

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH NOVEMBER 9, 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; Connie Lyons, Vice Chair; Paul McFadden, Clerk; John Toro; Teri Cicero; Susan DeSack; Gregory Coutcher. Superintendent Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr.; Director of Curriculum Philip D. Thornton and Student Representative Jaclyn Manchester were present. Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo arrived at 7:05 p.m., and Director of Administration Robert V. Ross arrived at 7:10 p.m.

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

OPEN FORUM – A senior high school teacher spoke about energy waste in the school building and submitted a list of ten suggestions from EWGJSH faculty members on ways to conserve energy. (The list is attached to the original of these Minutes.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Chair Clay moved to go into Executive

Session at 7:10 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 and in accordance with RIGL 42-46-5(a)1 for Student Confidentiality, written and verbal notice having been provided to the individual informing him/her of the right to hold the hearing in open session. Seconded by Member Toro. Voted 7-0.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 7:10 p.m.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 8:20 p.m.

PRESENTATION – State Testing Rankings and Results – Director of Curriculum Phil Thornton gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the State Testing Ranks and Results. Phil noted that for the first time, the district was ranked High Performing. Also noted was that the entire test will change next year, the test will be harder to pass next year, and we need to continue to train our teachers in order to continue to be successful.

Student Member Report – Jaclyn Manchester gave an overview of the various student activities and announced that for the first time in four years the Girls' Volleyball team made it to the championships.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Chair Clay moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Vice Chair Lyons. Vote 7-0.

The following items were approved:

1. Minutes – Regular and Executive Minutes of October 26, 2004.

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2. Bills – In the amount of \$106,671.64.

3. Home School Approvals - Emily Phelps, grade 4.

End of Consent Agenda

Correspondence – (1) Asset Protection Plan Report, (2) Letter from the Superintendent to the Attorney General’s Office requesting opinion on Open Forum, (3) JH Modern Language Quebec, Canada 2005 Trip Proposal, (4) RI Law 16-13-3 Probationary period – Tenure after probation. 16-13-6 Suspension because of decrease in school population – Seniority – Reinstatement., (5) RISSA Recommended Calendar School Calendar 2004-2005, (6) Memo from the Superintendent to the Staff regarding Energy Conservation and Safety, (7) SORICO SAT SCORES 2004, (8) Per Pupil Expenditure School Year 2002-2003, (9) Tax Capacity and Effort, (10) RI Law 16-2-5.1 Professional Development, (11) APT Minutes.

Chair Clay requested that the JH Modern Language Quebec, Canada

2005 Trip Proposal be placed on a future agenda for a vote.

NEW BUSINESS - School Committee Request for Position Analysis – 04-05 Budget Recommendations – Dr. Seitsinger reviewed the 04-05 Budget Recommendations memo and reviewed two scenarios regarding personnel reductions.

Member Toro moved to cut two Custodial positions and two Teachers' Assistant/Aide positions. Seconded by Chair Clay. Voted 5-2. Vice Chair Lyons and Member DeSack voted no.

The personnel cuts were made not because of performance, but because of the need to eliminate positions.

Resolution Supporting Truancy Court – Superintendent Seitsinger requested a resolution from the School Committee supporting truancy court to start in our school next year. Superintendent Seitsinger anticipates that truancy court will help improve student attendance which in turn will improve student academic success. Truancy court would be of no cost to the district.

Chair Clay moved to approve a resolution supporting truancy court. Member Coutcher seconded. Vote 6-1. Member McFadden voted no.

School Committee Rights/Teachers Rights – Chair Clay noted that Member McFadden removed a flyer from the bulletin board in the

teachers' room at Wawaloam School and that no single member can act on a matter without the approval of the committee.

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Member McFadden protested this discussion, as he was not personally notified his actions were going to be discussed.

Space Needs Committee – Superintendent Seitsinger stated that the Space Needs Committee is in search for two community members. The committee will go forward and Member Coutcher will be a School Committee representative.

Unfinished Business – Open Forum – As requested by the School Committee at the October 9, 2004 meeting, Superintendent Seitsinger sent a letter dated October 29, 2004, to the RI Attorney General requesting an opinion on the Open Forum portion of the School Committees' regular meeting agenda.

Reports/Comments – Chair Clay questioned last meeting's Special Education Status Report concerning the deficit mentioned on page 2 which was not in compliance with policy 3207. Special Education Director Maureen DeCrescenzo explained that last year level funding was requested, therefore, her budget did not reflect a 5-6% increase

in tuitions. It was noted that the line Chair Clay inquired about was an accumulation of tuitions and, therefore, there was no violation of policy 3207.

Superintendent Seitsinger noted procedural clarification on School Committee member's questions regarding status reports. He asked that the School Committee inform Administrators in advance of any questions so that Administration will have the timely and accurate answers.

Important Dates and Meetings – Monday, November 15, 2004, Financial Reform Meeting. Tuesday, November 23, 2004, School Committee Meeting. Monday, November 29, 2004, KEYWORK meeting. Tuesday, December 7, 2004, School Committee Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Chair Clay moved to go into Executive Session at 10:05 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 for Collective Bargaining

RIGL 42-46-5(a)2 discuss teachers' contract negotiations. Seconded by Vice Chair Lyons. Voted 7-0.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 10:15 p.m.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 10:45 p.m.

No votes were taken in Executive Session.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

ROBIN A. CERIO

CLERK