

**APPROVED
MINUTES**

The 61st Annual District Financial Town Meeting of the registered voters of the Foster-Glocester Regional School District was held on March 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ponaganset High School Auditorium, with Ms. Pezza, Co-Chair, presiding in accordance with the provisions of Section 8, Chapter 109 of the Public Laws of 1958.

Present: Shelley Pezza, Co-Chair and moderator of the meeting, Cindy Joyce Co-Chair, Walter Steere, Jon Burlingame, Brendan Mara, Beth Keeling, Kathleen Swanson, Anthony Autiello and Melissa Worthy of the School Committee; Superintendent, Dr. Michael Barnes; Legal Counsel, Jon Anderson; Business Manager, Bridget Almon; and School Committee Clerk, Kathryn Ritter-Smith.

Following introductions, Ms. Pezza requested a count from the Canvassers. The Board of Canvassers from the Town of Foster reported that there were 46 qualified voters present; the Board of Canvassers from Glocester reported 89 qualified voters present. A legal quorum being twenty-five, the moderator declared a quorum present and the meeting lawfully constituted. Ms. Pezza advised the audience that there would be no further counts of the number of voters present from the Board of Canvassers.

Ms. Pezza reviewed the Rules of Conduct, which were approved and adopted by the School Committee on October 4, 2016.

Ms. Pezza requested that the warrant for the 61st 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 5, 2019 at Ponaganset High School. Said Hearing was noticed by publication in the Valley Breeze/Observer on February 14, and 28, 2019; the Bargain Buyer on February 13, and 27, 2019; and the Foster Home Journal (display ad only) in the February issue, and the March 2019 issue, said papers of general circulation in the state of Rhode Island. Additional notice was given on the Foster-Glocester website. The advertised notice is below.

The budget recommendations for the Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 are as follows:

OPERATIONAL BUDGET AREA:	RECOMMENDED FY20
SALARIES	\$13,475,770

BENEFITS	\$5,140,903
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$4,893,250
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>\$23,509,923</u>
LESS ANTICIPATED REVENUES	\$9,110,866
<u>TOTAL OPERATING APPROPRIATION REQUESTED</u>	<u>\$14,399,057</u>
CAPITAL:	
DEBT SERVICE	\$4,910,300
LESS HOUSING AID REIMBURSEMENT & SET ASIDE FUNDS	\$3,178,157
<u>TOTAL DEBT SERVICE APPROPRIATION REQUESTED</u>	<u>\$1,732,143</u>
<u>TOTAL OPERATING & DEBT APPROPRIATION REQUESTED</u>	<u>\$16,131,200</u>

Ms. Pezza introduced Dr. Michael Barnes, Superintendent, who presented a summary overview of the 2019-2020 budget. Dr. Barnes highlighted some of the educational initiatives designed to provide students with a competitive edge for college and careers. Dr. Barnes explained that the budget being brought to the voters projects an increase in total expenses of 2.50% (\$393,591) in local appropriations.

The following motion was made by Michelle Allen of Glocester and seconded by Bob Boyden of Foster:

RESOLVED: That the sum of **\$16,131,214** 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, 2019 of which **\$ 14,399,071** is to be raised by taxation by **-1.53%** to the Town of Foster, and **4.65%** to the Town of Glocester for the purposes of operations; and that the sum of **\$1,732,143** is to be raised by taxation by the Towns of Foster and Glocester tentatively allocated **-8.94%** to the Town of Foster, and **8.60%** to the Town of Glocester for the purposes of debt service as set forth in the Warrant Articles 1 and 2.

After questions and discussion, Ms. Ejnes of Glocester made the motion to move the question. The motion was seconded and Ms. Pezza clarified that, if approved, the motion to move the question means that discussion ends and the main motion is voted upon. Motion to move the question passed by voice vote. Ms. Pezza instructed voters to go to the voting machines to cast their vote on the main motion.

By ballot vote, the canvassers reported that 107 residents voted in favor of passing the budget as presented and 61 residents voted no. The 2019-2020 Foster-Glocester Regional School District budget passed.

Financial Town Meeting
Ponaganset High School Auditorium
91 Anan Wade Road
N Scituate, RI 02857

March 19, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Ms. O'Connor of Harmony made the following motion seconded by a member of the audience:

RESOLVED: That the compensation for the following Regional District Officials for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019, as set forth in the Warrant, Article 3, shall be fixed as follows:

Committee Co-Chairperson, each	\$2,800
Vice-Chair	\$2,800
Members, each	\$2,200

Motion passed by voice vote by a majority of the voters present.

Ms. Pezza declared the meeting adjourned.

Kathryn Ritter-Smith, Clerk