

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH September 13, 2005**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **MINUTES**

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

**6:30 p.m. in the Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Bill Clay, Paul McFadden, Frank Maher, and William Munroe. Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson arrived at 7:29 p.m. Superintendent Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr.; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo, and Student Representative Emily DeCristofano were present.**

**ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – Member Clay moved to go into Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 and in accordance with RIGL 42-46-5(a)(8) for Student Disciplinary Hearing, written notice having been provided to the individual informing him/her of the right to hold the hearing in open session. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 6 - 0.**

**Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 8:10 p.m.**

**ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in open session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-2(b) at 8:10 p.m.**

**During Executive Session I, the School Committee voted to uphold school policy and not allow a student to participate in extra curricular activities. Voted 4 – 2. Members McFadden and Munroe voted no.**

**During Executive Session II, Vice Chair Cicero arrived at 7:29 p.m. and no vote was taken by the School Committee.**

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

**OPEN FORUM – Superintendent Seitsinger introduced and welcomed this year’s Student Representative Emily DeCristofano to her first School Committee meeting as a representative and explained her role is to provide information to the committee regarding student matters.**

**Clerk Coutcher moved to move up agenda items VII. NEW BUSINESS, A. EWG –FFA – Chapter Request for Members to Attend National FFA Convention and B. Transportation Issues.**

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**Member McFadden moved to move up agenda item VI. Routine Items, Consent Agenda, G. Year End Budget Projection 2004 – 2005.**

**NEW BUSINESS - EWG –FFA – Chapter Request for Members to Attend National FFA Convention - Superintendent Seitsinger reference an enclosed letter received from Sr. High teacher Gwynne Millar and communicated his recommendation to support Ms. Millar’s request for permission for herself and members of the EWG – FFA Chapter to attend the National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY October 25th – 29th, 2005. He made note that Ms. Millar will be representing Rhode Island at the convention this year as a finalist in the National Agriscience Teacher program.**

**Member Clay moved to approve EWG – FFA Chapter’s Request for Members to Attend the National FFA Convention October 25th – 29th 2005. Seconded by Member McFadden. Voted 7 – 0.**

**Transportation Issues – Director of Administration Robert Ross referenced an enclosure provided to members regarding the bus route of bus #12 for the school years 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. He explained the bus route was recently changed, at the direction of the School Committee, in order to address the epi-pen issue discussed many times this past year and to make the bus ride shorter for a particular student who carries an epi-pen. Mr. Ross explained that since that direction, this issue no longer exists, as there has been a**

**change in the law with regard to bus drivers/monitors administering epi-pens in the event of a medical emergency on the bus. He communicated the reason the change took place to begin with was to deal with a potential emergency for a particular student. To summarize, Mr. Ross conveyed, the change was directed by School Committee in order to address a specific issue with a particular student and that issue no longer exists and prior to this change, the previous bus route has existed for 7-years.**

**Member McFadden moved to direct Laidlaw Bus Company to revert the bus route of bus #12 back to the 2004 – 2005 route. Seconded by Member Munroe.**

**Discussion: Clerk Coutcher communicated he was in favor of reverting the bus route back, as Laidlaw set the original bus route which was in place for 7-years and Laidlaw knows which routes work best.**

**West Greenwich parents of a Jr. High student that rides bus #12 explained the route was in place for the last 7-years, their child missed the bus the first day of school because no one notified them of the change, the new route picks up their child 43 minutes earlier than previously, and there are several students that walk ¼ of a mile to the bus stop – in the dark – at 5:45 a.m. They asked members to consider reverting back for the safety of all the children.**

**Chair DeSack asked if there were any parties present apposed to the bus route reverting back to the 2004 – 2005 schedule. There was no response.**

**Chair DeSack restated the motion on the floor, to direct Laidlaw Bus Company to revert the bus route of bus #12 back to the 2004 – 2005 route. Voted 7 – 0.**

**Year End Budget Projection 2004 – 2005 - Un-Audited General Fund Balance Backup – Director of Administration Robert Ross asked members to view the report provided, noting this report reflects an un-audited general fund balance.**

**Member McFadden had questions regarding Mr. Ross' reported state aid figures verses a July 31, 2004 memo from the state. Member McFadden did not have the state memo to compare the figures. Mr. Ross stated he would get a copy of the memo from the state and report on any differences at the next meeting. Member McFadden expressed concern that Mr. Ross' report reflected a \$40,000 deficit that needs School Committee approval to be spent. Member McFadden asked Mr. Ross to provide a new report at the next meeting that reflects the state's figures, so that the School Committee may take the action to withdraw funds, as it is historically done that way.**

**Consensus of the committee was Mr. Ross will provide a report at the next meeting so that the committee can take action on the reserve fund.**

**PRESENTATION - None**

**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 7 – 0.**

**The following items were approved:**

**A. Minutes – Regular Minutes of August 23, 2005**

**B. Personnel Items**

**1. Appointments - (As Recommended by the Superintendent) The following do not represent any change in Budget FTE's:**

**a. Caroline Scheff as .08 FTE Elementary Music Teacher at Metcalf School, Step 1, BS, effective 8/31/2005**

**b. Connie McGuire as .05 FTE Sr. High School Foreign Language Teacher, Step 11, BA, effective 8/29/2005**

**c. Crystal Belanger as Sr. High School Cheerleading Coach for the**

**2005-2006 season**

- d. Joshua Bednarczyk as Middle School .4 FTE Technology Teacher, Step 1, BS, effective 8/29/2005**

**2. Leaves of absence**

**3. Resignations (As Recommended by the Superintendent)**

- a. Letter of Resignation from Patrick Cozzolino as School Social Worker for the Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District, effective September 10, 2005**
- b. Letter of Resignation from Kelli-Jean Borrelli-Farkas as Teacher Assistant for the Alternative Learning Program, effective August 31, 2005**

**4. Grievances**

**C. Bills - (ENCLOSED) – September invoices in the amount of \$182,184.77, June 30, 2005 accruals in the amount of \$672.05**

**D. Home School Approvals**

- a. Buckley – Alexandra, Nicholas, Taylor, and Zachary**
- b. Buckley – John Z., Christiana**
- c. Fletcher – Chelsea**

- d. Greene – Tyler**
  - e. Montie – Hannah**
  - f. Parenteau – Tyler**
  - g. Sepe – Andrea and Dominique**
  - h. Greene – Kelsey, Nicolette, Courtney, Hannah, and Mason**
  - i. Bardsley – Christiana and Taylor**
  - j. Hathaway – Charles, Peter, Aidan, Lillian, Grace, Georgia, and Harold**
  - k. Ives – Jennifer, Michael, and Alexander**
  - l. West – Ila, Lane, and Percy**
- End Consent Agenda**

**E. Correspondence – (ENCLOSED) – (1) Letter to the Superintendent from Ronald Rounds of EWG TV, (2) Letter to the Superintendent from Attorney Gorham Regarding Opinion, (3) Revised Regular Minutes from July 19, 2005, (4) Revised Regular Minutes from August 3, 2005, (5) District wide Energy Costs, (6) Correspondence from Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley, (7) Confidential Memo to Members from the Superintendent Regarding Executive Session – 6:30 p.m., (8) Invitation to Members and Legislators to Attend a Legislative Forum, (9) Memo to All Staff from Superintendent Seitsinger Regarding Building Safety and Conservation of Energy, (10) Letter to Superintendent Seitsinger from**

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**WGFD Chief Hoxsie Regarding the Jr./Sr. High School Fire Alarm Installation, (11) Letter to Principal Myers from NAEYC Regarding Accreditation at Lineham School**

**Member Clay asked for clarification concerning correspondence (1) Letter to the Superintendent from Ronald Rounds of EWG TV.**

**Superintendent Seitsinger explained EWG TV will change their billing system and begin to bill Town Council and School Committee per session. This process will help EWG TV to more clearly document how their services are provided to Town Council and School Committee.**

**Monthly Status Reports – In reference to the Superintendent's Monthly Status Report, Member McFadden requested next month's report indicate student enrollment. Superintendent Seitsinger confirmed student enrollment will be provided to members the first meeting in October.**

**With regard to the Special Education Monthly Status Report, Member Clay inquired about data which reported four (4) students presently enrolled in the ALP program classroom. Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo reported the program will break even and there are two prospects which may increase enrollment, (1) there are still empty beds at the local group homes, (2) there has been discussion regarding considering taking referrals from other districts**

for placement in our ALP program. Ms. DeCrescenzo reported, at present population is less than last year; however, it is very early in the school year.

In reference to the Maintenance Monthly Status Report, Member Clay had concerns regarding the Jr./Sr. High School grounds. Superintendent Seitsinger reported that Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley did reassign one specific employee to take care of the Jr./Sr. High School grounds and EWG FFA has completed specific projects on school grounds.

Member Maher requested Mr. Plumley's October Maintenance Status Report address Wawaloam School's issue with flooding of the playground area which was discussed at a previous School Committee meeting. Member Maher communicated he has discussed this issue with Principal Myers and some of her staff with regard to ideas he has to address this issue that may be cost effective. Member Maher also requested Mr. Plumley address at least three water fountains at Metcalf School that are working poorly or are out of order.

Member McFadden reported the water fountain just outside of Wawaloam's cafeteria is working poorly, (it is lukewarm), and asked that Mr. Plumley address this issue also.

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**Monthly Sub Committee Report-Policy Committee Report – Member Clay gave an overview of the Monthly Policy Committee Report, noting the Policy Committee would like to amend the administration hiring policy to a 2-year contract with a 1-year option upon performance evaluation by the Superintendent and asked if there was a School Committee consensus to do so.**

**Superintendent Seitsinger commented that the 2-year/1-year option course of action is a more typical leadership agreement throughout the state and presently the district policy is a 1-year contract.**

**Chair DeSack asked if consensus of the School Committee was to change policy. All members agreed to change policy.**

**NEW BUSINESS - Natural Rubber Latex Gloves – Prohibited Use Policy #6208 – 1ST Reading – No specific changes/recommendations were made concerning this policy. This item will be continued at the next School Committee meeting for a 2nd Reading.**

**Part Time High School Position– Superintendent Seitsinger summarized correspondence and a letter enclosed for members regarding the hiring of a .6 FTE Sr. High School ELA Teacher. He explained Principal Boulé initially proposed adding two part time positions at the high school without any additional cost to the**

**district. However, with the elimination of 16 study halls and crunching of classes, at the opening of school there were two classes, (2 sections of 20 students each), remaining not covered. Presently these two classes are being covered by two existing staff members. The Superintendent explained his strategy not to increase costs and explained his plan to decrease the supply line, as done last year, to 65%. He explained the 65% freeze would free \$125,000, would help to continue to keep the budget healthy, and would allow for a new hire. Superintendent Seitsinger reported there are 187 teachers in the district, not all of these teachers are in the classroom, some are guidance teacher, school psychologists, etc., there is a student/teacher ration of 21-22 to 1 at the high school, the current district enrollment is approximately 2,180, and last year's enrollment was 2,208.**

**Member Munroe suggested looking at cutting back other positions.**

**Superintendent Seitsinger explained there is a specific notification process and timeline the district must follow in order to do that and reported there are students in front of every teacher in the district.**

**Member Clay moved to hire a .6 FTE ELA Sr. High School Teacher.**

**Member McFadden seconded.**

**Discussion: Member McFadden voiced his difficulty to understand, as the district has always overspent the operating budget.**

**Superintendent Seitsinger explained he is not**

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**relying on the reserve fund, he is reallocating funds from another line, and he will not come forward with a recommendation without a strategy first in order to keep costs down.**

**Chair DeSack restated the motion on the table, to hire a .6 FTE ELA Sr. High School Teacher. Member McFadden seconded. Vote 5 – 2. Members McFadden and Munroe voted no.**

**Member McFadden left the meeting at this time. (9:18 p.m.)**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Mission Statement Motto – Chair DeSack explained there have been Mission Statement Motto meetings with parents, students, administrators, etc. in attendance and referenced an enclosed proposed Mission Statement for members to review and comment on.**

**Member Clay voiced his opinion that the proposed Mission Statement is too lengthy and should be more direct and to the point - suggesting something to the effect of, “To educate kids to move from public schools to the real world” – one sentence.**

**Superintendent Seitsinger confirmed that businesses follow Member**

**Clay's suggested format also and said the proposed Mission Statement was enclosed for member's information.**

**Concurrent Enrollment Policy #7602 – Adoption – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adopt Concurrent Enrollment Policy #7602. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 6 – 0.**

**School Vending Machine Content Policy #5101 – Adoption – Member Clay moved to adopt School Vending Machine Content Policy #5191. Clerk Coutcher seconded.**

**Discussion: Member Maher voiced his concern that it was previously agreed by the committee that the contents in the district's vending machines were to be changed to healthy snacks prior to the beginning of the school year and to date this has not occurred. He asked why the change did not occur.**

**Consensus of the committee was to vote on the motion on the floor and to place on the next School Committee agenda, Vending Machine Content Discussion, in order to determine why or why not the contents were changed. It was also suggested to invite Principal Thompson, Principal Boulé, and the district's nurse/teachers to attend the meeting.**

**Chair DeSack restated the motion on the floor, to adopt School Vending Machine Content Policy #5191. Clerk Coutcher seconded.**

**Voted 6 – 0.**

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**As a courtesy to members, Superintendent Seitsinger announced there will be a healthy kids breakfast held on September 29, 2005 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at 7:15 a.m.**

**Harassment Policy – Employees #6249 – Adoption- Member Clay moved to adopt the Harassment Policy – Employees #6249. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0.**

**Presentations and Demonstrations of Public Issues on School Premises Policy #6263 – Adoption – Member Maher moved to adopt Presentations and Demonstrations of Public Issues on School Premises Policy #6263. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0.**

**Fire Alarm Status/Jr. – Sr. High School and Metcalf School- Superintendent Seitsinger referenced a correspondence provided to members from West Greenwich Fire Department Chief Hoxsie and read an excerpt which expressed his gratitude for addressing and repairing the fire alarms system at the Jr. – Sr. High School. The Superintendent reported the repair is completely done, all testing is complete, and there have been no false alarms. He also reported that Metcalf School's radio box is in place and is fully functional as well.**

## **REPORTS/COMMENTS –**

**IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – September 14, 2005 – District**

**Goals**

**Meeting @ 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library, September 27, 2005 -  
School**

**Committee Meeting, October 13, 2005 –Proposed Town Council and  
School**

**Committee Joint Meeting, October 18, 2005 – Proposed Legislative  
Meeting**

**Chair DeSack reported she has not received confirmation as of yet  
regarding the proposed Town Council and School Committee Meeting  
on October 13, 2005 and will keep members abreast of this matter.**

**Member Clay asked for clarification of what will be involved in the  
Proposed Legislative Meeting on October 18, 2005.**

**Superintendent Seitsinger explained this proposed meeting was  
partly generated from last year's Town Council/School Committee  
joint meeting, where it was stated a meeting should be set for parties  
to discuss, with local legislators, school/town issues.**

**Superintendent Seitsinger reported the District Goals Meeting set for  
September 14, 2005 has been postponed.**

**Member Maher moved to adjourn from Open Session at 9:30 p.m.  
Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 6 – 0.**

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION – Chair DeSack moved to go into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-46-5(a) (9) for the purpose of discussion regarding collective bargaining agreement – Grievance(s).  
Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0.**

**Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.  
Executive Session was immediately cancelled.  
Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 9:30 p.m.**

**Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in open session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-2(b) at 9:31 p.m.**

**No action or vote was taken during Executive Session.**

**Adjournment – Member Clay moved to adjourn at 9:32 p.m.  
Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 -0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.**

**ROBIN CERIO**

**CLERK**