

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH APRIL 12, 2005

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

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

7:00 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich High School Library.

Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Bill Clay, and Frank Maher. Superintendent Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr.; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo, and Student Representative Jaclyn Manchester were present. Vice Chairperson; Teri Cicero arrived at 7:07 p.m. Member Paul McFadden, Member William Munroe, and Director of Curriculum Philip D. Thornton; were absent.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

OPEN FORUM – Member Clay expressed his discontent with regard to the way administrators have been addressed at the past several School Committee meetings. He conversed that administrators should not be talked to rudely and in a condescending way.

Chair DeSack relayed that she will do a better job at preventing this

from happening at future meetings.

Superintendent Seitsinger spoke about correspondence received from the Attorney General's office confirming the committee can not engage in conversation with the public during Open Forum. The committee may only listen to the issue at hand and then, should there be a need for the committee to address an issue; set it on the next agenda for discussion.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report - Jaclyn Manchester gave an overview of various student activities. She highlighted the following past and future events: Art Department – Duck Stamp Contest, Photography Contest, Mural Painting at Metcalf School, Senior Portfolio Art Shows on May 3, and May 17, 2005, which she encouraged members to attend, Senior Class –(Students Against Destructive Decisions) SAAD Week Preparations, Prom Fashion Show, and Senior Class Trip in May.

Chair DeSack suggested the Prom Fashion Show may have been better attended if it had not been scheduled so close to the production of GREASE and if it had been advertised.

Vice-Chair Cicero arrived at this time.

Policy Modification Starting 2005 – 2006 – Superintendent Seitsinger gave an overview of a proposed EWG - TV fee structure Mr. Rounds

requested the committee review. He noted that Mr. Rounds had an informal conversation with the Exeter Town Council

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH APRIL 12, 2005

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PAGE 2

regarding EWG – TV recording and airing their meetings on the local cable station. Superintendent Seitsinger said he felt Mr. Rounds' suggestion is fair. The TV Studio is requesting a change in billing/payment practice for videotaping Town Council and School Committee meetings. Superintendent Seitsinger explained EWG – TV is not seeking profit, just trying to meet costs.

Committee consensus was, as this is not a line item in this year's budget, the parties could write up a contract - include both Town Councils, and the committee can then entertain this item in next year's budget.

Member Maher suggested EWG – TV look into what can be done to provide a schedule to the community of when and what time Town Council and School Committee meetings will air.

Student Emily De Cristofano explained the TV studio does not have the technology necessary to be that specific, however they could advertise a specific day and a window of times when School Committee and Town Council meetings will air.

Superintendent Seitsinger agreed to follow-up on the issue of the proposed fee structure.

Member Clay suggested once this issue is clarified, the School Committee put a policy in place.

Member Maher suggested the TV studio consider working an arrangement with Exeter and West Greenwich public libraries to provide them with tapes of Town Council and School Committee meetings for public access. He also suggested sending both librarians copies of School Committee Minutes for public access.

Chair DeSack suggested creating a minutes' binder to be kept at both libraries.

Superintendent Seitsinger agreed with committee members' suggestions and will investigate logistics.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Seitsinger gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Member Clay moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher.

Voted 5 – 0.

The following items were approved:

**A. Minutes – Budget Workshop Minutes from February 26, 2005,
Regular Minutes from March 22, 2005, Space Needs Committee
Minutes from March 21, 2005**

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH APRIL 12, 2005

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PAGE 3

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments –

2. Leaves of Absence – (As recommended by the Superintendent)

- a. Lisa Murdock request for a maternity leave of absence beginning on or about April 15, 2005 and continuing to the end of her maternity disability period.**
- b. Daniel Gloria request for a parental leave of absence beginning on or about May 1, 2005 for a maximum of 14 days.**
- c. Elizabeth Cavanagh request for a leave of absence for the 2005 – 2006 school year.**

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

C. Bills – In the amount of \$ 154,297.13

End of Consent Agenda

Correspondence – (1) Letter to the Superintendent from the Dept. of Attorney General, (2) Letter to the Superintendent from the General Treasurer, (3) Newspaper Article regarding Jr. High History Teacher Andy

Wallace, (4) RI Emergency Management Agency Packet, (5) Winter 2005

FOCUS Newsletter, (6) RI Dept. of Ed. Guidance for Submission of Consolidated Resource Plan 2005-2006, (7) Letter to the Superintendent

from the RI Dept. of Education State Aid Specialist Celeste Bilotti

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT– Superintendent Seitsinger reminded committee members status reports are examined at the meeting, any questions are brought forward, and then item is placed on the next agenda for discussion/response.

Member Maher indicated he would like to discuss the Maintenance Status Report however; he would wait and reference it under agenda item Budget 2005 – 2006.

MONTHLY BUDGET PROJECTION 2004-2005 – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported a \$29,000 projection for a

finishing balance this year, noting he is confident that number will hold.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH APRIL 12, 2005

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PAGE 4

Member Maher inquired as to what the reserve fund balance will be once payment is made for the approved capital improvements, (Metcalf intercom system, three new cafeteria tables at Metcalf School, and new carpet in room #4 at Wawaloam School).

Mr. Ross replied the \$29,000 projection incorporate the capital improvements.

Member Maher stated he was under the impression these improvements were not being funded through the 2004 – 05 budget, but through the general fund.

Mr. Ross explained there is not a general fund line; the district could choose to run a specific line negative and at the end of the year take monies from the general fund to balance the line or transfer general funds to a specific line.

Member Maher said he would rather not allocate monies out of budget, but instead invest and put more monies into the general fund.

Mr. Ross explained the district sets aside funds for capital improvements; the committee did not use specific language to say it will transfer from the general fund and put into capital fund, the auditor will review minutes to show that the district opted to use general fund monies and not to transfer into the capital fund.

Chair DeSack said it was specifically worded to take monies from the general fund so the budget would need to reflect this, as it was a specific motion.

Mr. Ross noted that specific motion was made concerning Metcalf School's intercom system only.

MONTHLY SUB COMMITTEE REPORT – Policy Committee Report – Member Clay asked if committee members were all clear on the outcome of parent notification.

Consensus was they were.

Space Needs Committee Report – Superintendent Seitsinger explained the Space Needs Committee is engaged in data collection at this time and their next meeting is set for May 7, 2005.

Early Dismissal Committee Report – Member Maher reported the

Early Dismissal Committee is collecting data at this time and his main concern with the early dismissal procedure is a student being brought back to the bus depot should no one pick them up at their regular bus stop. His intent is to work in conjunction with Member Clay to reword the current policy to say if a school within the district has a facility available and working electricity, student(s) will be sent there to wait for their ride or to the fire station.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH APRIL 12, 2005

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PAGE 5

Member Maher contacted Chief Kettelle of the Exeter Fire Department. Chief

Kettelle was receptive to the idea and said the station could facilitate up to 100 students if need be in an emergency situation, depending on the severity of the emergency. He also stipulated his personnel would not be responsible for the students. Member Maher said the committee will work on a supervision solution - perhaps to have school personnel supervise students.

Chair DeSack suggested while working on the solution the committee keep in mind contract conditions.

She asked if sub committee members wanted Sub Committee Reports to be kept as an agenda item on a monthly basis.

Consensus was if a sub committee has something to report they will contact administration or Chair DeSack and asked to be placed on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS - Participation in Extra Curricular Activities, Including Athletics Policy #8607 – Amendment – Superintendent Seitsinger asked that Principal Boulé be present during the discussion of this policy so she can explain the connection of it to other policies and explain who exactly this policy will impact.

General discussion took place regarding grade point average in our district and other surrounding districts, block scheduling, and summer school.

Superintendent Seitsinger explained he wanted to be sure all entities fully comprehend the impact of this policy.

Consensus was this item will carry over to the next School Committee meeting for Principal Boulé's input and further discussion.

Homework Policy #7810 – 1st Reading – Chair DeSack explained this was the first reading to amend; members should review and bring any suggested changes to the next School Committee meeting.

NESDEC Enrollment Projection – Superintendent Seitsinger gave an overview of an NESDEC enrollment projection chart which showed the district should expect to see a decline of 100 to 150 students over the next four years. He noted a proposed housing development in the area, explaining that should the development become a reality, the enrollment projection chart will become obsolete.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Budget 2005 – 2006 – Member Maher voiced his

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH APRIL 12, 2005

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PAGE 6

concerns regarding the 2005 – 06 budget and the district having enough funds to address the necessary capital improvements going forward. Member Maher also requested the School Committee reallocate some of the 13% budget increase, which was approved at the DFM, into the reserve fund and the School Committee give thought as to where some of that money should be allocated from to the reserve fund.

Superintendent Seitsinger reminded members of the capital improvement fund available to the district which will afford the district a 50% reimbursement.

The committees' consensus was to have Director of Maintenance Bill

Plumley attend the May 10, 2005 school committee meeting and add to the agenda his long-term recommended projects for the district.

Mr. Ross will provide a presentation on capital progress at the May 10, 2005 School Committee meeting. Mr. Plumley will attend that meeting.

School Calendar 2005-2006 – 2nd Draft – Superintendent Seitsinger explained it was not possible to change the Professional Development day on November 8, 2005 as requested at the last school committee meeting, as it is also Election Day.

There were no changes made to the proposed School Calendar 2005 – 2006. It will be submitted to the R. I. Department of Education for validation.

Member Maher moved to accept the School Calendar 2005 – 2006. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 5 – 0.

Bylaws Discussion – Member Clay reminded members the Bylaws modifications submitted at the last meeting did not show up in bold so it was requested this item be placed on this agenda.

It was noted there was a spelling error to correct.

Chair DeSack moved to accept the Bylaws as modified. Seconded by

Clerk Coutcher. Voted 5 – 0.

Political Activities in School Policy #6215 – Revision/Adoption – No further revisions suggested.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept Policy #6215 as revised. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 5 – 0.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH APRIL 12, 2005

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PAGE 7

Prohibited Demonstration Policy # 6263 – 2nd Reading – Member Maher suggested this policy needs to clarify exactly what can be sent home with children, as the current wording, Distributing bring-home materials to school children is too vague.

The policy committee will reword this section and item will be placed on the next School

Committee agenda for adoption.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – Member Maher expressed his interest in becoming a member of the policy committee. The policy committee will now consist of three members – Vice Chair Cicero, Member Clay and Member Maher.

Superintendent Seitsinger announced the arrival of Lily Thornton, born to Dr. & Mrs. Phil Thornton on April 11, 2005.

Superintendent Seitsinger relayed a request from South Kingstown School Committee Chairperson Kathy Keiser for the district to share financial information such as vendors/suppliers used by the district.

Consensus was to share the information requested, as it was public knowledge.

Member Clay made reference to the letter enclosed in the supplemental folder handed out at this meeting and asked if it could be placed on the May agenda.

Superintendent Seitsinger noted he was in contact with the district's legal counsel regarding this matter and legal counsel believed the district's response was a good one.

Chair DeSack suggested if after reviewing the correspondence any member feels there is a need for discussion concerning this matter, they should contact Chair DeSack or Superintendent Seitsinger to request it be placed on the agenda.

Member Maher questioned information provided at a previous School Committee meeting of which he was not in attendance with regards to legal council search.

Superintendent Seitsinger gave a brief synopsis of the process of searching for legal council for the district. Superintendent Seitsinger explained the district is still in the process of conducting interviews, a second presenter Attorney Stephen Robinson will be in attendance at the April 26, 2005 School Committee meeting, and the district's current legal council representative is aware of the process and will also present in the near future.

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – School Committee Meetings – April 26, 2005, May 10, 2005, May 24, 2005

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH APRIL 12, 2005

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PAGE 8

Adjournment – Member Clay moved to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 5 - 0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK