

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH FEBRUARY 8, 2005

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 Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Bill Clay, Paul McFadden, and William Munroe. Superintendent Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr.; Director of Curriculum Philip D. Thornton; and Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo were present. Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Member Frank Maher, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; and Student Representative Jaclyn Manchester arrived at 7:05p.m.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Clerk Coutcher read the District Mission statement.

OPEN FORUM – Teacher Deb Blake, on behalf of the Wawaloam Reading Team, invited School Committee members to be guest readers at Wawaloam School on March 2, 2005, as part of the Read Across America Celebration.

Teri Cicero Vice Chairperson; Member Frank Maher, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; and Student Representative Jaclyn Manchester arrived at this point.

A community member expressed his frustration with regard to the cancellation - without notification, of the January 25, 2005 School Committee meeting, and the inconvenience it caused to community members. The School Committee agreed to be more diligent in the future about informing the community of committee meeting cancellations.

A community member expressed her concern regarding Lineham students no longer having physical education classes for the remainder of this school year and students not going out for recess due to the inclement weather. She feels they are not getting the physical activity they need. She asked the committee if there was anyway to fund physical education classes for the entire year. She stated that she would be willing to help look into ways to make this happen.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report - Jaclyn Manchester gave an overview of the various student activities. She also noted that parking at the high school was limited which was causing traffic issues in the morning and causing some students to be tardy to school.

Principal Boulé conveyed that she is aware of the issue, that students are not being assigned detention for being tardy, and that this has become an issue only since the recent snow storms which have caused the loss of numerous parking spaces.

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Student Representative Jaclyn Manchester agreed with Principal Boulé that this issue is only since the recent snow storms.

Kristi Lussier Walk – Linda Sawicki asked the committee for permission to hold the Kristi Lussier Walk again this year and to make it an annual event. She stated that they are currently planning the walk for Saturday, June 4, 2005, which would have been Kristi's nineteenth birthday. In years to come they would like to continue to hold the walk on the first Saturday in June.

Member Bill Clay moved to authorize the Kristi Lussier Walk to be held annually. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0.

David Key – PowerPoint Presentation – Musical Program – Metcalf Teacher,

David Key gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting his recent trip

to Japan. He stated that 200 teachers from the United States visited schools and universities and got information about the government and educational system. He noted that the government of Japan pays for half of teachers' salaries and all of students' books, and that there is a big commitment to education in Japan. He stated that his visit to Hiroshima Peace Park changed him and helped him to be gentler with his students.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Seitsinger gave an overview of the Consent Agenda. Member Clay moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Member McFadden. Voted 7 – 0.

The following items were approved:

1. Minutes – Regular Minutes of January 11, 2005, Sealed Executive Minutes, (Student Confidentiality), from January 11, 2005, Executive Minutes, (Personnel), from January 11, 2005, Budget Sub-Committee Minutes from January 12, 2005, Budget-Sub Committee Minutes from January 18, 2005, Budget Sub-Committee Minutes from January 20, 2005, Budget Sub-Committee Minutes from January 27, 2005, Revised Copy of Page 7 Only of Regular Minutes from January 11, 2005.

2. Personnel Items

Appointments – (As recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Change of classification of Lineham Building Clerk to Secretary

b. Change of classification of Sr. High School Guidance Building Clerk to Secretary

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Leaves of Absence – (As recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Request from Robin Cerio asking for an extension of her leave of absence from her High School Clerk position to May 1, 2005.

Resignation – (Recommended acceptance by the Superintendent with regret)

a. Letter of resignation from Gerardo Codola – Alternative Academy Social Worker effective February 3, 2005.

b. Letter of resignation from Martha Wall – Sr. High School English Teacher effective August 1, 2005.

c. Letter of resignation from Wesley Pugh-Pennington as Sr. High

Football Coach effective February 2, 2005.

Non-Renewals – 1st Review (As recommended by the Superintendent with regret)

Grievances -

3. Bills – In the amount of \$326,580.94 and \$41,137.81.

4. Home School Approvals

5. Correspondence – (1) School Committee Organization December 2004 – November 2006, (2) Copy of letter to the Superintendent from Attorney Henneous regarding RIGL 16-21-27 Alternative Education Programs, (3) Letter to Superintendent from South Kingstown School Department, (4) Copy of confidential certified letter sent to parent regarding January 11, 2005 Executive Session – Student Confidentiality, (5) Letter to Superintendent from Senator Fogarty, (6) January 2005 Metcalf Feinstein Newsletter, (7) Out of District correspondence,

(8)The Southern RI Legislative Coalition correspondence, (9) Report of RIASC Quarterly Chair Meeting, Saturday, February 5, 2005, (10) Letter to Superintendent Seitsinger from James Flahive, Laidlaw Transit, Inc., Area General Manager, regarding administration of Epi-Pen.

End of Consent Agenda

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MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS – With regard to the Maintenance Status Report, Member Maher requested that the maintenance department look at the outside doors at the junior - senior high school, provide a report reflecting an expected timeline and estimated cost to complete the tasks listed on the maintenance report to insure there will be enough monies in the budget, and provide a priority list. Also, Member Maher requested that the maintenance department add to Metcalf School's pending project list, plug-in flashlights required in all classrooms without windows. This request will also include classrooms at the junior – senior high school.

With regard to School Committee sub-committees, Member Maher recommended the district provide a report to School Committee members which lists the sub-committee members' names and provides an overview of events, in order to keep School Committee members informed.

Consensus was that such a report would be added as a regular Agenda item at the first meeting of each month.

MONTHLY BUDGET PROJECTION 2004-2005 - Member McFadden moved to seek an opinion from the Exeter-West Greenwich legal council on the following two issues:

- 1. Does the Exeter-West Greenwich School Committee have the authority to appropriate funds beyond an overall amount authorized by the District Financial Meeting?**
- 2. An opinion based on the current fiscal state of the Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District - if the Auditor General requires notification of that fiscal state?**

Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 6 – 1. Member Clay voted no.

NEW BUSINESS – Sr. High School Band Trip to Florida – Superintendent Seitsinger explained that previous sr. high band trips to Florida were successful; Mr. Charest has proposed a well organized and well chaperoned trip, and this trip will be of no cost to the district.

Member Clay moved to approve the Sr. High School Band Trip to Florida. Seconded by Member Cicero. Voted 7 – 0.

2004-2005 Budget – Member McFadden reiterated that in the future

the Budget Projection Report should show the unaudited reserve fund balance.

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High School Graduation Requirements Policy # 7603 – 1st Reading – Member Maher recommended that a parent signature page be added to student handbooks. It was noted that currently the high school and Metcalf student handbooks do include such a page. No amendments made. Policy will be placed on the next Agenda for 2nd reading and adoption.

Request to Purchase (3) Three New Cafeteria Tables for Metcalf School – Cash Reserve Transfer – Member Munroe requested to see mandates and regulations regarding the district making purchases, and also what the government regulations are regarding school cafeteria tables, prior to the committee making a decision to buy Metcalf School three new cafeteria tables.

Chair DeSack stated that there would be no action taken regarding this matter, administration will get regulations and specs for Member

Munroe's review, and the committee will act on this issue at the next meeting, as this has become a safety issue. Also noted was this is an unexpected expense and it will be funded from this school year general fund operation budget.

Contract Compliance Report – Superintendent Seitsinger gave a verbal report relating to the Epi-Pen Update agenda item. He explained the steps taken to confirm contract compliance with Laidlaw Transit to validate that all buses are fully stocked with first aid kits, and all buses have communication systems in place.

Chair DeSack explained that the committee wants Laidlaw to confirm in writing they actually have complied with the issues relating to bus safety issues.

Vice Chair Cicero requested that a representative from Laidlaw attend a School Committee meeting in order to address the committees' concerns.

Superintendent Seitsinger will contact the manager at Laidlaw to request he address these concerns at the March 8, 2005 School Committee meeting.

Chair DeSack moved to request compliance report from Laidlaw in writing that validates all issues by March 8, 2005. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Recess as a Consequence – Member Munroe asked for an explanation as to why recess should be taken away from students as a punishment.

Member McFadden asked what appropriate actions are required for recess to be used as a consequence and is it appropriate to take away recess?

Superintendent Seitsinger explained there is not a district policy regarding this issue and it is a practice of classroom management, if it were recommended that recess be taken away forever the committee would deal with the issue and the committee should not micro- manage recess on an individual day. Also Superintendent Seitsinger explained that if the issue involves an individual student and their parent feels their child was inappropriately punished, and

the parent has followed the appropriate chain of command, they may request, in writing, to be placed on the agenda in Executive Session.

A parent with concerns stated that she has gone through the appropriate chain of command and she will be requesting an Executive Session.

Member Munroe moved to have Curriculum Director Phil Thornton bring to the School Committee national standards regarding this issue. Seconded by Member McFadden. Voted 3 – 4. Chair DeSack, Vice Chair Cicero, Clerk Coutcher, and Member Clay voted no. Motion denied.

Parent Involvement Policy # 2301 – Adopted – Member Maher moved to accept ratification of Policy # 2301 - Parent Involvement Policy. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicerio. Voted 7 – 0.

School Bus No Idling Policy – 2nd Reading – This policy will be placed on the next School Committee agenda for adoption.

Qualification of Coaches Policy # 6315 – Technical Correction – Member Clay moved to accept the technical correction to Policy # 6315 - Qualification of Coaches Policy. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0.

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Epi-Pen/Laidlaw Policy Follow-up - Superintendent Seitsinger explained that he received a letter today from James Flahive of Laidlaw Transit which was copied to all committee members. Superintendent Seitsinger summarized the contents of the letter stating that Laidlaw's legal council is arguing that an Epi-Pen is a prescription drug and because bus drivers are not specifically listed on the RI state law requiring school personnel to be trained and to administer Epi-Pens in an emergency situation, it would be illegal for them to administer. Laidlaw is standing their ground, arguing liability. Superintendent Seitsinger also noted that Senator Breene has filed a bill in order to help rectify this situation. He explained that the district placed an ad in the Providence Journal advertising for bus monitors, to which they received 2 responses by telephone and no resumés. Laidlaw reported that Exeter-West Greenwich is the only district in Rhode Island and the only district out of 600 districts that

has this issue. Superintendent Seitsinger has been in communication with the parent that brought this issue forward and he has a copy of Senator Breen's legislation.

Metcalf Intercom System – Superintendent Seitsinger stated there was nothing to report pertaining to this matter as of yet. Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley is in the process of requesting estimates to replace the deteriorating intercom system at Metcalf School. Estimates should be available at the next School Committee meeting on February 15, 2005.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – On January 10, 2005, The Southern Rhode Island Legislative Coalition, consisting of Senators, School Committee Members, Superintendents, and Town Council members, met. A subcommittee was formed to draft the first part of their recommendation in the form of a resolution in order to make changes in the current school finance system.

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Budget Workshops – January 27, February 3 – (Reschedule-District wide/Facilities/Athletics), February 10 – Final Budget Workshop, February 21 – Notice to Canvassers, March 8 – Budget Adoption

The School Committees' consensus was if in the future a meeting must be cancelled due to inclement weather, members will be notified by e-mail, a note will be posted on the library door out of respect to

the community, and if possible, a phone call will be made to the media. Also noted, there are very few times a meeting has been cancelled in the past.

**Adjournment – Chair DeSack moved to adjourn at 9:25 p.m.
Seconded by Member McFadden. Voted 7 – 0.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK