

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order by Co-Chair, Ms. Joyce at 7:00p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Mr. Autiello, Mr. Burlingame, Ms. Joyce, Ms. Keeling,
Mr. Mara, Ms. Pezza, Mr. Steere, Ms. Swanson, Ms. Worthy

Also present: Dr. Barnes, Ms. Jacques, Ms. Almon

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion and/or vote on the following:

4. Election of Co-Chairs and Vice Chair

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Mr. Burlingame, to nominate Ms. Joyce as Co-Chair from Glocester.

Motion passed 8-0-1 with Ms. Joyce abstaining

Motion by Ms. Swanson, supported by Ms. Joyce, to nominate Ms. Pezza as Co-Chair from Foster.

Motion passed 8-0-1 with Ms. Pezza abstaining

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Mr. Burlingame, to nominate Mr. Steere as Vice-Chair.

Motion passed 8-0-1 with Mr. Steere abstaining

5. Annual Appointment of Clerk

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Joyce, to appoint Kathryn Ritter-Smith as the Clerk for the Foster-Glocester Regional School Committee.

Motion passed 9-0-0

6. Appointment/Reappointment to Subcommittees

Negotiations Subcommittee: Ms. Swanson, Ms. Pezza, Mr. Steere, Mr. Autiello

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Mr. Burlingame to appoint Ms. Keeling to serve on the Negotiation Subcommittee for the non-certified contract only.

Motion passed 9-0-0

Budget Subcommittee: Mr. Burlingame, Ms. Keeling, Mr. Steere, Ms. Pezza, Mr. Mara

Motion by Ms. Joyce, supported by Mr. Burlingame, to reappoint Ms. Pezza and appoint Ms. Worthy to the Budget Subcommittee.

Motion passed 9-0-0

Wellness Subcommittee: Ms. Swanson

Capital Projects: Mr. Steere, Mr. Mara, Mr. Autiello

7. Student/Staff Recognition

The committee recognized and thanked students and staff for their work to bring The Moving Wall to PHS.

8. Public Comment on Items Relating to Agenda

9. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Mr. Burlingame, to approve the minutes of the meeting on December 4, 2018 Open and Executive Session.

Motion passed 6-0-3 with Mr. Burlingame, Ms. Worthy and Mr. Autiello abstaining.

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Swanson, to approve the minutes of the special meeting on December 18, 2018.

Motion passed 5-0-4 with Ms. Keeling, Ms. Joyce, Mr. Autiello and Ms. Worthy abstaining.

10. Approval of Monthly Bills

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Swanson, to approve the bills as listed on the Monthly Expenditure Report dated December 28, 2018 in the amount of \$1,002,249.28. Motion passed 9-0-0

11. Business Manager's Report

Ms. Almon reported that the budget will be presented to the Foster Town Council on February 28th and to the Gloucester Budget Board on January 30. Ms. Swanson asked that she and the town councils be notified of all budget subcommittee meetings.

12. Assistant Superintendent Report

In addition to reviewing curriculum and professional development, Ms. Jacques reported that she will be presenting on the state assessment scores later in the meeting.

13. Student Request to Install Sensory Garden

- a. DECA and FAA Students are Requesting Permission to Build Sensory Garden in PHS Courtyard

Motion by Ms. Swanson, supported by Ms. Keeling, to approve students building a sensory garden in the PHS Courtyard with the final design to be approved by school administration.

Motion passed 9-0-0

14. Approval of Veterans Marker and Location

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Mr. Burlingame, to approve placing a veterans' marker at PHS. Motion passed 9-0-0

15. Superintendent's Report -Personnel - Resignations, Appointments, Retirements, Leaves, Lay Offs, Recalls and Other Personnel Actions

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Ms. Swanson, to approve the Superintendent's Report as presented. Motion passed 9-0-0

16. State Assessment Testing and Results

Ms. Jacques reviewed the RI Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS) data, the SAT data, and the number of tests RI has used over the years: NECAP 2006-2014; PARCC 2015-2017; and now RICAS, which is the same test used in Massachusetts. Dr. Barnes added that there was another assessment instrument prior to NECAP, the New Standards Reference Exam, so there have been four different assessments in RI over the last 18 years. Ms. Jacques reported that Foster-Glocester students typically score around the state average when a new assessment tool is introduced; however, as time goes on and there is focus on the standards and the assessment platform, the scores go up. The district is investing in curriculum resources that are better aligned to the current State assessment.

17. Selection of Date/Time for School Committee Workshop

- a. Review of Role and Responsibilities of School Committee Members, Policies, Pathways, Assessment Data

The committee agreed to hold a workshop on February 12, 2019 @:600 pm.

18. Review of Preliminary 2019-2020 Budget

- a. Report on Tentative Allocation of Proration Swing

Dr. Barnes reviewed the current draft of the budget, which projects that state aid is increasing by \$360,000, and proposes that local appropriations increase by \$471,000 and tuition revenue increasing by \$555,000 for a total increase of almost \$1.4 million. Several new teachers were hired over the past two years, so salaries are projected to increase by \$870,000; a 6% increase in health care is \$290,000; educational programs including instructional materials that are better aligned to the state assessment cost \$370,000. The budget also reflects a decrease of \$27,000 in central office and \$100,000 in district wide expenses. The budget also shows an increase of 3.34% in operational expenses and 2.23% in debt service for a total budget increase of 3.3%. Dr. Barnes added that bringing forward a budget with a 2.5% increase, as the committee has requested, will be a struggle but he will work to present a budget with an increase of below 3%. Dr. Barnes cautioned the committee that, in this budget, revenue from tuition students is being used to subsidize what should be local expenses.

Although all the data necessary to determine the student proration swing has not received its final analysis yet, this year the swing will be against Glocester and the cost will be about \$36,000. Property values, which determine debt service, will go up by roughly \$37,000 with Glocester picking up the larger portion of that. Although the numbers are not finalized, as predicted last year, this year the swing is against Glocester. Over the past two years the swing was against Foster so Glocester should have funds set aside.

19. Transportation for Extra-Curricular Activities, Athletics, and Field Trips and Allocation of Transportation Categorical Funds from the State of Rhode Island

Motion by Mr. Steere to limit the amount of pass through funds to the Region to only the percentage of the Region's actual cost of athletic and field trip expenses, but cannot take any of the money that is used for bussing kids to school. This motion did not have a second.

Motion by Ms. Swanson, supported by Ms. Pezza, that the Region withhold from Categorical Funds the amount to cover the cost of transportation for extra-curricular activities, field trips, and athletic events.

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

When the state legislature passed the Fair Funding Formula years ago, it eliminated the 8% regionalization incentive provided annually to regional school districts. Transportation Categorical Aid (TCA) enacted under RI General Law 16-7.2-6 e (2) was instituted to "provide direct state funding for the excess costs associated with transporting students within regional school districts."

The Regional School District, the Town of Foster, the Town of Glocester, all passed budgets approved by the voters expecting to receive \$329,000 from the state. After those budgets were approved, the state disbursed an additional \$201,000 because all the work done by the Regional Coalition of School Districts, and supporting communities, finally paid off. As a result, the Region is receiving more Transportation Aid this year (\$201,000) than was budgeted by the elementary districts. With the Region withholding reimbursement for its share of transportation costs all three districts will share in the unbudgeted increase from the State.

The district has been submitting all the data for transportation costs to RIDE. For the past 8 years, the Region has not been withholding its portion of transportation costs and has been providing 100% of the transportation pass thru money to the elementary districts.

20. Public Comment on Items Relating to Agenda

21. Communications From / To Members of the School Committee and/or

School District The Gloucester Town Council sent a letter to the Foster-Glocester Regional School Committee informing them that the Council rejects any effort or intent to further regionalize the Foster and Gloucester Elementary Schools.

22.Future Agenda Items - Identification of Future Agenda Items

23. Vote to Convene to Executive Session per RI General Laws 42-46-5(a)(2) NEAPON Collective Bargaining.

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Mr. Burlingame, to vote to Convene to Executive Session per RI General Laws 42-46-5 (a)(2) NEAPON Collective Bargaining Motion passed 7-0-0

(Ms. Joyce and Ms. Keeling recused themselves.)

24. Return to public session and announcement of votes, if any
Ms. Joyce reported that in Executive Session the committee discussed Collective Bargaining. No votes were taken.

25. Vote to Seal the Minutes of Executive Session

Motion by Ms. Swanson, supported by Mr. Burlingame, to seal the minutes of executive session. Motion passed 7-0-0

26. Adjourn

Motion by Ms. Pezza, supported by Mr. Burlingame, to adjourn at 9:25 pm. Motion passed 7-0-0

Kathryn Ritter-Smith, Clerk