

**Foster-Glocester School Committee
Ponaganset High School**

**December 1, 2015
7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Co-Chair, Mr. Cervasio, at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The following members were present: Mr. Cervasio, Ms. Joyce, Ms. Carroll, Ms. Ejnes, Ms. Keeling, Ms. Pezza, Ms. Reichert, Mr. Steere and Ms. Swanson (7:10). Also present were Dr. Barnes and Ms. Almon.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion and/or vote on the following:

4. Student/Staff Recognition

The committee recognized Mike Calenda and students for their work with Wreaths Across America and Steve Simmons for excellence in special education inclusion.

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Carroll, to approve the minutes from the open and closed meeting on November 3, 2015.

Motion passed 8-0-0

6. Approval of Bills

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Carroll, to approve the bills as listed on the Monthly Expenditure Report dated 11/20/15 in the amount of \$596,551.69.

Motion passed 8-0-0

7. Business Manager's Report

Ms. Almon reported that she is working with Beacon Mutual to establish a Stay at Work/Return to Work program for employees in order to reduce the amount paid for Workers Compensation claims.

8. Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Report

Ms. Sinwell's report was in committee members' packets.

9. Superintendent's Report -Personnel: Resignations, Appointments, Retirements, Leaves, and Other Personnel Matters

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Swanson, to approve the Superintendent's revised report as amended. Motion passed 9-0-0

10. Meeting Dates for 2016

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Joyce, to approve the 2016 meetings dates for the Foster-Glocester Regional School Committee as corrected (November 1, 2016). Motion passed 9-0-0

11. Approval of Bid Award to Construct Walls Under Stairs

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Joyce, to accept the proposal from Ferri Construction for the amount of \$7,200.00. Motion passed 9-0-0

12. Approval of Bid Award for Auxiliary Gym Door

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Joyce, to accept the proposal from Ferri and Victors Concrete Construction for the amount of \$12,900.00. Motion passed 9-0-0

13. Approval of Bid Award to Refinish Stage Floor

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Swanson, to accept the proposal from O'Keefe Building and Maintenance, Inc. for the amount of \$5,975.00. Motion passed 9-0-0

14. Approval of Bid Award for Batting Cage

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Swanson, to accept the proposal from NE Facility Sales for the amount of \$14,783.00. Motion passed 9-0-0

15. Approval of Bid Award for Stage Masking Curtain

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Joyce, to accept the proposal from Walker Specialties for the amount of \$8,862.00. Motion passed 9-0-0

16. Approval of Bid Award Level Transducers on Wells

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Swanson, to accept the proposal from Northeast Water Solutions Inc. for the amount of \$12,302.00. Motion passed 9-0-0

17. Lease with Wells Fargo and Service Contract With Innovex for Copiers

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Joyce, to authorize the Superintendent to sign the lease with Wells Fargo and a service contract with Innovex for new copiers. Motion passed 9-0-0

18. Breathalyzer Policy - 1st Reading

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Joyce, to approve the Breathalyzer Policy as a 1st Reading. Motion passed 9-0-0

Dr. Barnes explained that the draft policy had been reviewed by Jon Anderson and he raised a concern about conducting random searches. The State of RI Superior Court ruled that random searches do not afford someone due process; there must be reasonable suspicion. Mr. Anderson is researching this and will make a recommendation for the second reading.

19. Videotaping School Committee Meetings

Ms. Swanson will look into video and/or audio taping meetings and report back to the school committee.

20. PARCC

Dr. Barnes stated that the district test scores are not where they should be and needed to improve. He explained that historically our state has used three different State Assessments - The New Standards Reference Exam, the NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program, and now the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers). Each of those assessments is based on different standards. At the secondary level, those standards are meant to measure nine years of mathematics and nine years of English, but students have not had nine years of mathematics and nine years of English instruction based on the Common Core Standards. He expects that as student exposure to the standards increases and the curriculum and instruction more fully align PARCC test scores will rise. Massachusetts has stayed with the same standards and same assessment for two decades, while Rhode Island has switched standards and State assessment three times. Student scores in Massachusetts were more much higher than student scores in Rhode Island. Dr. Barnes said that he recognizes that it will take time to move towards the current standards and increase test scores.

Dr. Barnes stated that a review of SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) scores in our high school and across the state over the past 20 years shows fairly consistent performance with little change from year to year (generally a couple of percentage points). In contrast, our performance on the New Standards Reference Exam was initially low and then improved. When we switched to the NECAP assessment our scores dropped significantly in ELA and math and then steadily increased. With the change from the NECAP to the PARCC there was approximately a 50% decline in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Dr. Barnes

explained that this year middle school students scored 42% on ELA; last year they scored higher than 80% on the NECAP exam. Students in the high school scored 34% on ELA this year; last year (on NECAP) they scored 90% in reading. Students don't read substantially worse this year; it's a different test. Mr. Cervasio stated that he wanted our students to perform as well as the students in other high-performing districts. Dr. Barnes agreed.

21. Charter Requirements to Regionalize One Town or Both Towns

Dr. Barnes reported that the district's attorney provided information on this issue via email, which basically states that one town can regionalize and, according to the charter, it does require an investment of capital. It also requires a vote in the affirmative of both towns. The committee agreed to discuss this at the next meeting when Mr. Anderson can be present and respond to questions.

22. Seek to Convene to Executive Session per RI General Laws 42-46-5 (a) (9) Grievance (1) Personnel - Job Performance of an Individual/Administrative Contract

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Swanson, that the Committee recess into Executive Session at 8:01 to consider per RI General Laws 42-46-5 (a) (9) Grievance (1) Personnel - Job Performance of an Individual/Administrative Contract

Motion passed 9-0-0

Motion by Ms. Ejnes, supported by Ms. Pezza, to seal the minutes of executive session.

Motion passed 9-0-0

Mr. Cervasio reported that in Executive Session the committee discussed a grievance and the Job Performance of an Individual/Administrative Contract. No votes were taken. Dr. Barnes stated that the individual discussed in Executive Session had been notified that they would be discussed.

23. Job Performance of an Individual/Administrative Contract

This was discussed in Executive Session.

24. Communications

25. Future Agenda Items

- Charter Requirements
- SAT Scores
- Video/Audio Taping School Committee Meetings
- Roosevelt International Academy Students

- Update on Marketing/Recruitment Plan

26. Public Comment

27. Adjourn

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Swanson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:23.

Motion passed 9-0-0

Kathryn Ritter-Smith, Clerk