

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 24, 2006**

**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. 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 early at 7:20 p.m. Attorney Nick Gorham arrived at 7:17 p.m. Superintendent Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr.; was absent.**

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

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

**OPEN FORUM – None**

**PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Emily DeCristofano explained she will need to leave tonight's meeting early,**

as she has final exams tomorrow. She said she did want to bring one student issue to the attention of committee members. She showed concerns regarding student behavior in certain circumstances. She said she has not yet brought her concerns to an administrator or to the School Resource Officer. High School Principal Boulé arrived at this time, (7:15 p.m.). After hearing a brief account of Emily's concerns, Principal Boulé described protocol implemented should it become necessary. Some members and Principal Boulé briefly discussed policy. Vice Chair Cicero intervened, reminding members this issue is not up for discussion, as it is not an item on tonight's agenda. She said this issue would need to be deferred to the next agenda.

Attorney Nick Gorham arrived at this time, (7:17).

Member Clay asked for confirmation that tonight's scheduled Executive Session was cancelled and there was no need for Attorney Gorham to be attendance at tonight's meeting. Vice Chair Cicero explained Attorney Gorham will address aspects related to tonight's agenda item EWG Sports 4 Kids – Track Project Access and Track Easement Language.

Vice Chair Cicero requested to move up agenda item, VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS, C. EWG Sports 4 Kids – Track Project Access and Track Easement Language to this time. Consensus of

**the committee was to do so.**

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 24, 2006**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 2**

**Student Representative Emily DeCristofano left the meeting at this time, (7:20 p.m.).**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – EWG Sports 4 Kids – Track Project Access and Track Easement Language – Attorney Gorham distributed the most current draft copy of the AGREEMENT FOR PUBLIC ACCESS TO and USE OF ATHLETIC TRACK document to members and gave details of revisions made. Attorney Gorham, Director of Administration Robert Ross, EWG Sports 4 Kids representative Rob Correia, Principal Boulé, and members had a lengthy discussion and exchanged comments, views, concerns, and recommendations regarding the agreement, agreement language, maintenance of the facility, and public access to the facility. Members McFadden and Munroe expressed their concerns regarding language in the agreement which allows the general public to use of the track facility while school is in session; which they believe is a safety issue. Further discussion followed relating to suggested language changes that may cause RI DEM to deny Grant funds and relating to the fact that this agreement is necessary in order to obtain the RI DEM Grant. Attorney Gorham suggested adding text to the end of section two and gave an example.**

**Clerk Coutcher moved to approve of the Agreement for Public Access To and Use of Athletic Track with the addition of a last line to section two – Nothing herein shall preclude the School District from removing any person from school district property, including the track and field area, for reasons of safety and security.**

**Attorney Gorham recommended the following additional revisions – Section seven: Take the third sentence and turn it into the first sentence in order to address, the town will hire a private contractor for track surface maintenance, and add section fourteen – The school district shall have the authority to promulgate rules, regulations, and policies, not inconsistent with this agreement, to govern day-to-day use of the track and field and parking area.**

**Seconded by Member McFadden. Voted 6 – 0.**

**Attorney Gorham said he will e-mail a revised copy of the agreement to the Superintendent's secretary tomorrow. He recommended executing this document at the next meeting; which allows members more time to review the document.**

**Vice Chair Cicero called a 5-minute recess.**

**Vice Chair Cicero called the meeting back to order at 8:35 p.m.**

**ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Director of Administration**

**Robert Ross gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.**

**Member Clay requested items, B. Personnel Items, 1. Appointments -  
b. Request to hire a Metcalf Custodian, 2nd Shift, 3:00 p.m. – 11:00  
p.m., Step 1, Grade 1, Salary**

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 24, 2006**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 3**

**\$22,733 – (This is a request for an additional FTE resulting from the  
hiring of the SIS Technician) and c. Diane Cadieux-Orsini as 1.0 FTE,  
Treasurer’s Assistant, Grade 4, Step 1, \$25,932.96 annually, effective  
on or about January 25, 2006 be pulled from the consent agenda.**

**Member McFadden requested item, A. Minutes be pulled from the  
consent agenda.**

**Clerk Coutcher moved to accept the consent agenda with item(s), B.  
Personnel Items, 1. Appointments - b. Request to hire a Metcalf  
Custodian, 2nd Shift, 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m., Step 1, Grade 1, Salary  
\$22,733 – (This is a request for an additional FTE resulting from the  
hiring of the SIS Technician), c. Diane Cadieux-Orsini as 1.0 FTE,  
Treasurer’s Assistant, Grade 4, Step 1, \$25,932.96 annually, effective  
on or about January 25, 2006, and A. Minutes pulled. Seconded by  
Member Munroe. Voted 6 – 0.**

**The following items were approved:**

**A. Minutes – Executive Session II Minutes of January 10, 2006**

**B. Personnel Items**

**1. Appointments - (As Recommended by the Superintendent)**

- a. Rhonda Swain as 1.0 FTE, Jr. - Sr. High School Custodian, 1st Shift, 6:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Step 1, Grade 1, Salary \$22,733 – (No change to Budget FTE's), effective January 25, 2006**

**2. Leaves of Absence**

**3. Resignations**

**4. Grievances**

**C. Bills – In the amount of \$ 338,912.11**

**End of Consent Agenda**

**Director of Administration Robert Ross read the list of correspondence.**

**D. Correspondence – (1) January 2006 RIASC UPDATE, (2) Memo to**

**School Committee Members from the Superintendent Regarding the  
EWG Spelling Bee Results, (3) CONFIDENTIAL Memo to School  
Committee from Superintendent Seitsinger, (4) MEMORANDUM OF  
LAW AMICUS CURIAE, (5) Student Paths Winter 06 Issue**

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 24, 2006**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 4**

**Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley referenced Correspondence (2)  
and announced Amy Cunningham – Grade 7 is the 2006 EWG Spelling  
Bee winner and Nathan Stromberg – Grade 5 is 1st runner-up. Amy  
will attend the state Spelling Bee competition in March.**

**NEW BUSINESS – Roofing Estimates Review – Director of  
Administration Robert Ross and members had a brief discussion  
relating to roof replacement costs, acquiring estimates, and funding  
options.**

**Sr. High School After School Programs – Consensus of the  
committee was to table this item to the next meeting on February 14,  
2006.**

**Sr. High School Seniors' Last Semester Finals – High School  
Principal Denise Boulé requested School Committee approve a policy  
allowing seniors achieving an “A” in a course subject to be exempt  
from taking a final exam in that particular course. She explained this**

**policy was in place in previous years, was very successful, and would be a positive incentive for many seniors. She reported, overall all students work hard and the failure rate continues to diminish at the high school.**

**Member Clay moved to allow seniors to be exempt from a final exam, if they achieve an “A” in the course; at the discretion of the high school principal. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. There was a brief discussion relating to how a record of student achievement in a particular course is maintained if they do not take a final exam. Voted 6 – 0.**

**School Committee Presentation Schedule for 2006 – Vice Chair Cicero asked if members had any comments or concerns relating to the 2006 presentation schedule. There were none. Member Clay confirmed there was no need to vote to approve the schedule.**

**Property Insurance Increase – Member McFadden proposed School Committee appropriate an additional \$7,000., out of the reserve fund, to fully insure the Jr. – Sr. High School facility, between now and July 1st; bringing the coverage up to\$29,000,000.**

**There was a brief discussion relating to the total replacement value of all facilities.**

**Member McFadden moved to approve an additional \$7,000., from the reserve fund, to insure the Jr. – Sr. High School; bringing the total**

coverage to \$29,000,000. Seconded by Member Munroe. There was further discussion relating to the current unrestricted balance of the reserve fund, the \$65,000 withheld by the Town of Exeter, the current policy coverage, and the district's opportunity to increase insurance coverage at anytime throughout the duration of the policy. Member McFadden moved the motion to this time. Members Maher and Munroe made two brief inquiries. Vice Chair called for a vote. Voted 1 – 5. Vice Chair Cicero, Clerk Coutcher, and Members Munroe, Maher, and Clay voted no.

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 24, 2006**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 5**

Clerk Coutcher moved to increase the insurance value to \$29,000,000, provided the district receives the funds withheld by the Town of Exeter, for the remainder of the school year. Seconded by Member McFadden. Vice Chair Cicero clarified, "Only upon receipt of the \$65,000 withheld by the Town of Exeter; only after payment is received from Exeter and deposited into the bank." Voted 4 – 2. Members Munroe and Maher voted no.

**Tentative School Calendar Proposal – Clerk Coutcher recommended having the teachers' union leadership review the proposed calendar. It was confirmed August 30, 2006 is the proposed first day of school for all students.**

**Policy #3901-Use of School Funds to Communicate with Town Residents –**

**1st Reading – Member McFadden remarked that he is not in favor of this policy. Vice Chair Cicero commented that a study was done by Johnson & Wales College two-years ago; strongly recommending doing a better job of communicating with the community. This item will continue onto the next agenda for a 2nd Reading.**

**Policy #8608-Access to Students' Personal and Academic Information**

**- 1st Reading – Member Clay reported the copy of Policy #8608 enclosed in members' packets was sent erroneously, as some text should have been stricken. Member Clay identified the inaccuracies for members. This item will carry over to the next agenda for a 2nd Reading.**

**Emergency Response Committee Bylaws – Director of Administration**

**Robert Ross reported a group has been meeting under the premise of the spirit of RIGL §16-21-24- (2003) &#9658; sets minimum requirements for school safety plans, school emergency response plans, and school crisis response plans. They are to include policies and procedures for responding to and preventing a wide variety of violent incidents. Emergency, crisis, and post-incident response teams are also to be created. Mr. Ross gave scenarios of emergencies the district may perhaps encounter and explained the Emergency Response Committee reviews how the district will respond. He explained this committee is a permanent entity and the**

**ERC Bylaws are provided as a means for School Committee to ensure the ERC follows procedure. Mr. Ross said members may see budget expenditures come forward for security items needed to aide in facilitating emergency plan requirements. Member Clay explained the policy committee had written a policy several months ago for the purpose of getting the school district in control of this issue. Member Clay said, "I propose, in accordance with the law, this is the Emergency Planning Committee, not the Emergency Response Committee." Member Clay suggested the policy committee meet with Mr. Ross to review terminology. Member Clay recommended approving the Bylaws with a change in the title from Emergency Response Committee to Emergency Planning Committee; which will be in compliance with the statute. Mr. Ross explained he brought this document before the committee tonight for**

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 24, 2006**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 6**

**their review; and would like to carry this item over to the next agenda for probable adoption.**

**NEW BUSINESS – SAT Program Update – Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley reported the district has an instructor, (a current staff member), the program will start on or after February 25th, there is no fee for students; with the exception of purchasing a textbook, the course is 24-hours in duration, and funds are budgeted for the**

**program. She said the course is available to all students and will teach SAT test taking strategies.**

**Mathematics – 3-Year Plan and Personal Literacy Plans – Define and Discuss – Member Clay asked Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley why it is necessary to introduce a new math plan. Ms. Daley gave a brief account of the history of the current math program. She explained because of GLE’s and requirements, the district is behind where they need to be and the district is starting to investigate other programs. She explained the 3-year process, and reported it will be necessary to purchase new textbooks in 3-years; at which time the current textbooks will be 10-years old.**

**Member Clay said he is withdrawing his request to define and discuss Personal Literacy Plans, as his questions relating to, Item 3 – Reading Specialist/High School 2006 – 2007 Budget were addressed in the budget he recently received.**

**2004 – 2005 Money Held Back by Exeter – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported the final audit 2004-2005 balance is carried as restricted funds. The unrestricted fund balance is in the \$20,000 – \$25,000 range. It was recognized the RI Association of School Superintendents plans to submit a Friend of the Court Brief on behalf of the district, but Mr. Ross could not confirm whether or not Attorney Gorham has submitted on behalf of the district yet.**

**REPORTS/COMMENTS – Vice Chair Cicero reverted back to items pulled from the consent agenda. Member Clay requested items, B. Personnel Items, 1. Appointments – b. Request to hire a Metcalf Custodian, 2nd Shift, 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m., Step 1, Grade 1, Salary \$22,733 – (This is a request for an additional FTE resulting from the hiring of the SIS Technician and c. Diane Cadieux-Orsini as 1.0 FTE, Treasurer’s Assistant, Grade 4, Step 1, \$25,932.96 annually, effective on or about January 25, 2006 be pulled from the consent agenda. Director of Administration Robert Ross reminded members, at the November 22nd School Committee meeting the committee voted to grant Administration authorization to fill the SIS position from a transfer within and not be authorized to fill the vacancy that will occur as a result of such transfer at this time. He explained item, b. Request to hire a Metcalf Custodian, 2nd Shift, 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m., Step 1, Grade 1, Salary \$22,733 represents the last non-certified vacancy. He gave details about the bumping process that occurred as a result of new SIS position implementation and said it became necessary to hire from the outside to fill the Treasurer’s Assistant vacancy. Mr. Ross and members exchanged opinions and**

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 24, 2006**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 7**

**concerns relating to salaries, clerical staffing, cross training; in order to defer hiring new employees, and the budget.**

**Member McFadden requested item A. Minutes – Regular Minutes of January 10, 2006 be pulled from the consent agenda; and communicated he was withdrawing his request.**

**Clerk Coutcher moved to accept pulled consent agenda items, B. Personnel Items, 1. Appointments – b. Request to hire a Metcalf Custodian, 2nd Shift, 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m., Step 1, Grade 1, Salary \$22,733 – (This is a request for an additional FTE resulting from the hiring of the SIS Technician, c. Diane Cadieux-Orsini as 1.0 FTE, Treasurer’s Assistant, Grade 4, Step 1, \$25,932.96 annually, effective on or about January 25, 2006 and A. Minutes – Regular Minutes of January 10, 2006. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 6 – 0.**

**Member Maher and Mr. Ross briefly discussed the newly installed, cost-free lighting in the senior high school gymnasium.**

**IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – January 30, 2006 –Key Work Meeting at**

**SORICO, February 14, 2006 – School Committee Meeting-(Facilities), February 20,**

**2006 – Presidents’ Day, February 28, 2006 – School Committee Meeting-(Open for**

**Budget Discussion), March 6, 2006 – Key Work Meeting at East Greenwich High**

**School**

**A brief discussion clarified there will be a Facilities Presentation at the next School Committee meeting on February 14, 2006.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – Cancelled**

**ADJOURNMENT – Member Clay moved to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.  
Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 - 0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.**

**ROBIN CERIO**

**CLERK**