

MINUTES

The 57th Annual District Financial Town Meeting of the registered voters of the Foster-Glocester Regional School District was held on March 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ponaganset High School Auditorium, with Mr. Cervasio, Co-Chair presiding in accordance with the provisions of Section 8, Chapter 109 of the Public Laws of 1958.

PRESENT: Ron Cervasio, Co-Chair, Cindy Joyce, Co-Chair, Walter Steere, Rebekah Reichert, Mary Ann Carroll, Anne Ejnes, Cindy Joyce, Beth Keeling, Shelley Pezza and Kathleen Swanson of the School Committee; Superintendent, Dr. Michael Barnes; Legal Counsel, Jon Anderson; Business Manager, Kathleen Haines; and Administrative Assistant and School Committee Clerk, Kathryn Ritter-Smith.

Following introductions by the moderator, Mr. Cervasio, he requested a count from the Canvassers. The Board of Canvassers from the Town of Foster reported that there were 51 qualified voters present; the Board of Canvassers from Glocester reported 95 qualified voters present. A legal quorum being twenty-five, the moderator declared a quorum present and the meeting lawfully constituted. Mr. Cervasio advised the voters that would be the only count of voters present during the meeting. He then explained that a "Yes" vote shall count as a "Yes" vote, a "No" vote shall count as a "No" vote and a "Non" vote shall not be counted.

Mr. Cervasio reviewed some of the rules of order that were available to voters when they checked in for the meeting. He stated that everyone will be heard and limited to 2 minutes. No one will be allowed to speak a second time until everyone has had an opportunity to speak. He also informed the voters that a vote may be taken by a voice vote, a standing vote, or a call for a ballot vote can be made, which must be affirmed by 1/5 of the voters present. A call for a ballot vote will be by voice and requires 1/5 votes in the affirmative. Mr. Cervasio instructed voters that, in order to cast a ballot vote, they should line up in the aisle on the right of the auditorium, cast their vote, and find their way back to their seat using the left aisle. Mr. Cervasio asked if everyone understood or had any questions.

Mr. Cervasio requested that the warrant for the 57th Annual Financial Town Meeting be read by the School Committee Clerk. The moderator instructed the Clerk to enter into the minutes of this meeting a copy of the public notices of the budget hearing held on March 3, 2015 at Ponaganset High School. Said Hearing was noticed by publication in the Woonsocket Call on February 15th, the Valley Breeze/Observer on February 12, 19 and 26, 2015; the Bargain Buyer on February 10, 18 and 25, 2015, and the Woonsocket Call on February 11 said newspapers of general circulation in the state of Rhode Island. Additional

notice was on the Foster-Glocester website. The advertised notice is below.

The budget recommendations for the Regional School District School Committee for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 were as follows:

OPERATIONAL BUDGET AREA	RECOMMENDED FY16
SALARIES	\$ 11,134,080
BENEFITS	\$ 4,055,163
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 3,921,978
TOTALS	\$ 19,111,221
LESS ANTICIPATED REVENUES	\$ 6,266,555
TOTAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTED	\$ 12,844,666
CAPITAL	
DEBT SERVICE	\$ 5,083,298
LESS HOUSING AID REIMBURSEMENT & SET ASIDE FUNDS	\$ 3,170,819
TOTAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTED	\$ 1,912,479
 TOTAL OPERATING & DEBT APPROPRIATION	 \$ 14,757,145

Mr. Cervasio introduced Dr. Michael Barnes, Superintendent, who presented an overview of the 2015-2016 budget. Dr. Barnes provided a summary overview of the budget and talked about some of the educational initiatives that are being funded by the proposed budget. Dr. Barnes explained that the budget being brought to the voters projects an increase in total expenses of 1.72%, which will result in a local appropriation increase of 3.82%. This is in partly a result of a reduction in federal and state aid and revenue from other sources. This does not mean that voter's taxes will increase by 3.82%. The Regional school district budget is less than half of the total budget of the two towns, therefore amount to be raised by taxes would be less than one half of the amount they may raise in total appropriations.

Dr. Barnes explained that this budget supports an investment in students and educational needs, as well as technology and instructional programs for athletics and music. The district is also facing an increase in utility fees and an increase in out-of-district tuitions that are the result of students placed out-of-district by the State of RI.

The following reflects the impact on the towns:

	2014-2015 Budget	2015-2016 Budget	2015-2016 Change (\$)	2015-2016 Change (%)
Local Appropriations (Summary)				
General Operations	\$ 12,301,438	\$ 12,844,666	\$ 543,228	4.42%
Debt Service	1,912,479	1,912,479	-	0.00%
Total	\$ 14,213,917	\$ 14,757,145	\$ 543,228	3.82%

The following motion was made by Lorraine O'Connor of Gloucester, seconded by Dennis Chretien of Foster:

RESOLVED: That the sum of **\$24,194,519** is hereby appropriated to pay the total cost of operations and debt service of the Foster-Glocester Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 of which **\$12,844,666** is to be raised by taxation by the Towns of Foster and Gloucester tentatively allocated **31.06%** to the Town of Foster, and **68.94%** to the Town of Gloucester for the purposes of operations; and that the sum of **\$1,912,479** is to be raised by taxation by the Towns of Foster and Gloucester tentatively allocated **34.69%** to the Town of Foster, and **65.31 %** to the Town of Gloucester for the purposes of debt service as set forth in the Warrant Articles 1 and 2.

After discussion, Mr. Chretien made a motion to move the question that was seconded by Mr. Boyden. The motion passed by a voice vote.

Mr. Cervasio requested that all those in favor of the main motion vote "Aye" and those opposed note "no." Mr. Cervasio declared, as moderator, that the motion to approve the budget passed by voice vote and that the budget is approved.

Motion by Mr. Martinelli of Gloucester, supported by Ms. Chretien of Foster:

RESOLVED: That the compensation for the following Regional District Officials for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015, as set forth in the Warrant, Article 3, shall be fixed as follows:

Committee Co-Chairperson, each	\$1,400
Vice-Chair	\$1,300
Members, each	\$1,100

Motion passed by a majority of the voters present.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded from the audience. Motion passed by a voice vote. Mr. Cervasio declared the meeting adjourned.

Kathryn Ritter-Smith, Clerk