

**FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

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

Tuesday, August 26, 2014
Open Session – 7:15 PM

1. **Convene Meeting** – Kathleen Swanson, Chair, called the meeting of the Foster School Committee (FSC) to order on Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at 7:15 PM.
 - a. *Roll Call* – all members were present: Kathleen Swanson, Chair, Shelley Pezza, Vice Chair, Ron Cervasio, member, along with Superintendent, Dr. Caroline Caswell and secretary, Helena McCullough.
 - b. *Pledge of Allegiance* – was recited.

2. **Public Comment** – there was no Public Comment.

The next item was put on hold to later in the meeting.

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, & R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(8), Request for home schooling approval.**
4. **Building Use Requests** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the request to hold “Meet the Town Council Candidates” on Thursday, October 2, 2014 and Community of Foster – community organizations sharing information during Open House on Tuesday, September 16, 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 Open and Executive Session minutes for June 24, 2014 and July 8, 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 runs #27, for \$145,917, and #1 for \$129,156.41 and #2 for \$12,620.67. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
 - a. *Business Manager’s Report* – Mike Petrarca, Business Manager, supplied the FSC with his preliminary year to date expenditure report for 2013-2014. He reported on the School Lunch Program for 2014 noting that lunch participation was down from the year before. For 2014-2015 he reported that the budget information has been imputed into the system.
7. **Old Business (for discussion/action)**
 - a. *2014-2015 Budget* – the FSC had discussion on the price of heating oil and possibly “piggy-backing” with the F/G Regional school district.
8. **New Business (for discussion/action)**

- a. *Community Engagement – Meet the Town Council Candidates* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC will sponsor / hold a ‘Meet the Foster Town Council Candidates’ forum on October 2, 2014 unless another organization sponsors this event. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- b. *FSC Calendar* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved their meeting calendar for the 2014-2015 school year. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- c. *Contract Extension* –
 - 1) *Principal* – on a motion by Mr. Cervasio and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC approved the rewritten and extended contract for Principal, Kristen Danusis. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- d. *Personnel – Retirement, Leave of Absence, Long Term Substitute, Re-Call, Superintendent Reappointment*

On a motion by Mrs. Swanson and by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Superintendent’s recommendation to except the request for retirement from Michele McGovern with regret. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Long term absence request for Deborah Cosgrove until November 7, 2014. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC recalled Jim Yaskovic for second shift custodian. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Superintendent’s recommendation to appoint Dayna Miele as grade 2 teacher until November 4, 2014. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded Mr. Cervasio, the FSC reappointed Dr. Caroline Caswell as a part-time Superintendent for the 2014-2015 school year working 60 days at a rate of \$600/day. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

- e. *Special FSC Meeting – RFP Building Projects* – the FSC scheduled a special meeting for Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 8:00 AM.

9. Communication/Reports

- a. *Correspondence* – there was no correspondence.
- b. *Principal’s Report* – there was no report.
- c. *Superintendent’s Report* – reported that opening day went well. She received the State Fire Marshall’s report with a section of concern regarding the windows. She is waiting for bids to come in on the Egress Window and an Architect for the Five Year plan through RIDE. Gutters have been repaired/replaced. Quotes are in process for paving the hard top of the playground area. An application (no interest loan) has been applied for through RIDE for a new well which will also be on the 2015-2016 Capital Improvements request.

10. Future Agenda Items

- a. Fund Balance Policy
- b. Foster Lunch Program

- c. Community Engagement – Meet the Town Council Candidates
- d. Long Term Sub Policy
- e. Transportation

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, & R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(8), Request for home schooling approval. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to reconvene Open Session at 8:05 PM. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Mrs. Swanson, Chair, reported that Collective Bargaining and Litigation were discussed. No votes were taken.

The FSC voted to approve the Home Schooling requests for three (3) families and five (5) children.

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 8:10 PM. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough
Secretary Foster School Committee