

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH October 25, 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 Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Bill Clay, Paul McFadden, Frank Maher, and William Munroe. Susan DeSack, Chairperson was absent. 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. Student Representative Emily DeCristofano left the meeting early at 7:30 p.m.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Member McFadden read the District Mission statement.

OPEN FORUM – None

Vice Chair Cicero requested that agenda item PRESENTATION – B. Lineham School Accreditation Presentation be moved up to this time. Consensus of the committee was to do so.

Member McFadden communicated that at the last School Committee meeting he requested content of the Superintendent's Status Report be forwarded to the next meeting, (October 25, 2005). He requested the Superintendent's Status Report, with student enrollment, be included at the next School Committee meeting, (November 8, 2005).

PRESENTATION – Lineham School Accreditation Presentation – Lineham School's Principal Myers expressed how happy and proud she was to share the very happy news of Lineham School's recent accreditation as a high quality early education program from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Principal Myers gave an overview of the past 3-year process involved in earning accreditation. Principal Myers commended Lineham's teachers and staff for their outstanding professionalism and recognized them as high quality educators. Principal Myers thanked members, Administrators, and families for joining in the celebration and for their support and contribution throughout the process. She also expressed gratitude toward Evie Martin, a representative of The Keys to Quality Accreditation Project, noting she played an instrumental role throughout the process.

Evie Martin gave an overview of The Keys to Quality Accreditation Project. She said it was an honor to work with Lineham's staff, talked about how hard they all worked in order to achieve accreditation, and expressed to members how very proud they should be.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH October 25, 2005

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 2

Pre-School Teacher Pam Chaves spoke about the accreditation process and called Lineham School “the district’s best kept secret”.

Vice Chair Cicero, Superintendent Seitsinger, Evie Martin, and Principal Myers presented those faculty members and staff members in attendance with certificates and pins. On behalf of the School Committee, Vice Chair Cicero presented Lineham School’s principal and staff with an award of recognition for receiving accreditation from NAEYC.

Student Representative Report – Emily DeCristofano gave a brief overview of student events at the high school. She reported, due to the recent heavy rain, the hallway windows are leaking and rain is coming into the building.

Superintendent Seitsinger reported the windows need to be repaired. Director of Administration Robert Ross communicated he will address this issue with Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley.

Student Representative Emily DeCristofano left the meeting at this time, (7:30 p.m.).

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 6 - 0.

The following items were approved:

A. Minutes – Regular Minutes of October 11, 2005, Executive Session Minutes of October 11, 2005

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

**a. Steven Greenberg as 1.0 FTE, Clinician for ALP at Metcalf School,
Step 6, Masters, Salary \$ 49,664**

2. Leaves of Absence

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

a. Letter of Resignation from Joan Aker as 1.0 FTE Custodian at the Junior High School, with regret, effective October 25, 2005

4. Grievances

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH October 25, 2005

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 3

C. Bills – In the amount of \$ 165,696.07

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

1. Zinno – Albert and Anthony

End of Consent Agenda

Superintendent Seitsinger read the list of correspondence.

E. Correspondence – (ENCLOSED) – (1) Flyer from SORICO Regarding KEYWORK Meeting on November 7, 2005 at 6:00 p.m., (2) Letter to the Superintendent from John Tassoni Regarding Council 94, (3) Memo to School Committee Members from Superintendent Seitsinger Regarding Foley Hoag LLP, (4) Letter to Metcalf Physical Education Teacher Maureen Unsworth from American Heart Association Regarding Jump Rope for Heart, (5) E-Mail from Judy Spremulli Regarding Wellness Committee Training Program

Member Clay inquired about correspondence (3) Memo to School Committee members from Superintendent Seitsinger Regarding Foley

Hoag LLP.

Superintendent Seitsinger explained, previously in discussion during Executive Session, members' consensus was to have the Superintendent investigate this issue and this is his response back.

Student Achievements – Superintendent Seitsinger explained the district is beginning to acknowledge Student Achievement(s), enclosed to members are communications regarding recent achievements of Juliana Mattison, Thomas Covill, and Chelsea Sweetman, and offered recognition and congratulations to all three students for their outstanding achievements.

NEW BUSINESS – Students Residing in other Districts & Attending EWG without Paying Tuition – Vice Chair Cicero explained she had requested this item be placed on tonight's agenda, as there are some issues within the district regarding this matter, and she asked the Superintendent the current status concerning these issues.

Superintendent Seitsinger explained the district's present guidelines used to validate residency of new students enrolling in the district, the district's proposed new, more vigorous, Proof of Residency Form – (currently being reviewed by building principals), the steps taken should a question arise regarding residency of an enrolled student, and conditions implemented for tuition paying students attending EWG. He reported there are two proofs of residency situations being

**investigated this school year – (one has
EXETER-WEST GREENWICH October 25, 2005
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 4**

recently been resolved, the other is still under investigation). Superintendent Seitsinger and members discussed, at length, the district's legal obligation, based on laws to protect the homeless, to provide an education to any student residing in the district, regardless of whether or not they are living with their parent or legal guardian. They also discussed fraudulent residency and the district's right to take action. Superintendent Seitsinger summarized by explaining the district does not have a highly abusive occurrence and there are three methods which can be used in determining accurate residency - personal observation, validation through the School Resource Officer, and a notarized statement from a resident.

Patriotic Holiday Observation Policy #8150 – 1st Reading – Member Munroe expressed his belief that Martin Luther King Day should not be included under a policy titled as Patriotic Holiday Observation, as Martin Luther King was not a patriot. He explained he believes Martin Luther King Day should be celebrated and observed, but it is inappropriate to list this day under a policy referred to as a patriotic holiday.

Members and Administrators expressed their views and opinions regarding this matter and discussed, what a patriot is, what source to

use in determining what a patriot is, and the purpose of this policy.

Superintendent Seitsinger suggested rephrasing the title of the policy, as the intent is to be more respectful about national days of recognition. He recognized members appear to be in consensus with the content of the policy and it is just the title of the policy that is controversial.

Members and Administrators made suggestions for an alternate title. Consensus of the committee was to have the policy sub committee discuss this issue and return to the next School Committee meeting with modification suggestions.

2004 – 2005 Money Held Back by Exeter – Member Clay communicated he had requested this item be placed on tonight's agenda, as this issue has been pending for nine months. He requested Administration to call upon the district's legal council to address this issue in a more timely fashion, or to call on an alternative legal firm, as legal costs to the district concerning this issue are rising.

Some members had an exchange of opinions regarding this issue and the expenses involved.

Consensus of the committee was to have Superintendent Seitsinger contact the district's legal council in order to move forward to resolve

this issue in a more timely fashion and to report back to the committee with information regarding the date of adjudication.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH October 25, 2005

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 5

Adoption of New Textbooks – Grade 6 – Social Studies – Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley passed around copies of The Ancient World and Foundations of Geography for members to review, and explained the necessity for new Social Studies textbooks for Grade 6 students. She explained the two books proposed for adoption were reviewed and selected by the history department chair and her, other districts are presently using these books, and the plan is to order half the amount needed, (100 of each title), so that the titles may be rotated. She reported the total cost of \$3,400 is within budget and all ancillary materials will be compliments of the company representative. She said she would like School Committee members to review the textbooks and also to have copies available for public review at Metcalf School, along with a questionnaire, prior to adoption. She recommended moving the adoption of the new textbooks – Grade 6 – Social Studies to the next meeting. Members Maher and Munroe expressed interest in reviewing the textbooks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – School Health & Wellness Policy #8705 – Adoption –

**Member Clay moved to adopt School Health & Wellness Policy #8705.
Seconded by Member Maher.**

Discussion: Superintendent Seitsinger noted the number 8702 was listed erroneously on the agenda. The correct policy number is School Health & Wellness policy #8705.

Vice Chair Cicero reminded members of the necessity to appoint a Chairperson to serve on a School District Wellness Subcommittee in order to meet federal and state law requirements.

Members and Administrators discussed the upcoming School District Wellness Subcommittee Chair & Key Members Training Program offered by Kids First, on Thursday November 17, 2005. Member Maher and Clerk Coutcher expressed interest in serving as Chairperson. Consensus was to choose a chairperson at the next School Committee meeting on November 8, 2005.

Voted 6 – 0. (to adopt Policy #8705)

District Financial Meeting – 8PM or 7PM – Superintendent Seitsinger explained this item will remain on the agenda until a response is received from Exeter and West Greenwich Town Councils, there has been no response as of yet, and at the recent joint meeting there was some exchange about the subject but not a vote or consensus at all and no written correspondence to date.

Energy Cost Analysis – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported he recently met with a representative of New Energy and the district is now in the process of working with New Energy to review the previous 12-month billing cycle in order to distinguish consumption and energy costs. The result of the program offered by New Energy holds

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH October 25, 2005

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 6

immediate and long-term benefits for EWG. Some examples are, no out of pocket expense for the district for re-lamping, monitoring, and installing light motion sensors and the ability to predict electricity cost on a monthly basis until FY2010. Mr. Ross emphasized how committed the business office is to being socially responsible with regards to energy conservation.

Superintendent Seitsinger said, “We will do whatever we can to conserve energy.”

Member Munroe offered to research and bring forward information regarding alternative energy. Once literature is gathered, he will request this item be placed on the agenda.

Consensus was to accept Member Munroe’s offer.

REPORTS/COMMENTS - None

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – October 20, 2005 – Materials to Administrators for Budget Development, October 25, 2005 – School Committee Meeting, November 8, 2005 – School Committee Meeting

Member Maher commented he never received an invitation, but did receive the notice of change regarding the Junior High School presentation on Wednesday morning.

Superintendent Seitsinger reported Governor Caciari and Commissioner McWalters will be in attendance at the Junior High School presentation on Wednesday, October 26, 2005. He explained the presentation was rescheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and that all Junior High School students and faculty will be in attendance.

Member McFadden asked if Senior High students were invited to the presentation.

The Superintendent explained there was not enough room in the auditorium.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

Adjournment – Member Maher moved to adjourn at 8:30p.m. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 6 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK