

**FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

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

Tuesday, January 28, 2014
Open Session – 7:15 PM

1. **Convene Meeting** – the meeting of the Foster School Committee (FSC) was called to order by Chair, Kathleen Swanson, at 7:17 pm on Tuesday, January 28, 2014.
 - a. *Roll Call* – all members were present: chair, Kathleen Swanson, vice Chair, Shelley Pezza, member, Ron Cervasio, Superintendent, Caroline Caswell, Legal Counsel, Greg Piccirilli, and FSC secretary, Mrs. McCullough.
 - b. *Pledge of Allegiance* – was recited by all in attendance.
 - c. *Election of Officers* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC elected Kathleen Swanson as Chair of the FSC. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC elected Mr. Ron Cervasio as Vice Chair of the FSC. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
2. **Public Comment** – a comment was read by Mr. Nick Bousquet of Biscuit Hill Road. The Chair thanked him for his comment.
3. **Vote to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation – Educational Support Personnel and Foster Teachers’ Association, Litigation – Harmony Hills and DCYF Special Education Tuition** – tabled at this time.
4. **Building Use Requests** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved the Building Use Request by Swamp Meadow Community theatre from January 4, 2014 through May 15, 2014. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the “Sealed” Executive Session and Open Session Minutes for December 17, 2014. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
6. **Approval of Warrants** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Warrant dated January 7, 2014 for \$147,014.86. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved the Warrant dated January 13, 2014 for \$71,943.56. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
 - a. *Business Manager’s Report* – Mr. Petrarca enclosed the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Town of Foster for FY2013. The district realized a \$20,065 surplus in FY 2013 and ends the year with an accumulated fund balance of \$28,858. He is still working on developing the FY 2015 Educational Budget Plan as well as updating the FY 2014 budget.

7. Old Business (for discussion/action)

- a. *2012-2013 Budget* – completed.
- b. *2013-2014 Budget* – still being worked on.
- c. *Facilities Update* – Dr. Caswell updated the FSC on the work and discussions of the Building Committee and also reported the building would be closed between 5:00 pm and 5:30 pm daily to accommodate the dinner break for the evening custodian.
- d. *Technology*
 - 1) *Wireless* – Mrs. Swanson wanted to share a report from Harvard concerning their findings that wireless may be hazardous to children. Short discussion followed. Dr. Caswell updated the FSC on the wireless initiative and that RIDE has sent out a RFP and has received four responses. Vendor not known at this time.
- e. *Update Kindergarten*
 - 1) *Entrance Age – Policy #1201* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved developing a sub-committee review and develop a waiver for the entrance age for Kindergarten. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.
Vote as follows:
Mrs. Swanson – yes
Ms. Pezza – yes
Mr. Cervasio – no
- f. *Capital Projects* – Dr. Caswell reviewed her revisions to the Capital Plan and explained the changes. Discussion. No votes taken.

8. New Business (for discussion/action)

- a. *Budget Workshop – Schedule* – the following dates will allow budget workshop discussions with the Superintendent, Business Manager, FSC and Public:
Monday, February 3, 2014 @ 12:30 pm
Thursday, February 13, 2014 @ 7:15 pm
- b. *Foster / Gloucester – Regionalization* – Mrs. Swanson informed those in attendance that there is a subcommittee discussing the possibility of regionalization.
- c. *Full Day Kindergarten Impact with First Grade* – Dr. Caswell gave a presentation. At this time it's hard to make true comparisons but using some AIMSweb information, it appears to be an advantage.
- d. *Foster Town Council – Monthly Reports* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC instructed the Superintendent to write to the Foster Town Council, with legal review, informing them that pursuant to the Town Charter, the FSC will submit Quarterly Reports only. Legal counsel would review that the Charter required the FSC to submit more than Quarterly Reports. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

9. Communication/Reports

- a. *Correspondence* – Mr. Bousquet’s comment.
- b. *Principal’s Report* – Mrs. Danusis did the Kindergarten Impact with First Grade that Dr. Caswell presented.
- c. *Superintendent’s Report* – Dr. Caswell reported that at this time they are knee deep in budget.

10. Future Agenda Items – the usual standing items.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and 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 – Educational Support Personnel and Foster Teachers’ Association, Litigation – Harmony Hills and DCYF Special Education Tuition.** Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to resume Open Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Mrs. Swanson reported that Collective Bargaining and Litigation, Educational Support Personnel and Foster Teachers’ Association and Litigation, Harmony Hill and DCYF Special Education Tuition were discussed and no votes were taken.

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

11. Adjournment – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to adjourn at 9:14 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Helena McCullough
Secretary Foster School Committee