarten Playground, Paving of the grass in front of the school and Window replacements. The advertisement is scheduled for

May 29, 2013 and all bids will be due in by June 18, 2013. The window replacement may go on hold, due to the results of the State Fire Marshall's Report.

6. Old Business (for discussion/action)

- a. *2012-2013 Budget* – there was no discussion on this item but it will remain a standing item on future agendas.
- b. *2013-2014 Budget* – Chair, Kathleen Swanson, reported that at the Financial Town Meeting, the tax payers of Foster voted to return \$18,000 back to the bottom line that the Foster Town Council took out.

FSC Chair, Kathleen Swanson, moved Item # *7e Personnel – Layoffs, Resignations, Appointments, Retirements, Leaves, and Recalls: Business Manager, Technology Coordinator, Educator Evaluation Coordinator, Art, Music, Library, Physical Education*, to this point on the Agenda.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Dr. Stephen Du as Technology Coordinator for the 2013-2014 school year at \$35,000 plus benefits. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mr. Cervasio and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC voted to table the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Mr. Michael Petrarca as Business Manager for \$28,000 for 90 days. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mr. Cervasio and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to schedule a couple of dates to meet Mr. Petrarca and those dates being June 11, 2013 and/or June 18, 2013. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mr. Cervasio not to rescind an earlier vote to non-renew the ¼ current employment of the Librarian failed due to no second.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to rescind the non-renewal of ¼ of the current employment of the Librarian, Mrs. Sharron Rothberg, for the 2013-2014 school year and who will work Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0. Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes
Ms. Pezza – yes
Mr. Cervasio – no

On a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC voted to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to rescind the non-renewal of ¼ of the current employment of the Physical Education Teacher, Ms. Cathy Santosousso, for the 2013-2014 school year and who will work Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:
Mrs. Swanson – yes
Ms. Pezza – yes
Mr. Cervasio – no

On a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC voted to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to rescind the non-renewal of ¼ of the current employment of the Art Teacher, Mrs. Dawn Bergstrom, for the 2013-2014 school

year and who will work Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Motion passed.
Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mr. Cervasio – no

On a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC voted to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to rescind the non-renewal of ¼ of the current employment of the Music Teacher, Mrs. Margery Jones, for the 2013-2014 school year and who will work Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Motion passed.

Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mr. Cervasio – no

- c. *Homework Policy – 2nd Reading* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved the 2nd reading of the Homework Policy. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
 - d. *Capital Projects* – discussed earlier on the agenda.
- 7. New Business (for discussion/action)**
- a. *2013-2014 Calendar* – on a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC approved the Superintendent's recommendation from a recent survey taken of parents and staff, that school will begin for students on Tuesday, August 27, 2013 and Teachers will report on Monday, August 26, 2013. There will be no "Good Friday" holiday and the November Professional Development day will be eliminated. The February and April vacations will remain for this upcoming school year with the last day of school scheduled for June 10, 2014. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
 - b. *June 2013 Meeting* – on a motion by Mr. Cervasio and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC voted to reschedule their meeting from June 11th to June 28th, 2013 at 7:00 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
 - c. *Technology*
 - 1) *System Upgrades* – Dr. Stephen Du reported, he is looking into a price for upgrading the current phone system to handle incoming calls regarding student's absences, nurse information, etc. Wifi is being considered for all schools in Foster, Gloucester and Foster-Glocester through a classroom initiative through RIDE. MMS is capable of handling attendance and grade book electronically and the teachers will need to be trained to use both.
 - 2) *Robotics* – on a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC directed the Superintendent to implement Robotics into the curriculum for the 2013-2014 school year. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
 - d. *Building Committee Appointments* – on a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC appointed David Sepe to the Building Committee. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

- e. *Personnel – Layoffs, Resignations, Appointments, Retirements, Leaves, Recalls: – Business Manager, Technology Coordinator, Educator Evaluation Coordinator, Art, Music, Library, Physical Education* – discussed earlier on the agenda.

8. Communication/Reports

a. Correspondence

- 1) Letter to the Foster Citizens concerning School Funding – Mr. Cervasio explained that the citizens of Foster need to know how hard the FSC worked to save money. There is a misconception that the numbers are down when really they are up. No votes were taken.

- b. *Superintendent's Report* – Dr. Irving reported that the fourth grade completed the NECAP. Applications for the two Teachers and one School Nurse Teacher will be reviewed next week and she will have a recommendation for the FSC at the June meeting. She reported that this year's full Day Kindergarten has been very successful. The students have had a wonderful Music Program thanks to the PTG and Laurie Murphy, who arranged for all the musicians. Arts Night was beautiful, thanks to Mrs. Bergstrom Art Teacher. There were many compliments on the student's art work. And today was Field Day, also a fun time for student's staff and many volunteers – she thanked Miss S for all her hard work to set up a successful day.

- 1) Facilities Update – discussed earlier on the agenda.

c. Future Agenda Items –

Phone upgrade cost – report at June 28, 2013 meeting

Time clocks for part-time – report at June 28, 2013 meeting

- 9. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, 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 – Educational Support Personnel.** Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

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

Mrs. Swanson, chair, reported that Collective Bargaining and Litigation for the Educational Support Personnel was discussed and no votes were taken.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to “Seal” the minutes of Executive Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

- 10. **Adjournment** – on a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to adjourn at 9:07 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough
Secretary Foster School Committee