

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH February 28, 2006**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **MINUTES**

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

**6:00 p.m. in the Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson (arrived at 6:32 p.m.); Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Bill Clay, Paul McFadden, and William Munroe (arrived at 6:47 p.m.). Member Frank Maher was absent. Superintendent Seitsinger and High School Principal Denise Boulé were present. Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley and Director of Administration Robert V. Ross arrived at 7:00 p.m. Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo arrived at 7:12 p.m. Student Member Emily DeCristofano was absent.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION Vice Chair Cicero moved to go into Executive Session at 6:30 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 a Student 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 4 - 0.**

**Meeting moved to Executive Session at 6:30 p.m.**

**Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 7:00 p.m.**

**There was a vote taken during Executive Session to support a member's motion to place the student on academic probation. Vote 4-1-1 in favor. Motion passes. Clerk Coutcher opposed. Member Munroe abstained.**

**ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in Open Session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-2(b) at 7:00 p.m.**

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

**OPEN FORUM – None**

**PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Emily DeCristofano was absent.**

**ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Seitsinger gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.**

**Member Clay requested item(s), VI. A. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session I Minutes of February 14, 2006, Executive Session II Minutes of February 14, 2006 be pulled from the consent agenda.**

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**Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the consent agenda with item(s), VI. A. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session I Minutes of February 14, 2006, Executive Session II Minutes of February 14, 2006 pulled. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 6 – 0.**

**Vice Chair Cicero moved to seal Executive Session I Minutes of February 14, 2006 and Executive Session II Minutes of February 14, 2006. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 6 – 0.**

**The following items were approved:**

**A. Minutes – Regular Minutes of February 14, 2006, Executive Session I Minutes of February 14, 2006, Executive Session II Minutes of February 14, 2006.**

**B. Personnel Items**

**1. Appointments**

**a. David Gamba as Senior High School Head Baseball Coach,**

**Stipend \$ 3,639.00, for the 2005-2006 season, effective February 28, 2006.**

**2. Leaves of Absence**

**a. Request from Larry Purtil asking for an extension of his leave**

of

absence for the 2006-07 school year from his position as Sr.

High

School History Teacher.

### **3. Resignations**

a. Letter of resignation from Pamela Cash from her position as

Grade 2

Teacher at Wawaloam School, for the purpose of retirement, with regret,

effective June 2006.

### **4. Non-Renewals**

### **5. Grievances**

**C. Bills – In the amount of \$321,650.34**

**End of Consent Agenda**

**Superintendent Seitsinger read the list of correspondence.**

**D. Correspondence – (1) Letter to EWG School Committee from Attorney**

**Gorham Relating to RI Attorney General's Advisory Opinion Regarding**

## **Open Forum**

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**Superintendent Seitsinger referenced Correspondence (1) and reported Attorney Nick Gorham's interpretation of the RI Attorney General's response as; members may exchange dialogue with the public during Open Forum; however, members may not give the appearance of consensus for a particular item, cannot discuss the matter among themselves, and no votes may be taken.**

**NEW BUSINESS – 2005 Audit Report – Auditor Pat Boucher of Bacon & Edge, CPA's, LLC gave an overview of the district's Audited Financial Statements. She gave a detailed overview of each booklet page and reported there were no instances of non-compliance to report; thus a positive audit. Members asked probing and clarifying questions; particularly regarding 2004-2005 Money Held Back by Exeter, the Food Service Fund, Student Activities Accounts, Miscellaneous Income Funds (reported on page 7), and Total Assets (reported on page 9).**

**Member Clay moved to accept the Audited Financial Statements. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0.**

**In\$ite Certification – District Treasurer Kate LaCroix gave a brief overview of the In\$ite Certification Report for the fiscal year**

**2004-2005. She explained the purpose of the report and the process followed. Ms. LaCroix explained this report does not include revenues; only include expenditures; and is available for viewing on the RIDE website- Infoworks.**

**Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the In\$ite Certification Report. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Vote 6 – 0.**

**Referendum Bond Discussion – Member Clay explained he requested this item be placed on tonight’s agenda in order to determine if there is consensus for a bond referendum to fund repairs to school buildings. Member Clay referenced bond information provided by Director of Administration Robert Ross and expressed his opinion that there are many vital repairs needed; specifically roof repairs, there is a need to address these repairs in a timely fashion; to avoid further deterioration, and these costly repairs can not be funded through the budget. After a discussion and question session concerning initiating the process of a bond referendum, historical and projected timelines, and projected cost, members directed Mr. Ross to review and reduce the data items provided; and to provide more detailed, up-to-date data for members’ review at the next School Committee meeting. Consensus of the Committee was to carry this item over to the next agenda for further review and discussion. Superintendent Seitsinger reported past practice has been to hold a “Special” District Financial Meeting when seeking a referendum bond; rather than going to ballot, as EWG is a regional school district.**

**Member McFadden indicated he will seek clarification regarding this matter.**

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**Letter from Exeter Town Council President Regarding the Annual District Financial Meeting – In reference to a February 9, 2006 letter to the Town of Exeter Board of Canvassers from Exeter Town Council President William Devaney; copied to the Superintendent, Member Clay communicated both the Towns of Exeter and West Greenwich appropriate funds to their Board of Canvassers for expenses incurred for the annual District Financial Meeting. He expressed his concern as to why the Town of Exeter is planning to chargeback DFM expenses incurred by the Exeter Board of Canvassers to the EWG School District. Member Clay recommended the district disallow payment; with the exception of the customary charge of - stipend for clerks working at the meeting. Members agreed there is no need to act on this matter until a request for payment is received from the Town of Exeter.**

**School Committee Meetings in March – March 7, 14, 28, 2006 – Superintendent Seitsinger advised members, after reviewing the budget timeline schedule, it may be necessary to schedule an additional School Committee meeting in March or to alter the set**

**March meetings dates, (add meeting on March 7th) in order to ensure appropriate lead-time to adopt the budget and meet posting deadlines in the budget process. Consensus was to postpone this discussion to later on in the meeting in order to allow Member Clay time to identify the possible timeline regulation which would not allow budget adoption on March 7, 2006.**

**(This discussion was concluded during agenda item, Budget 2006 – 2007.)**

**Chair DeSack moved to:**

**Policy #6237 – Per Diem Substitute Teachers – Review – Superintendent Seitsinger briefed members on the current secondary and elementary substitute teacher pay rates and reported the substitute teacher pay rate data of neighboring school districts. He recommended bringing all substitute teachers in the district to an equal day rate of \$80. He referred to Policy #6237-Per Diem Substitute Teachers, noted the policy was last revised 10-years ago, and recommended leaving the policy as is; revising only the pay rate section. Superintendent Seitsinger explained the proposed increase would encompass a flat impact, as it is more costly to pay for teacher covers.**

**Member Clay moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendations and to incorporate them into policy #6237. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero.**

**Discussion: Members briefly discussed making policy modifications after the District Financial Meeting takes place. Consensus was the policy revision process will not allow the policy to be adopted prior to the DFM.**

**Voted 4 – 2. Members Munroe and McFadden voted no.**

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**Lineham Playground Equipment Approval – Superintendent Seitsinger informed members Lineham School has raised a significant amount of money to modify Lineham School’s playground which will add/change assets to the district. Member McFadden asked Superintendent Seitsinger to clarify with Principal Myers that a Purchase Order for new equipment will meet a March 15th deadline which will grant a discount of \$500 and allow for supervised installation of the new equipment. Consensus of the Committee was to give Superintendent Seitsinger informal direction to move forward as necessary concerning this matter. It was noted, there is no need to carry this item onto the next agenda.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Budget 2006 – 2007 – Superintendent Seitsinger referenced the current Budget Summary 2006-2007**

enclosure and reported an overall percentage of 6.23%; which reflects a slight reduction from the summary submitted to members at the February 14, 2006 meeting. Member Munroe referenced his 2006-2007 Budget Worksheets Report provided to members in tonight's supplemental packet and moved to adopt his recommended budget of 5.5%. Seconded by Member McFadden. Voted 2 – 4. Chair DeSack, Vice Chair Cicero, Clerk Coutcher, and Member Clay voted no. Motion denied.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to approve the Superintendent's proposed budget of 6.23%.

Discussion: Member Clay reverted back to the discussion that took place during item VII. E. School Committee Meetings in March – March 7, 14, 28, 2006 and clarified he was in error; the 10 day notification process refers to the Public Notification Meeting and the budget adoption must occur either the 1st or 2nd Tuesday in the month of March; therefore, the committee may adopt the budget on March 14, 2006 and it will not be necessary to hold a meeting on March 7, 2006. Members further discussed whether to hold the next meeting on March 7th or March 14th. Superintendent Seitsinger read text from the district charter which confirmed budget adoption must occur no later than the 2nd Tuesday in the month of March. Consensus of the committee was to vote to adopt the 2006-2007 Budget on March 14, 2006 and to direct the Superintendent to provide more detailed data at the scheduled March 2, 2006 – Joint Meeting; to

**include the Superintendent's Budget Summary Report he provided at the February 14th meeting; including the sufficiencies with the new proposed changes brought forward on tonight's summary.**

**School Calendar Proposal – Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the 2006 – 2007 School Calendar. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 5 – 1. Chair DeSack voted no. Motion carries.**

**Policy #8608-Access to Students' Personal and Academic Information – Adoption – Member Clay moved to adopt Policy #8608-Access to Students' Personal and Academic Information. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0. Motion carries.**

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**Policy #3901-Use of School Funds to Communicate with Town Residents – Adoption – Member Clay moved to adopt Policy #3901-Use of School Funds to Communicate with Town Residents. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0.**

**Member Clay communicated the need to appoint two members to the media sub committee. Chair DeSack and Member Clay volunteered to serve.**

**Policy #5130-School Property Usage – 2nd Reading – There was a brief discussion concerning policy language relating to employee**

telephone use. This item will continue on the next agenda for adoption. Superintendent Seitsinger sought to clarify that this policy does not deny employees use of the telephone during free time as long as no cost is incurred to the district.

**Policy #6405-Screening Potential Employees and School Volunteers –  
2nd Reading –**

Chair DeSack recognized previously recommended changes were made to the policy. Superintendent recommended designating a policy implementation date of September 1, 2006 in order to provide leeway time. This item will continue on the next agenda for adoption.

**2004 – 2005 Money Held Back by Exeter – Superintendent reported Attorney Gorham has asked for a court date in the month of March.**

**Reports/Comments - None**

**IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – March 2, 2006 – Joint Meeting, March 6, 2006 – Key Work Meeting at East Greenwich High School, March 7, 2006 – Proposed School Committee Meeting-(Budget Adoption), March 14, 2006 – School Committee Meeting, March 28, 2006 – School Committee Meeting-Metcalf School Presentation-(at Metcalf School)**

Chair DeSack noted to delete the above mentioned March 7, 2006 - Proposed School Committee Meeting.

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

**8:40 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-46-5(a)(9) for the purpose of discussions regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement – Council 94; and in accordance with RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) for the purpose of discussion regarding Superintendent’s Goals. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 - 0.**

**Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.**

**Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 8:55 p.m.**

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**Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in Open Session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-2(b) at 8:55 p.m.**

**No votes were taken during Executive Session.**

**ADJOURNMENT – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.**

**ROBIN CERIO**

**CLERK**