

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting called to order by Co-Chair, Mr. Cervasio, at 6:30 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL:** The following members were present: Mr. Steere, Mr. Cervasio, Ms. Bernard, Ms. Keeling, Mr. Sette, Mr. Chretien, Mr. Hebert, Mr. Skeffington, Ms. Ejnes. Also present were Dr. Barnes and Mr. Piccirilli.

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Mr. Steere, supported by Mr. Skeffington, that the actions of the school committee during its regular meeting of December 2, 2008 (open and executive session) be approved as presented.

Motion by Mr. Steere, supported by Mr. Skeffington that the actions of the school committee during its regular meeting of November 5, 2008 (Executive and open session) be approved as amended.

Motions passed 6-0-3 with Mr. Sette, Ms. Ejnes, and Ms. Keeling abstaining.

**V. Approval of Bills**

Motion by Mr. Skeffington, supported by, Mr. Chretien that the approval of bills as listed on the Monthly Expenditure Report dated **12/1/08-12/29/08** in the amount of **\$807,540.15** be approved as presented.

Motion passed 9-0-0

**VI. Agenda Items**

**A. Reorganization**

Mr. Cervasio invited nominations for vice-chair of the Gloucester School Committee. Mr. Chretien nominated Ms. Enjes to serve as Gloucester co-chair; Mr Hebert seconded that nomination.

Mr. Skeffington nominated Mr. Steere for vice-chair; nomination seconded by Mr. Chretien. Mr. Steere was elected by a 5-3-0 vote.

Mr. Cervasio invited nominations for chair of the Foster School Committee. Ms. Bernard nominated Mr. Cervasio; seconded by Mr. Chretien. Mr. Cervasio was elected 8-0-0.

Mr. Cervasio invited nominations for vice-chair of the Foster School Committee. Mr. Skeffington nominated Ms. Bernard as co-chair; seconded by Mr. Chretien. Ms. Bernard was elected 8-0-0.

**B. School Update**

Mr. Rollins and Mr. Calenda, teachers from PMS, briefed the committee on, "Wreaths Across America." The program places wreaths on the headstones of veterans to commemorate their service to this county. Twenty two students participated and were selected by writing an essay on what veteran's service meant to them.

**C. Superintendent's Report**

**1. Personnel - Resignations/Leaves/Appointments**

Motion by Mr. Chretien, supported by Mr. Hebert, that the recommendations made in the superintendent's report be approved.  
Motion passed 9-0-0

Dr. Barnes provided a report, compiled by Mrs. Yanku, that reflected a decline in the number of student incidences over the past several years. Mrs. Yanku compiled statistics on reported incidences from September 10 to December 23, 2008. There were 446 incidences reported during that time period. Last year, from August 27 to June 18, 2008, there were 1650 student incidences. Based on the number of incidences during the first 70 days of this school year, Mrs. Yanku projected a total of 1146, which is 504 incidences fewer than last year.

Mr. Cervasio requested that an executive summary of this report that reflects the improvement in the school be forwarded to the Foster and Gloucester Town Councils.

**D. Assistant Superintendent Report**

Dr. Wood reported on the progress made in curriculum, grants, professional development, and district programs. Faculty on Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science teams have developed "Discipline Essential Questions." Article 31 Report is completed for the Region. RIDE has started monthly curriculum meetings. Multi-district professional development opportunities are being planned as well as professional development related to curriculum writing. Dr. Wood also reviewed SAT and AP scores.

**E. Monthly Budget Update**

Motion by Mr. Steere, supported by, Mr. Sette, that the Monthly Budget Update be accepted as presented. Motion passed 8-1-0

Ms. Hann reported that she is anticipating that state aid from RIDE may be cut as early as this year, and expects it to be cut for next year, so she is developing the budget accordingly. Dr. Barnes reported that, to date, 162 computers have been purchased

with monies from the fund balance.

**F. Building Committee Report**

Mr. Chretien reported that the Biomass facilities are operating as expected at both buildings. Four classrooms at the high school have been refurbished and can be used as soon as the doors are done. The fire suppression systems in the shop rooms are in place and they have the CO. Three science rooms will be completed by early February and the fourth will be completed by the end of March. Rough plumbing in the second floor bathrooms that were built in the 1960s has been replaced. Cafeteria will be completed by the end of the week. The new elevator will arrive at the end of this week and will be functional once it's inspected. The library should be complete in February. The energy lab will be worked on over the summer. Mr. Skeffington asked about "No Parking" signs that were requested by the building inspector. Mr. Chretien said he would look into it. Mr. Skeffington also reported that the bottom portion of the, "Ponaganset High School" sign blocks the view of bus drivers forcing them to pull into the road to check traffic.

Mr. Sette asked what the student capacity is for each building. Mr. Chretien reported that the student capacity for PMS is 875 and that he would check on the capacity for PHS and report on that at the next meeting. Mr. Sette also requested that the building committee reports be in writing and included in the school committee packets.

Mr. Hebert asked about the status of his inquiry to the Building Committee regarding background checks for people working in the buildings. Mr. Chretien said that he would follow-up on that. Mr. Cervasio requested that the next Building Committee report address who is responsible for delays (eg Biomass) and if remuneration will be sought.

**G. Northwest Special Education Regional Agreement**

Motion by Mr. Cervasio, supported by Mr. Chretien, that the Northwest Special Education Regional Agreement be accepted as presented.

Motion passed 7-2-0 with Mr. Chretien and Mr. Cervasio voting no

Motion amended by Ms. Ejnes, supported by Mr. Steere, to approve the Northwest Special Education Regional Agreement subject to approval by the Gloucester School Committee.

Motion, as amended, passed 8-1-0 with Mr. Chretien voting no.

Dr. Barnes reported that some 60 years ago the communities of Gloucester, Foster, Scituate and the Region pooled their resources and formed the Northwest Special Education Collaborative to provide special education services to the schools in those districts. The agreement appropriates the cost; however, this agreement varies slightly from previous one in how it allocates the costs. Previously, the towns pooled their federal dollars: Scituate paid 50% and the Region paid 50%. Foster provided in-kind contributions/support such as facilities and building and grounds. The Town of Gloucester did not make a contribution. This agreement takes the 50% of the Foster-Gloicester share and it appropriates it between the Region, the Town of Foster, and the Town of Gloucester so that the cost is shared, since all three communities do receive services. This service cost the region \$114,000 and is projected to cost the Region \$75,000 this year. Dr. Barnes spoke with both the Superintendent from Scituate and the Superintendent from Gloucester and they agreed that this has been a financially positive relationship for their community and they would like to continue among the four representatives.

Mr. Magner responded to questions from the committee regarding decision making for students with special needs and options for the district if they do not sign the agreement. Mr. Skeffington asked if, by signing this agreement, it would commit Gloucester to the services of the NW Special Education Collaborative. Mr. Sette questioned whether this MOA would need to go before the Gloucester School Committee. Dr. Barnes responded that the memorandum of agreement would need to go before the respective communities.

Mr. Cervasio asked Mr. Piccirilli what would happen if the agreement is approved by the Region, but not by Gloucester. Mr. Piccirilli responded that the committee can approve the agreement, and then subsequently address Gloucester's lack of financial support should that happen.

#### **H. Field Trip Request**

Motion by Mr. Chretien, supported by Mr. Sette, to approve the field trip to Berkshire Ski Resort on February 27, 2009.

Motion passed 5-4-0 with Mr. Cervasio, Mr. Steere, Mr. Skeffington and Ms Bernard voting no.

Motion by Ms. Ejnes, supported by Ms Keeling, to approve the field trip to the North American Music Festival in Virginia Beach, Virginia April 2009.

Motion passed 7-2-0 with Mr. Cervasio and Ms Bernard voting no.

Mr. Steere recommended that, next year, the students return on Sunday and not miss school on Monday. Mr. Cervasio recommended that the students return on Sunday this year. Mr. Hebert noted that, in the past the committee has requested that the teacher requesting the field trip be present at the meeting to answer questions and suggested that, going forward, if the teacher is not present, the request will be denied.

Request to add the field trip to the North American Music Festival in Virginia Beach, Virginia to the list of approved out-of-state field trips was tabled to the February meeting by a 9-0-0 vote.

**I. Use of Building Policy - 1<sup>st</sup> reading**

Motion by Mr. Chretien, supported by Mr. Steere, to approve the policy as revised.

Mr. Hebert asked for clarification on when a fee is charged to rent the building. Mr. Chretien responded that a fee is charged to organizations that charge and make a profit on their event. Mr. Hebert amended the motion to read that Foster and Gloucester community organizations are exempt from fees. Mr. Steere seconded the amended motion. Motion withdrawn by both Mr. Hebert and Mr. Steere.

New motion by Mr. Hebert, supported Mr. Chretien, to revise the Use of Building Policy to state that a fee will not be charged to youth organizations involving at least 50% Foster or Gloucester children and not charging a fee for admission.

New motion passed 9-0-0.

Dr. Barnes reminded members that, at the last meeting, the committee had agreed to accept the additional cost for custodial time spent working these events as a gesture of good will to the communities who supported the building project.

**J. Bids and Purchasing Policy - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

Motion by Mr. Skeffington, supported by Mr. Hebert, approve the policy as revised. Motion passed 9-0-0

**K. Guidance Restructuring**

This item was tabled until the February meeting.

**L. Policies - Recommended Changes**

Mr. Cervasio recommended that the suggested policy changes be forward to Mr. Piccirilli for review and then be brought before the committee. The committee agreed by consensus.

**M. School Committee Subcommittees/Appointments**

Motion by Mr. Skeffington, supported by Mr. Hebert, to form the recommended subcommittees. Motion passed 9-0-0

The following members agreed to serve on the respective committees:

Regionalizing Services and Costs: Mr. Sette; Ms. Ejnes,  
Mr. Chretien (Chair)

Contract Negotiations: Mr. Steere, Mr. Cervasio,  
Ms. Keeling

Policy Development: Mr. Hebert, Ms. Bernard

Communication and Outreach: Ms. Keeling, Mr. Chretien, Mr.  
Sette (Chair)

Curriculum and Instruction: Mr. Hebert, Ms. Ejnes, (Chair)  
Mr. Skeffington

Building Committee: Ms. Ejnes

**N. Faculty BCI Check**

Mr. Piccirilli recommended that this item be tabled until the February meeting and discussed in Executive Session. The committee agreed by concensus.

**O. School Committee Retreat**

Motion by Mr. Hebert, supported by Mr. Hebert, to schedule a retreat on Saturday, January 31, 2008 at 8:00.

Motion passed 8-1-0 with Mr. Skeffington voting no.

**P. Special Meeting Agenda**

Dr. Barnes reminded the committee of agenda items that the committee wanted to spend more time discussing (Faculty Code of

Conduct, Mentoring, Advisory, AP Summer School, Foreign Language) and presented a potential meeting schedule.

Motion by Mr. Chretien, supported by Mr. Hebert, to follow the schedule of meetings as listed. Motion passed 9-0-0.

Motion by Ms. Ejnes, supported by Mr. Hebert, to follow the schedule of special meetings as listed. Motion passed 9-0-0.

Motion amended by Mr. Sette, supported by Mr. Chretien, to change January 19 to January 21 and February 16 to February 18 on the special meeting schedule due to holidays. Motion passed 9-0-0.

#### **VII. Communications**

Mr. Steere presented a letter from the Gloucester Budget Board requesting the presence of the superintendent and the committee co-chairs at a meeting on 1/28 to discuss the budget.

#### **VIII Future Agenda Items**

Guidance Restructuring  
Add Band (N American Music Festival) Trip to Approved Field Trip List  
Faculty BCI Check (executive session)  
Dissemination of Minutes  
Long term Oil Contract  
Auditor's Report  
Middle School Parking

#### **IX. Public Comment**

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Ms. Ejnes, supported by Ms. Keeling, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:50 p.m. Motion passed 9-0-0