

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH    OCTOBER 26, 2004**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **MINUTES**

**The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School Committee held a meeting on this date at**

**7 p.m. in the Junior-Senior High School Library. Members present were Bill Clay, chairman; Paul McFadden, clerk; John Toro; Teri Cicero; and Gregory Coutcher. Connie Lyons, vice chairwoman, arrived at 7:17 p.m. Susan DeSack was absent. Superintendent Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr., and Director of Administration Robert V. Ross were present. Director of Curriculum Philip D. Thornton and Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo were absent.**

**ORDER – Chair Clay called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Member McFadden read the District Mission statement.**

**OPEN FORUM – A member of the community expressed concerns regarding two issues. One, that emergency medications cannot be administered on school buses by bus company personnel and, second, the heating system at Lineham School. The community member noted that the heating system at Lineham School is inadequate and wanted to know what will be done about it.**

**Superintendent Seitsinger thanked Judy Allenson, the Superintendent's secretary who is retiring December 31, 2004, for her 16 + years of service to the district and introduced Robin Cerio who will be replacing Judy.**

**PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Jaclyn Manchester gave an overview of the various student activities and announced that the Steven Anderson Memorial 5K is scheduled for Saturday, October 30.**

**ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Member Cicero moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Member Coutcher. Voted 5-0.**

**The following items were approved:**

**1. Minutes – Regular and Executive Minutes of October 12, 2004.**

**2. Personnel Items**

**Appointments (as recommended by the Superintendent)**

**a. Catherine Blais as 0.4 FTE Middle School Technology teacher, first semester only, effective October 27, 2004.**

**b. Robin Cerio as Executive Secretary to the Superintendent effective November 1, 2004.**

**Leave of Absences (as recommended by the Superintendent)**

a. **Robin Cerio's request for a 90-day leave of absence from her position as senior high clerk effective November 1, 2004.**

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**2. Bills - In the amount of \$294,922.71.**

**End of Consent Agenda**

**Correspondence –(1) 2004 State Testing Report (Phil Thornton will give presentation at the November 9th SC Meeting), (2) Memo: SC Members wanted to participate in a statewide-leadership network, (3) Memo from RIDE regarding Draft Statewide Curriculum Development Plan, (4) Draft – RI Healthy Schools Coalition Nutrition Guidelines for School Vending & A La Carte Foods, (5) School District Nutrition & Physical Activity – Model Policy Language, (6) 2005-2006 Budget Development Timeline, (7) Letter to CORE teachers advising them of discussion of CORE and literacy concerns at this school committee meeting, (8) Compass.**

**Monthly Status Reports - The Committee had no questions regarding the monthly status reports.**

**Home School Approvals – Member McFadden moved to approve the following home school requests: Laurenne Marks, grade 6; Dawson Marks, grade 3; Lincoln Marks,**

grade 1, Macy Marks, grade K. Seconded by Member Coutcher.  
Voted 5-0.

04-05 Budget Update and Concerns – Mr. Ross reviewed the 04-05 budget expenses and revenue concerns, noting in particular that the district is beginning to feel the effect of the \$621, 000 that was cut from the budget at the District Financial Meeting. Mr. Ross anticipates an \$85,000 balance after the audit is complete for 03-04. This audited amount will improve our general fund balance to approximately \$210,000. The general fund balance plus actions taken this year will be used to offset the \$350,000 unbudgeted expenses that we are experiencing at this time.

Vice Chair Lyons arrived at this time.

Because of unemployment insurance costs, it was determined that there would be a gain of only approximately 10% of gross salary gain from reducing the workforce. Superintendent Seitsinger noted that there are costs that the District has no control over and are difficult to project, such as, fuel, electricity, tuition for special needs, vocational education and charter schools. Employees are being asked to conserve by shutting off lights and unplugging appliances. Dr. Seitsinger announced that presenters will be asked to address the Committee regarding conserving energy costs.

Member McFadden asked the Committee to act proactively by cutting

**the labor force.**

**Chair Clay moved that Superintendent present at the next School Committee Meeting a list of at least 4 positions that the District could lay off. Seconded by Member McFadden. Voted 5-1. Vice Chair Lyons voted no.**

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**Review of Metcalf CORE and Literacy Programs – Superintendent Seitsinger reviewed the training procedure for the new mandated CORE and Literacy programs. All are being fully implemented at this time.**

**All-day Referendum Committee – Nothing to report at this time.**

**Open Forum – Chair Clay placed this on the agenda for discussion. The Committee asked the Superintendent to seek an interpretation of the Open Meetings Law procedure for an Open Forum from the Attorney General.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Metcalf Enhancement Update – Nothing to**

**report at this time.**

**EWG Hockey Club Land Request – Joe Walsh, representing the EWG Hockey Club, asked for a commitment in principle from the School Committee to make land available for the rink. Member Toro suggested a non-binding letter of intent with the assurance that the District is protected with liability insurance. Dr. Seitsinger suggested that the activation of the Space Needs Committee could review the availability of the land. The Superintendent and Mr. Ross will have the plans held from the building of the new high school available for Mr. Walsh to review to see if there is enough land available for an ice rink. The Committee is concerned that there will still be enough land available for a new elementary school.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – Chair Clay moved to go into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 for Collective Bargaining**

**RIGL 42-46-5(a)2 to discuss teachers' contract negotiations. Seconded by Member Coutcher. Voted 6-0.**

**Meeting recess to Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.**

**Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 9:20 p.m.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.**

**JUDITH V. ALLENSON**

**CLERK**