

**FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

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

Tuesday, May 27, 2014  
Open Session – 7:15 PM

1. **Convene Meeting** – the meeting of the Foster School Committee (FSC) was called to order on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 by Chair, Kathleen Swanson.
  - a. *Roll Call* – all members were present, Chair, Kathleen Swanson, Vice-Chair, Shelley Pezza, and member, Ron Cervasio. Also present were Superintendent, Caroline Caswell and FSC secretary, Helena McCullough.
  - b. *Pledge of Allegiance* – was recited by all in attendance.
2. **Public Comment** – there was no Public 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, Superintendent Contract, Technology Contract, and Secretary Contract.** This item will be continued later in the meeting.
4. **Building Use Requests** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Building Use Request from the Swamp Meadow Community Theatre for their Annual meeting on June 9, 2014 and their summer performance from August 6-12, 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 Executive “Sealed” and Open Sessions Minutes for April 29, 2014 as presented. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the minutes of May 12, 2014. Motion passed. Vote = 2-0-1. Vote as follows:  
Mrs. Swanson – yes  
Ms. Pezza – yes  
Mr. Cervasio – abstained
6. **Approval of Warrants** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Warrant dated May 12, 2014, run #23 in the amount of \$152,763.94. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
  - a. *Business Manager’s Report* – Michael Petraca reported to the FSC, that the current budget 2013-2014 was right on track.
7. **Old Business (for discussion/action)**
  - a. *2014-2015 Budget* – the FSD Budget for 2014-2015 was accepted at the Foster Financial Town Meeting with an additional \$11,000 added to the bottom line.

- b. *District Building Report* – Dr. Caswell reported that the Building Committee met before the FSC meeting and several items were discussed. The Capital Improvements were accepted at the Foster Financial Town Meeting which includes windows and doors up to fire code, wireless initiative awarded to HUB through R.I.D.E. and new entrance which is through a five year lease. The other discussion was for asset protection plan (five years) due June 22, 2014 to R.I.D.E. and has been submitted already. Housing Aid was also discussed and the district is able to be reimbursed for expenditures that are done for capital improvements in our building and then the money will go back to the Town and will go into the Capital Budget. Approximately \$26,000 will be submitted for a forty percent reimbursement.

## **8. New Business (for discussion/action)**

### *a. Request for Proposals for Capital Improvements*

- 1) Windows and doors - On a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC approved the RFP for windows and doors. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- 2) Front Entrance - On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved the RFP for a more formal front entrance drawing. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- 3) Wireless – this has already been awarded.

- b. *PLTW (Project Lead the Way) Update* – Dr. Caswell reported on this program. STEM enrichment block may pilot “Pewter Bugs” for the K to 1 level and for 2 to 5 level “Illuminations”, which is an on-line program with activities and lessons.

### *c. Personnel – Recalls, Lay-offs, Retirement, and Resignation –*

On a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC approved the Superintendent’s recommendation to recall Erin Quinlan as a .2 Instructional Coach. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved the Superintendent’s recommendation to recall Cathy Santosuosso as a .6 Physical Education and .2 Health Teacher. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved the Superintendent’s recommendation to recall Sharron Rothberg as .6 Library and .2 Enrichment Teacher. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved the Superintendent’s recommendation to recall Margery Jones as .6 Music and .2 Enrichment Teacher. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved the Superintendent’s recommendation to recall Dawn Bergstrom as .6 Art and .2 Enrichment Teacher. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC approved the Superintendent’s recommendation to recall Rebecca Payette as .55 Math Coach and .45 Induction Coach. Discussion. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC accepted the resignation of Maureen Botelho with regret. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the lay-off of Kim Soares and Laura Morin for the 2014-2015 school year. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

- d. *Non-Resident Tuitions – Policy #5119* – the FSC discussed establishing a tuition for non-resident students. No votes were taken. Dr. Caswell will come back to the FSC with a proposal of a possible formula and wording of the policy.
- e. *Curricula Plan* – Kristen Danusis, Principal, reported on Curriculum Overview for 2014-2015 she supplies the FSC with. She reported that the School Improvement Team was charged with the task.
- f. *Standards Based Report Cards* – With implementing a standards based report card, the SIT recommends a tri-mester report for 2014-2015.  
On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Principal's recommendation to implement a new tri-mester report card to align with the new curriculum standards. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- g. *Federal Spending – Title I & Title II Funding* – Dr. Caswell reported Title I funding of \$49,228.93 will cover math coach and support with technology and Title II funding of \$25,449 will cover Instructional Coach and Common Core materials.
- h. *Update on School Discipline Practices* – Mrs. Danusis, Principal, informed the FSC of her progress approach discipline procedures.

## 9. Communication/Reports

- a. *Correspondence* – there was no correspondence.
- b. *Principal's Report* – the SIT has an actual revised and working School Improvement Plan that aligns to the Curricula. For field trips, there is a form for requesting these trips and PTG pays for the trips. The \$5.00 fee to offset the bus cost on field trips has helped.
- c. *Superintendent's Report* – Dr. Caswell reported that she and sub-committees are reviewing several FSD Policies, i.e. Truancy, Attendance, etc.

## 10. Future Agenda Items

- a. Legal Counsel – Ms. Pezza
- b. Contracts – Technology and Secretary
- c. Attendance and Volunteer Policy

At this point 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, Superintendent Contract, Technology Contract, and Secretary Contract** on a Pezza and Cervasio motion. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mrs. Swanson, the FSC voted to reconvene Open session at 9:16pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Mrs. Swanson reported that Collective Bargaining and Litigation – Educational Support Personnel and Foster Teachers’ Association, Superintendent Contract, Technology Contract, and Secretary Contract were discussed and that three votes were taken.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, 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 Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to adjourn at 9:16 pm. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough  
Secretary Foster School Committee