

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH April 11, 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; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Bill Clay, Paul McFadden, and William Munroe. Member Frank Maher arrived at 7:13 p.m. Superintendent Seitsinger and Jr. High School Principal Mark Thompson were present. Attorney Nick Gorham was present. Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo; and Director of Administration Robert V. Ross arrived at 7:10 p.m. Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley arrived at 7:13 p.m. Student Member Emily DeCristofano was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION Chair DeSack moved to go into Executive Session at 6:15 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 Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0.

Meeting moved to Executive Session at 6:15 p.m.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 7:10 p.m.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order in Open Session at 7:10 p.m.

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

OPEN FORUM – None

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – None

Principal Boulé confirmed a new Student Representative will be assigned in the near future.

Member Maher and Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley arrived at this time. (7:13 p.m.)

Sr. High School Presentation – Principal Boulé gave a brief overview of EWG Sr. High School student and staff accomplishments and of academic programs offered. She reported the following: a female art student's Duck Stamp received "best in the show" at a recent competition and may be chosen as a U.S. postage stamp; art teacher Elizabeth Lind was named "Duck Stamp Teacher of the Year"; "Penza's Pondering" – a well-liked student book talk program implemented this year; Agriscience teacher Ms. Millar's potential opportunity to become National FFA Teacher of the Year; student internship programs; and early enrollment programs. Assistant Principal Alves explained the process and procedures of the NEASC

(New England Association of Schools and Colleges) visit to the high school this coming fall. He explained teachers, students,

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parents, administrators, and school committee members will be called upon to partake in the visiting process. Director of Student Affairs Christopher Cobain gave an overview of The Rhode Island High School Diploma System. Principal Boulé reported RI Department of Education is requiring EWG Sr. High provide public documentation outlining Senior Project requirements by the end of this school year.

Member Maher left the meeting at this time - (7:25 p.m.).

Members and administrators briefly discussed district and national Advanced Placement programs. Sr. Project Coordinator Jean Murano gave an overview of the Senior Project program.

Member Maher returned at this time - (7:38 p.m.).

Members asked clarifying questions about procedures set to help ensure all students can successfully complete their Sr. Project, as it is a graduation requirement. They also inquired about overall aspects of the Sr. Project program.

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

Member Clay requested agenda item B. 2. a. be pulled from the consent agenda.

Member Clay moved to accept the consent agenda with item B. 2. a. pulled. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0.

The following items were approved:

A. Minutes – Regular Minutes of March 28, 2006

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

4. Non-Renewals

5. Grievances

6. Sabbatical Request(s)

a. Letter from Claude Watsky requesting sabbatical leave from his

position as Jr. High School English Teacher for the 2006 – 2007

school year

a. Letter from Jennifer Brennan requesting sabbatical leave

from her

position as Sr. High School English Teacher for the 2006
– 2007

school year

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C. Bills – In the amount of \$ 90,914.38

End of Consent Agenda

Superintendent Seitsinger read the list of correspondence.

D. Correspondence – (1) Memo to Principals, Directors, Literacy Staff from Nancy Daley Regarding literacy Testing – Spring 2006, (2) Letter and Materials from EPC Regarding Severance Incentive Plan, (3) Letter to School Committee Members from Nancy Daley Regarding May 16th Professional Development, (4) Letter to the Superintendent from

RI Certified School Nurse-Teachers, Inc. Regarding National Nurse Week, (5) Letter to the Superintendent from Rene Anctil of Wrap-A-Friend coat drive, (5) Memo to the Superintendent from Mr. Ross Regarding Bulk Mailing cost of DFM Flyer

Clerk Coutcher referenced Correspondence (2) and requested this item be placed on the next School Committee meeting agenda for discussion.

Monthly Status Reports- Superintendent – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding Status Reports.

Business –

Curriculum –

Special Education –

Maintenance –

Monthly Budget Projection 2004 – 2005 – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported the 2004 -2005 budget is still in the black.

Monthly Sub Committee Report – Policy Committee Report – Member Clay gave a brief verbal report, indicating policy writing/revisions are accumulating and the policy committee is concentrating on those policies mandated by the RI Department of Health.

NEW BUSINESS- Emergency Notification System – Superintendent Seitsinger advised members that other districts are currently using phone initiated emergency notification systems with great success. He said he will soon bring forward a recommendation to purchase a system for the district. The Superintendent gave a brief description of how notification systems work and answered members' questions regarding them.

Legislative Update – Superintendent Seitsinger and some members briefly discussed RI General Law bills relating to education and

healthcare.

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School Security – There was a brief mention of previous conversation regarding the district possibly pursuing surveillance camera installations on campus; no significant discussion took place.

RI School Committee Association Resolution to Fund Special Education – Member Munroe moved to send a letter of support for the RI School Committee Association Resolution to Fund Special Education. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0.

Policy #8310-Elementary School Dismissal – Revision – Member Clay moved to adopt revised Policy #8310 – Elementary School Dismissal. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0.

Superintendent Seitsinger advised a copy of revised Policy #8310 be forwarded to the elementary school principals as soon as possible.

Policy #8701-Student Medication – Revision – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adopt revised Policy #8701-Student Medication. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policy #6250-Sexual Harassment – 2nd Reading – Members exchanged recommended language revisions and expressed comments and concerns relating to policies #6250-Sexual Harassment and #6251-Prohibited Fraternization Between Employees and Students. After a lengthy discussion, consensus was to create two separate policies for Sexual Harassment - one for students and one for employees. Chair DeSack volunteered to take on the task of rewriting these policies. She will e-mail copies to members for editing purposes. Upon receipt of their suggested revisions; she will make revisions and bring the amended policies to a future meeting for further review.

Policy #6251-Prohibited Fraternization Between Employees and Students – 2nd Reading – This item was discussed/addressed during agenda item Policy #6250-Sexual Harassment.

Policy #2300-School Safety Plans-Crisis and Emergency Response Management – Adoption – Some members and Superintendent Seitsinger briefly debated policy language as it pertains to building lockdown. They also discussed policy implementation dates. Further revisions will be made and this policy will continue onto the next agenda for adoption.

Policy #4200-Food-Borne Illness Management – Adoption – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adopt Policy #4200-Food-Borne Illness Management. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0.

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2004 – 2005 Money Held Back by Exeter – Attorney Gorham and Superintendent Seitsinger reported no update has been received from the judge hearing this case thus far. Attorney Gorham reported Exeter’s legal representative has indicated to him, should Exeter lose this case, they will proceed to Supreme Court. Attorney Gorham said this process may take one-year to complete and is purely a question of law. He said he has also filed for reimbursement of attorney fees and interest accrued; however, typically interest is not awarded against the government.

Final Budget 2006 - 2007 – Member Clay complimented Chair DeSack for her efforts in running the District Financial Meeting last evening. He expressed his opinion that the meeting went well.

Residency Affidavit Legal Report – Vice Chair Cicero and Member Clay communicated they had requested to see a report regarding the residency affidavit enclosed in their School Committee meeting packets. This item will carry over to next agenda as a correspondence enclosure.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – Chair DeSack reverted back to pulled

consent agenda item B. 2. a. Member Clay voiced his opinion that this leave of absence request should be denied because of the reason for the request stated in the letter.

Member Clay moved to deny the request from Elizabeth Cavanagh to continue her leave of absence from her position as Senior High School English Teacher for the school year 2006 – 2007. Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 7 – 0.

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – April 14th – 21st – Spring Recess,

April 25, 2006 – School Committee Meeting-(Special Services Presentation),

April 29, 2006 – Bond Referendum Work Session, May 9, 2006 – School Committee

Meeting-(at Wawaloam School-{Lineham/Wawaloam School Presentation}),

May 23, 2006 – School Committee Meeting – (Jr. High School Presentation)

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Chair DeSack moved to go into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-45-5(a) (9) for the purpose of discussion regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement - Grievances. Seconded by Member Munroe.

Voted 7 – 0.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

Chair DeSack moved to return to open session at 9:50. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 7 – 0.

Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in open session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-2(b) at 9:50 p.m.

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A vote was taken in Executive Session to deny the second grievance pertaining to the high school. Voted 7 – 0. Motion carries.

A second vote was taken in Executive Session to agree to the grievance pertaining to Lineham School. Voted 3 – 4. Motion did not carry. Clerk Coutcher, Members McFadden, Munroe and Maher were opposed.

A third vote was taken in Executive Session to deny the grievance pertaining to Lineham School. Voted 4 – 3. Motion carries. Chair DeSack, Vice-Chair Cicero, and Member Clay were opposed.

ADJOURNMENT – Member Clay moved to adjourn at 9:51 p.m. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK