

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH August 23, 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 Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Bill Clay, and Frank Maher. Member Paul McFadden arrived at 7:40 p.m. Member William Munroe arrived at 8:00 p.m., shortly after the meeting adjourned. Superintendent Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr.; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; and Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo were present.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Superintendent Seitsinger read the District Mission statement.

OPEN FORUM – Chair DeSack read the Open Forum rules to the audience. She explained that due to the Open Meeting Laws, members were allowed to listen to matters brought forward during Open Forum, but were not permitted to respond. She also explained that any matter brought forward during Open Forum that needs to be

addressed by School Committee members, would be placed on the next School Committee agenda for discussion. Chair DeSack asked if anyone had items to bring forward. There was no response.

Member Maher moved to move up agenda item G. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Fire Alarm Status/Jr.-Sr. High School and Metcalf School to this time. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 5 – 0.**

Fire Alarm Status/Jr. – Sr. High School and Metcalf School – Superintendent Seitsinger gave an overview of the events concerning the fire alarm system status thus far. He communicated that American Alarm is making the necessary repairs at the Jr./Sr. High School, the Fire Chief and Fire Marshal will make the necessary inspection when complete, and the building is expected to open on time.

Director of Administration Robert Ross communicated American Alarm Company submitted an estimate/quote regarding Metcalf School's fire alarm system. He explained that Metcalf's system repair is an extensive undertaking, as it would, in effect, involve installing a new system. Mr. Ross explained the estimate/quote received from American Alarm is \$125,000 to \$175,000; however, Mr. Ross' opinion is that it will cost \$150,000 - \$175,000 and he reported the building will be in compliance once the job is completed. He summarized that the current fire alarm system at Metcalf is functional and safe.

Superintendent Seitsinger reported the reason the Jr./Sr. High School fire alarm system was address first is because there were 106 false alarms in one-year and the School

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Committee agreed to address the situation because it was an unsafe situation. The Superintendent reported that Metcalf's system needs to be upgraded to code but, works well and he reported the system will be upgraded and replaced in the future. He confirmed the Jr./Sr. High School fire alarm system repair is on track, the building will be ready to open on time on opening day, and then clarified there is no pressure from the Exeter fire marshal regarding the fire alarm system at Metcalf School, other than replacing the electronic radio call box which will be addressed prior to the opening of school.

PRESENTATION – None

Superintendent Seitsinger and Chair DeSack requested the approved minutes from July 19, 2005 be pulled and amended to read the action taken to repair the Jr./Sr. High School fire alarm system was an emergency action. Chair DeSack asked administration to provide members with copy of the revised July 19, 2005 minutes.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Seitsinger gave an overview of the consent agenda. He explained that B.

Personnel Items, 1. Appointments, g. Michele Haskell as a .8 FTE Elementary School Music Teacher at Metcalf School effective August 29, 2005 and o. Rebecca Brazil as a .8 FTE Elementary School Music Teacher at Metcalf School effective August 29, 2005 withdrew their applications. Also, he referenced the condition set forth by the School Committee at the past two meetings with regard to the appointments of Maureen Pontarelli as Mentor Coordinator Grades K – 6 and Anne Arvidson as Mentor Coordinator Grades 7 – 12 prior to having a copy of a signed teachers’ contract in-hand, and explained the district will have signed copies of the teachers’ contract in-hand next week. Chair DeSack confirmed the Superintendent’s statement regarding the teachers’ contract.

Member Clay requested agenda items A. Minutes, B. Personnel Items, 1. Appointments, a., b., and c. be pulled from the consent agenda.

Member Maher moved to accept the consent agenda with items A. Minutes, B. Personnel Items, 1. Appointments, a., b., and c. pulled. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 5 - 0.

The following items were approved:

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

d. Josh Bednarczyk as Sr. High School Assistant Girls’ Volleyball Coach for the 2005 – 2006 season

**e. Nicole Pichette as 1.0 FTE Sr. High School Art Teacher effective
August 29, 2005**

**f. Sandy Capuano as 1.0 FTE Middle School ELA Teacher effective
August 29, 2005**

**i. Mary Ellen Gelinas as .5 FTE Sr. High School Business
Teacher
effective August 29, 2005**

**j. Mark Bartley as Sr. High School Freshman Class Advisor
effective August 29, 2005**

**k. Linda Cornell and Elaina Nardi as Sr. High School Sophomore
Class Advisor effective August 29, 2005**

**l. Michael Flynn as 1.0 FTE Special Education Alternative
Program Council 94 Behavior Specialist at Metcalf School
effective August 29, 2005**

m. Benjamin Blackett as 1.0 FTE Middle School Foreign Language Teacher effective August 29, 2005

n. Joshua Bednarczyk as .4 FTE Middle School Physical Education/Health Teacher effective August 29, 2005

2. Leaves of Absence

**3. Resignations (As Recommended by the Superintendent, with
Regret)**

a. Letter of Resignation from Susan Marsocci, after 30 years of service to the district, for the purpose of Retirement, as a 1.0 FTE Literacy Teacher Assistant at Metcalf School with regret, effective August 29, 2005

b. Letter of Resignation from Gerhardina Armitstead, after 35 years of service to the district, for the purpose of Retirement, as a 1.0 FTE Literacy Teacher Assistant at Metcalf School, with regret, effective August 19, 2005

4. Grievances

C. Bills – August invoices in the amount of \$26,679.24, June 30, 2005 accruals

in the amount of \$1,895.80

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End of Consent Agenda

D. Correspondence – (1) Memo from the Superintendent to Administrators and Staff regarding Chain of Command – Update, (2) Memo to School Committee from Superintendent Seitsinger regarding Charter Schools and Pension Fund Changes, (3) Memo to School Committee from Superintendent Seitsinger regarding School Safety, (4) Letter to Principal Boulé from Sr. High School Agriscience Teacher Gwynne Millar regarding the FFA Convention, (5) Curriculum Standards Document for Sr. High School American Government and Law Course, (6) Memo to Superintendent Seitsinger and School Committee Chairperson regarding Metcalf Fire Alarm Estimated Quote

Member Clay and Superintendent Seitsinger had a discussion regarding correspondence number (3) Memo to School Committee regarding School Safety.

Superintendent Seitsinger reported this correspondence is a summary of a meeting he attended that was hosted by the state of RI.

He explained the district is in the process of setting procedures and will have a recommendation for the School Committee meeting on September 13th or 27th.

Member Clay referenced the district's policy which is in compliance with RIGL 16-21-24 and reported the policy is written and he anticipates it will be made available to members at the second meeting in September.

NEW BUSINESS-French Foreign Partnership – Superintendent Seitsinger reported the Sr. High School French Foreign Partnership program is a traditional program at EWG and is a more substantial trip than a general trip, because the program is a specific program between a community in France and the EWG community. The School Committee has recently discussed not sponsoring general student trips overseas; however, this is different than a general trip, as it involves a family-to-family relationship.

Sr. High School Foreign Language Department Chairperson Jean Murano reported the cost of the trip is funded by the student and the proposed cost for the trip is \$1500 per student. She reported students will attend at least one full day of classes in France with their host student and the host students will visit EWG in the Spring.

Member Clay moved to support the French Foreign Partnership Program trip. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 5 – 0.

Update of all Policies Currently being Reviewed and their Timelines – Member Clay referenced the enclosed policy committee report and explained the report reflected which policies were mandated and those that are a priority. Member Clay explained that some policies involve a lot of time and effort to complete.

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Superintendent Seitsinger thanked Member Clay for the report and commented that it is very helpful.

Member Clay communicated he would like to submit this type of report periodically for review.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- School Vending Machine Content Policy # 5010 – 2nd Reading – There were no comments or suggested revisions regarding this policy. This policy will be placed on the next School Committee agenda for adoption.

Concurrent Enrollment Policy #7602 – 2nd Reading – This policy will be placed on the next School Committee agenda for adoption.

Lineham Roof – Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported the roof repair at Lineham School has been completed, the

carpet has been removed in one room, and the ceiling has been repaired. He communicated the repairs look great and the roof repair includes a 12-year warranty.

Harassment Policy – Employees #6249 – 2nd Reading – Chair DeSack expressed she had suggested revisions regarding this policy which she will submit to Member Clay. This policy will be continued to the next School Committee meeting.

Presentations and Demonstrations of Public Issues on School Premises Policy #6263 – Adoption – Chair DeSack suggested some of the language in this policy is too vague and needs clarification in order to make certain the district does not violate freedom of speech laws. Consensus was to table this agenda item to the next School Committee meeting so the policy committee may make additional revisions.

Vote for Legal Counsel – Member Clay moved to continue to employ Gorham & Gorham as the district’s legal counsel for all routine legal matters and to allow the district to hire an alternative legal firm for specific issues of expertise if necessary. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher.

Member McFadden arrived at this time, 7:40 p.m.

Voted 5 – 0 – 1. Member McFadden abstained and it was recognized

that he did not have any response as he did not take part in the discussion.

Superintendent Seitsinger communicated that because Member McFadden was absent during the discussion, it was not necessary for him to vote at all.

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Member McFadden withdrew his vote to abstain.

Voted 5 – 0. Motion passed.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – Superintendent Seitsinger reference a letter he received from Sr. High School Science Teacher Gwynne Millar requesting permission for FFA members to attend the National FFA Convention in October. He explained there was not time to put this item on tonight’s agenda and he voiced his recommendation and strong support of this trip as he feels it is a fundamentally sound educational experience for the students involved. This item will be placed on the next School Committee agenda for discussion.

Chair DeSack reverted back to the items pulled from the Consent

Agenda. Member McFadden requested consent agenda item vendor slips be pulled for discussion. Chair DeSack denied Member McFadden's request, as the invoices were already approved prior to Member McFadden's arrival to tonight's meeting.

Member Clay requested agenda item A. Minutes be pulled from the consent agenda and requested text be amended regarding the Harassment Policy. Member Clay's suggested revision will be made and a copy of the revised minutes will be provided to members at the next School Committee meeting.

Member Clay requested agenda item B. Personnel Items, 1. Appointments, c. be pulled from the consent agenda. Member Clay suggested, with regard to item, 1. c. Kellie Borrelli-Farkas rehire as 1.0 FTE Teacher Assistant for ALP at Metcalf School effective August 30, 2005, to analyze that we truly need to fill this position because of the projected inflated costs for electricity and heat this upcoming winter season.

Both Superintendent Seitsinger and Director of Special Education communicated, it is essential to have this position staffed because of the structure of the design of this particular alternative program. Ms. DeCrescenzo communicated it would be unsafe and dangerous to leave this classroom position unstaffed.

Member Clay requested consent agenda items B. Personnel Items, 1.

Appointment, a. and b. be pulled from the consent agenda as there is still no signed copy of the teachers' contract. Member Maher suggested tabling these appointments to the next meeting. Chair DeSack expressed she did not want to table these appointments again, and reported that members will receive copies of a signed teachers' contract next week.

Chair DeSack moved to accept A. Minutes - Regular Minutes of August 3, 2005 as amended. Member Clay seconded. Voted 6 – 0.

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Chair DeSack moved to accept B. Personnel Items, 1. Appointment, a., b., and c. Seconded by Member McFadden. Voted 5 – 1. Member Clay voted no.

Member Maher asked Principals Boulé, Thompson, Boyce, and Myers if they had any questions or concerns regarding the opening of schools. Principals' responses were they were looking forward to the opening of school.

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – September 13, 2005 – School Committee

Meeting, September 27, 2005 – School Committee Meeting, August

29, 2005 –

Teachers Return, August 31, 2005 – Students Return, October 13, 2005 – Proposed

Town Council and School Committee Joint Meeting, October 18, 2005 – Proposed

Legislative Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

Adjournment – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 6 - 0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK