

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH October 11, 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 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 7 p.m.

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

OPEN FORUM – Superintendent Seitsinger reported a district team is in the process of taking the next steps necessary to establish the new District Mission Statement. The next meeting will take place in November and the team will be setting goals at that time.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Emily DeCristofano

reported the high school has a big week ahead and gave an overview of the various Homecoming activities planned for the week, i.e., pep rally, dance, soccer and football games. She invited everyone to attend a homecoming breakfast on Saturday, November 15, 2005 at 7:00 a.m. in the high school cafeteria. She reported the Natural Helpers group will be producing two videos for junior high school students and presenting an assembly to junior high school students regarding bullying, as the junior high school guidance counselor has reported hearing occasional stories from students relating to bullying (no specific incidences have been reported), the drama department will be presenting Into the Woods in March, the elimination of soda machines went well, no change in meal prices yet, and the parking situation is still fine. She mentioned there has been only one incident of a report of smoking in the bathroom so far this year.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Seitsinger gave an overview of the Consent Agenda. The Superintendent recognized and thanked Alan Ezovski, recommended finalist for the District School Social Worker position, for coming to the meeting.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0.

The following items were approved:

A. Minutes – Regular Minutes of September 27, 2005

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Alan Ezovski as 1.0 FTE School Social Worker Servicing the District, Step 9, M+15, Salary \$57,701, effective November 7, 2005

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

a. Letter of Resignation from Tom Nuzum as Multicultural Appreciation Club Co-Advisor at the Sr. High School, with Regret, effective October 7, 2005

4. Grievances

C. Bills – In the amount of \$ 135,198.65

D. Home School Approvals – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

1. Marcantonio – Gio Jesse

End of Consent Agenda

Superintendent Seitsinger read the list of correspondence.

E. Correspondence – (1) Letter to the Superintendent from RIDE regarding Lineham School’s recent accreditation by NAEYC, (2) The Natchitoches Times September 2005 Newspaper Article Regarding Teddy Bears for Kids, (3) Memo to School Committee Members from the Superintendent and Nancy Daley Regarding NECAP Testing, (4) Memo to the Superintendent from Metcalf School Librarian Bette-Jean Black, Regarding Dictionary Project: Year 2, (5) Flyer from SORICO Regarding Keywork Meeting on Monday, Nov. 7, 2005 @ 6: PM, (6) Student Enrollment 2005-2006

Principal Myers passed out a press release to members relating to Lineham School’s recent accreditation as a High Quality Early Education Program by The National Association of the Education of Young Children.

Superintendent Seitsinger referenced correspondence (3) Memo to School Committee Members from the Superintendent and Nancy Daley Regarding NECAP Testing and explained standard based testing has changed from past testing. He gave an overview of changes with regards to the amount of time students are allowed to complete the test.

Chair DeSack welcomed Alan Ezovski to the district and thanked him for coming.

Monthly Status Reports – Superintendent – Member McFadden requested the Superintendent add student enrollment to his next status report.

Business – Member Clay requested money being held by Exeter 2004-2005 be on the next school committee agenda.

Budget 2005 – 2006 – Superintendent Seitsinger reported a tentative 2006-2007 budget timeline calendar has been established, it is relatively similar to last year's structure, the District Financial Meeting is tentatively set for the second Monday in April – 4/10/2006, and reminded members that last year a budget sub committee was appointed.

Director of Administration Robert Ross referenced two budget enclosures and explained one budget represents the General Fund Budget and the other represents the Budget by Fund. Mr. Ross gave an overview of what each budget's data includes and explained that the miscellaneous revenue will be listed in the one page summary at the next business meeting.

Monthly Sub-Committee Report – Policy Committee Report – Member Clay emphasized how significant School Health and Wellness Policy

#8705 is, as it will reach into changes made in school cafeterias. He explained the legal necessity to appoint a chairperson from the committee to address this matter. Member Clay explained the policy sub committee is requesting consensus from the committee to bring forth policies addressing the following issues: to establish school curricula and to establish control over food and drinks brought into schools to share with others.

Superintendent Seitsinger recommended Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley be involved in the establishment of the curricula policy. With regard to the School Health and Wellness Policy, the Superintendent explained other districts have band cupcakes from birthday parties (concerns about food allergies), and our district needs to establish and put into place a systematic plan concerning healthy foods for the beginning of the 2006 – 2007 school year.

Chair DeSack suggested a School Health and Wellness sub committee be formed, to have student involvement on the sub committee, and to have the sub committee research the matter.

With regard to the school curricula policy, consensus was to have the sub committee bring forward an outline to the School Committee for review. Member Clay emphasized the committee does not wish to write the curricula, but to review it once written.

With regard to Policy #8150-Holiday Observance, Member Clay

explained this policy will address patriotic holidays only.

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NEW BUSINESS – Energy Cost Analysis – Superintendent Seitsinger and Director of Administration Robert Ross explained SORICO is beginning to look at strategies to bring 10 school districts together in cooperation to reduce costs by purchasing heating fuel in bulk. Mr. Ross noted that bulk purchasing requires monitoring the market and permission from the School Committee to make purchases on the spot. Mr. Ross reported he will meet with a Bluestone Energy Group representative this Thursday to discuss the results of an energy audit they completed for the district. At the meeting on Thursday, Mr. Ross will recommend Bluestone Energy Group come before the School Committee to explain how their program works. Mr. Ross reported the district was able to lock in a fixed cost for electricity but, anticipates costs will still exceed the budget. The goal now is to manage the way the district operates. Mr. Ross will be looking at alternatives to get electricity cost under control first and then look at fuel. He reported that bus fuel is locked in at the budgeted amount.

Superintendent Seitsinger reported that an interoffice memorandum was sent to all staff regarding the conservation of energy - requesting all unauthorized refrigerators and small appliances be disconnected.

Chair DeSack asked Administration to keep members informed of what is budgeted, what is paid out, and how much over anticipated budget is spent.

School Events Calendar – Chair DeSack explained the subject of a district wide calendar has been discussed by members in the past and it needs to be addressed again, as she is hearing concerns from parents that the school buildings do not coincide when planning events. This sometimes makes it difficult for parents to attend events if they have children in two different buildings with events scheduled on the same day.

Superintendent Seitsinger communicated a master calendar is in the process of being developed. Principal Thompson has collected calendars from each school and is now in the process of going forward to have a district wide calendar compiled and published for distribution hopefully this year. It is anticipated that next year's calendar will be distributed to parents on September 1st. Also, Principal Thompson is beginning the process of implementing the calendar be posted on the district website for next school year. The calendar on the web would be the most accurate; as it can be updated as changes/additions are made. It was suggested that the Facility Use Form be updated to include information pertaining to how to contact the webmaster, as it will be at the discretion of the event planner to decide if they need to do so.

Draft of SAT Class Proposal – Superintendent Seitsinger referenced an enclosed draft proposal regarding SAT classes and explained one goal is to have a systematic way of improving SAT scores. He explained the first strategy is to be as cost neutral as possible, estimated the cost for teaching the course to be \$1,300 - \$1,500 per 24 hour session, and as of right now, a per student fee of \$30 for the SAT practice book.

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Curriculum Director Nancy Daley gave an overview of the proposed timelines of the program and expressed the district's desire to start classes as soon as possible.

Members and Administrators voiced their opinions and had a general discussion regarding how beneficial such a program will be for students, the expectation of offering classes to students twice a year, seeking out volunteer teachers from within the district to instruct these classes, bringing a service in from out of district to see if there would be any benefit cost wise, the fact that all 11th grade students are required to take the PSATS this year, typically 75 students take SATS, and the district will be able to look at that data to see how our students' scores compare to other districts' students. Member McFadden was specific in his complimentary support for this proposal.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Natural Rubber Latex Gloves – Prohibited Use Policy #6208 – There were no suggestions made to modify this policy. Vice Chair Cicero moved to adopt Natural Rubber Latex Gloves-Prohibited Use Policy #6208. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 7 – 0.

District Financial Meeting – 8PM or 7PM – Superintendent Seitsinger communicated he has sent letters to both Exeter and West Greenwich Town Council members regarding this matter and is awaiting their response. Consensus was to have this item continue on the agenda until responses are received.

School Health and Wellness Policy #8705 – 2nd Reading – There were no suggestions made to modify this policy. This policy will continue onto the next agenda for adoption.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – None.

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – October 13, 2005 – Town Council and School Committee Joint Meeting, October 18, 2005 – Proposed Legislative Meeting, October 20, 2005 – Materials to Administrators for Budget Development, October 25, 2005 – School Committee Meeting

Chair DeSack reported she has received a letter of confirmation from

the Exeter Town Council that they will attend the joint meeting scheduled for October 13, 2005 and Superintendent Seitsinger reported a verbal confirmation of attendance from the West Greenwich Town Council was received. Chair DeSack explained the agenda for the joint meeting will be a discussion of future financial projections.

Chair DeSack reminded members of the legislative meeting scheduled for October 18, 2005 and invited them to attend. Superintendent Seitsinger communicated there have not been any responses from legislators regarding this meeting as of yet.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION – Chair DeSack moved to go into Executive Session at

8:10 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-45-5(9) for the purpose of discussion regarding collective bargaining agreement – negotiation preparation. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 - 0.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:35p.m.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 9:19 p.m.

Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in open session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-2(b) at 9:19 p.m.

During Executive Session:

The School Committee voted 5 – 2 (Members McFadden and Munroe voting no) to move ahead with a free feasibility study to be done by EPC.

The School Committee voted 7 – 0 to instruct legal counsel to purge both labor contracts.

The School Committee voted 7 – 0 to accept the withdrawal of a grievance pursuant to the language described in Dr. Seitsinger's October 11, 2005 memo to the school Committee.

Adjournment – Member Clay moved to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK