

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 14, 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 Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Bill Clay, Paul McFadden, Frank Maher, and William Munroe. Superintendent Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr.; Director of Curriculum Philip D. Thornton; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo were present. Student Representative Jaclyn Manchester was not present.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Chair DeSack read the District Mission statement.

OPEN FORUM – Jr. High School teacher Gail Bender and volunteer Rob Correia gave an overview of EWG Sports for Kids, noting the organization has raised \$60,000 so far, upcoming fund raisers - Saturday, June 18th – Golf Tournament and October 29th - Annual Road Race, and explained their organization is in the process of applying for corporate grants, as the estimated cost to build a new

track is approximately \$600,000.

Chair DeSack welcomed and recognized students in the audience fulfilling the Boy Scout requirement of Citizenship in the Community as part of their pursuit in the Eagle Scout Award.

Member Clay announced the results at the West Greenwich Town Financial Meeting, noting West Greenwich voters unanimously rejected to take back excess monies from the school district and unanimously rejected placing a 5.5% tax cap on the school district's budget.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report - None

Special Education Presentation – Director of Special Education Maureen DeCrescenzo provided members with a written Summary of Major Provision Changes of IDEA 2004 and gave an overview of significant federal regulation changes taking effect as of July 1st. She explained in order to comply with these changes, she will meet with Head Masters at private schools, has set up training for Special Education staff, and will provide parent training in the fall in order to assure that all parties are familiar with the new regulation changes.

Gorham & Gorham – Interview for Legal Counsel – Attorney Nicholas Gorham provided members with a written proposal and a composite of each of the six members in his law firm and explained the firm

consists of four partners and two associates. He

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communicated the firm is distinguished as the oldest continuous family practice in Rhode Island and is in its 150th year. He explained his firm has represented Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District since 1965 and possesses every file ever generated for the district, has done so cost-effectively, and is happy to proceed under the same terms going forward.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Seitsinger gave an overview of the Consent Agenda. Member McFadden requested item C. Bills be pulled from the consent agenda. Member Clay requested items B. 1. Appointments, and B. 6. Council 94 Lay-Offs be pulled from the consent agenda. Member Clay moved to accept the consent agenda with items B.1., B. 6. and C. pulled. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0.

The following items were approved:

A. Minutes – Regular Minutes of May 24, 2005, Executive Meeting Minutes from May 24, 2005

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations - (As recommended by the Superintendent with regret)

a. Linda Maynard letter of resignation as Department Chair of the Special Services Department as of the end of the 2004-2005 school year.

4. Non-Renewals – Rescinded - (As Recommended by the Superintendent) – The following is a list of recommended teacher recalls:

Baptista, Jen- Secondary (.4)

Bartley, Mark- Secondary

Blais, Catherine- Middle School (.5)

Borges, Robin- Secondary

Boucher, Gerald- Special Education

Boudreault, René- Middle School - (involuntary transfer to secondary)

Cash, Tammie- Early Childhood (.5)

Cornell, Linda- Secondary

Costa, Catherine- Elementary (.5)

Crider, Keith- Elementary (.8)

deCastro, Paul- Secondary (.5)

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Donnelly, Cynthia- Elementary

Forman, Heather- Middle School

Gloria, Daniel- Elementary

Gagner, Donna- Secondary

Goldman, Stephanie- Elementary

Goldstein, Joan- Middle School

Gross, Laurie- Elementary

Grossman, Kimberly- Elementary

Hayes, Maggie Speech (.6)

Key, David- Elementary (0.8)

Lavoie, Cheryl- Elementary (.5)

Main, Craig- Middle School

Marx, Kristen- Elementary

Mastroianni, Thom- Secondary

Mears, Jacqueline- Secondary

Meriano, Susan- Middle School

Milone, Molly- Secondary

Murdock, Lisa- Elementary

Murray- Johnson, Barbara- Elementary

Murray, Catherine - Middle School

Neff, Susan- Middle School - (involuntary transfer to secondary)

Nuzum, Thomas- Secondary

Onanian, Deb- Secondary
Piermattei, Lisa- Special Education
Penza, Michael- Secondary (.5)
Quindazzi, Robert Secondary
Ray, Amie- Middle School (.8)
Robitaille, Brent- Secondary
Sawicki, Linda- Secondary
Seitz, Dawn Elementary
Taylor-Garcia, Elena ESL
Viveiros, Susan- Special Education (.5)
Ward, Marcy- Secondary
Wilbur, Beth- Elementary
Wixted, Buffie- Middle School

5. Grievances

- **Grievance 1 – 2/11/2005 – The grievance filed regarding the advisor/advisee assignments at the junior high is denied. I see no limitations stated in the contract, particularly when there is no violation of class size and the faculty approved plan is in place.**

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- **Grievance 2 – 2/28/2005 – This grievance concerns a junior high cover for R. Runner. A substitute was offered to Mr. Runner and he**

chose not to accept. The grievance is denied.

- **Grievance 3 – 2/28/2005 – High school duty assignments. The principal continues to use the practice in place for duty assignments. Grievance denied.**

End of Consent Agenda

D. Correspondence – (1) Letter to Tom DiPaola from the Superintendent

Regarding Group Homes in our District, (2) Memo from Kate LaCroix

Regarding Town of Exeter's 4th Quarter Payment, (3) PLP Guidelines

June 2005 Second Edition, (4) Standard Times Newspaper Article about

High School Teacher Gwynne Millar's FFA Recognition/Award,

(5) E-Mail from Member McFadden to the Superintendent

Regarding a

Single Tax Rate between the Two Towns, (6) SORICO Invitation

Reminder, (7) Revised 2005-2006 School Calendar

End of Consent Agenda

Vice Chair Cicero noted praise to the letter sent to Tom DiPaola from the Superintendent regarding group homes in our district.

MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS –

MONTHLY SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT – Policy Committee – Member Clay provided a verbal report of future policies the policy committee is presently working on. Member McFadden requested that policy committee reports be provided to members in writing. Chair DeSack confirmed that going forward all policy committee reports must be in writing.

NEW BUSINESS – Emergency Preparedness Committee – Director of Administration Robert Ross referenced a memo he had sent to the Superintendent and gave details of the endeavor to form a District Crisis Management Committee. Mr. Ross explained there are multiple efforts going on within the towns, and the district's foremost concerns are student centered and related to student safety. One concern he had was the current town plans show schools as evacuation centers – assuming the schools would be empty during a crisis. He felt the school district needs to focus on what state and federal regulations need to be met and then work together with the towns of Exeter and West Greenwich. He explained that if the district has a plan in place it is entitled to reimbursement from RIEMA should an emergency occur. Mr. Ross concluded by saying letters were sent to both towns inviting town representatives to join the district's committee, he didn't anticipate a problem recruiting teachers, parents and administrators to serve, and asked for at least one School Committee representative to join. Member

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Maier and Clerk Coutcher volunteered to serve. Mr. Ross noted citizens interested in serving on the committee may contact him through the district's website at ewg.k12.ri.us - click on Call to Arms, or call him at 397-5125.

Member Clay explained the policy committee needs to address mandates from the state concerning the district's crisis management team/policy regarding internal safety in the school buildings, which is a separate entity from what Mr. Ross is speaking about.

Policy #9700 – Facility Use Request – 1st Reading – Superintendent Seitsinger communicated that a number of people, Steve McGrane, building principals, etc., have given significant input into this policy and that the School Committee will decide when implementation of this policy will begin. This item will be placed on the next agenda for a 2nd reading.

Athletic Handbook – Member Clay explained the Athletic Handbook is reviewed and approved each year and noted changes were made by the policy committee and Athletic Director Steve McGrane. Member Clay moved to accept the Athletic Handbook, with changes, for 2005 – 2006. Second by Member Maier. Vice Chair Cicero asked Athletic Director McGrane to provide clarification relating to a coach's directions for epi-pen use. Voted 7 – 0.

Exeter Town Actions –

(1) 5.5 % Cap, (2) Withholding \$63,750, (3) Adopted Resolution – (1.) Attorney Nicholas Gorham made reference to a COMPLAINT filed with Superior Court against the school district by the town of Exeter and its Treasurer, Richard Walker and advised members to seek to collect the monies withheld (\$63,750), as it was contrary to the law, as monies were appropriated to the district and approved by the voters last year at the District Financial Meeting. Member Clay moved to authorize legal counsel to follow suite with Superior Court to collect the town of Exeter’s withheld payment. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Clerk Coutcher moved to amend the motion to also seek legal fees incurred. Member Clay seconded. Members discussed legal counsel engagement and committee members’ approval of it. Chair DeSack repeated the amendment to the motion was to include the legal fees. Voted 4-3. Members Maher, Munroe, and McFadden voted no. Chair DeSack repeated the motion with the amendment, to authorize legal counsel to follow suite with Superior Court to collect the Town of Exeter’s withheld payment, and to also seek collection of legal fees incurred. Voted 4-3. Members Maher, Munroe, and McFadden voted no.

(2.) Member Clay communicated the School Committee has been faced with the 5.5 % Tax Cap proposal by the Exeter Town Council for two years and feels it time for the School Committee to take a stand and to go on record officially as stating whether or not the committee

approves a 5.5 % Tax Cap. Member Clay moved the School Committee goes on record as being opposed to any further attempts to put a 5.5 % Tax Cap on the

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school budget. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Members discussed the necessity of making such a motion. Chair DeSack repeated the motion. Voted 4-2-1. Members McFadden and Munroe voted no. Member Maher abstained, stating the motion made no sense, as there is no way to predict future budgets.

(3.) Attorney Nicholas Gorham recommended the district seek court clarification of the Resolution adopted by the Town of Exeter Financial Town Meeting concerning the appropriation for the Regional School District. Members discussed delaying seeking clarification. Member Clay moved to authorize legal counsel to seek the effectiveness of the motion to the resolution taken at the Exeter Financial Meeting. Seconded by Chair DeSack. Voted 5-2. Members Munroe and McFadden voted no.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Lineham Roof Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported he and Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley met with roofing contractors and reviewed detailed roofing recommendations. Mr. Ross anticipates bid openings to

begin at the end of June, the cost to be in the \$40,000 - \$50,000 range which will also include removal of carpeting, VCT (tile) flooring installation, and ceiling replacement. Mr. Ross will submit to the State Capital Improvement Plan for probable reimbursement of approximately 50%. Member Maher reported teacher Diana Rotelli communicated to him she was symptom free as results of the carpet replacement in her classroom at Wawaloam School and inquired if the School Committee was able to do anything with the roof at Wawaloam. Member Maher suggested repairing both Lineham's roof and Wawaloam's roof at the same time.

Policy #8607-Participation in Extra Curricular Activities, Including Athletics-2nd Reading/Adoption – Member Maher moved to adopt Policy #8607-Participation in Extra Curricular Activities, Including Athletics-2nd Reading/Adoption. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7-0.

Three New Cafeteria Tables at Metcalf School Update – Member Munroe explained he contacted an Adirondack representative and the company will not exchange the incorrect size tables ordered unless the district is willing to pay restocking fees. Consensus was to take this item off future agendas, keep the tables that were ordered, and in the future to be really clear on specifications of items being ordered. Vice Chair Cicero communicated she wanted it on record that Member Munroe did not use a tape measure to accurately measure the current tables prior to ordering new tables. Member Munroe

communicated he wanted it on record that he requested a tape measure and it was not provided to him. Chair DeSack thanked Member Munroe for going over and above to seek out a cost savings for the district.

Epi-Pen Update – Vice Chair Cicero updated members on the current status of Bill #269, noting it will be heard and voted on tomorrow, June 15th. The House will introduce

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a mirror Bill today and hopefully will pass Bill #269 Sub A, which adds bus drivers to the existing law and releases them of any liability. Member Maher read the amended section to members. Vice Chair Cicero communicated results should come in a couple of weeks, sometime in July.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – Chair DeSack reverted back to the items pulled from the

Consent Agenda – Member Clay requested items B. 1. Appointments be pulled from the Consent Agenda. Member Clay asked if the Wawaloam FTE Assistant was a new position. Mr. Ross explained this position was previously approved. Member Clay requested items B. 6. Council 94 Lay-Offs be pulled from the consent agenda. Member Clay noted a typographical error in Mr. Ross' memo – Potential layoff in 9/2006 should read Potential layoff in 9/2005. Member McFadden

requested item C. Bills be pulled from the consent agenda. Member McFadden asked how old the tractor requiring a \$2,800 repair was. Mr. Ross explained the tractor is a very large one and would cost a lot to replace. Members McFadden and Munroe recommended any member wishing to receive a subscription to American School Board, pay for the subscription themselves. Member Munroe moved not to fund subscriptions to American School Board in the future. Seconded by Member McFadden. Voted 4-3. Chair DeSack, Vice Chair Cicero, Member Clay voted no. Member Maher moved to accept the pulled consent agenda items. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 7-0.

The following items were approved:

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments – (As recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Eileen Dunford as 1.0 FTE One on One Teacher Assistant at Wawaloam School effective 2005-2006 School Year.

6. Council 94 Lay-Offs - (As Recommended by the Superintendent with Regret) – There have been three (3) Council 94 employees served layoff notices. Layoff letters were issued on 5/31/05 to the following:

- 1.0 FTE Teacher Assistant SPED, Camp Canonocus - Kelli Borelli Farkas**
- 1.0 FTE One on One Metcalf - Lisa Tognetti**

- **0.5 FTE Teacher Assistant Metcalf - Dolleen LaCombe**

C. Bills – In the amount of \$ 100,944.99

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**IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – June 20th – Tentative Certified
Job Fair**

**@ High School Library 4:00 p.m., June 21– Last Day of School, June
28 – School**

**Committee Meeting/Facilities Presentation, July 19th – School
Committee Meeting,**

**Jr. High School Moving-Up Ceremony – June 21, 2005 @ 6:00 p.m. in
the High School Gymnasium – Refreshments following the ceremony
in the Jr. High School Gymnasium**

**Chair DeSack moved to take a five-minute break before going into
Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted
7-0.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Chair DeSack moved to go into Executive

Session at 9:25 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-45-5(a) (9) for the purpose of discussion regarding collective bargaining agreement - Grievances. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero.

Voted 7-0.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 9:25 p.m.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 10:18 p.m.

Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in open session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-2(b) at 10:18 p.m.

She announced a vote had been taken in Executive Session to deny grievance #1, dated 2/11/05. Voted 5-2. Chair DeSack and Member McFadden voted no. A second vote had been taken in Executive Session to follow the contract going forward with regard to grievance #3 dated 2/28/05. Voted 7-0.

Adjournment – Chair DeSack moved to adjourn at 10:19 p.m. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK