

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 27, 2006

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Bill Clay, and Bill Munroe. Member Frank Maher arrived at 8:35 p.m. Member Paul McFadden was absent. Superintendent Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr.; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; and Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; were present. Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo; and Student Member Geoffrey Southworth were absent.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Superintendent Seitsinger read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM – Vice Chair Cicero acknowledged this is Superintendent Seitsinger's last School Committee meeting and voiced her opinion that the district will miss him. She thanked him for the tremendous job he has done and expressed how sorry the district is to see him leave. Chair DeSack explained the School

Committee presents a special award to special people who do special service for the district and presented Superintendent Seitsinger with a School Committee Apple Recognition Award. Chair DeSack thanked Superintendent Seitsinger and said he will be tremendously missed and expressed appreciation for all he has done. Member Clay said he echoes Vice Chair Cicero's sentiments. Dr. Seitsinger thanked Chair DeSack and the Committee.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – None

Facilities Presentation – Referencing the EWG Facilities/Maintenance Presentation report, Director of Maintenance William Plumley highlighted important projects recently/currently addressed and important projects to be completed over the summer. Member Clay asked clarifying questions regarding the implementation of the School Facility Use Policy #9700. He explained the policy committee reviews this policy annually. Mr. Plumley confirmed community members are complying with the policy, the new fee schedule is working well, recipients of outside door master keys are recorded and the keys are issued in moderation, food/drink in the gymnasiums is still an issue; however, there has been a reduction in trash, and access to classroom wings are made inaccessible after hours. Mr. Plumley reported overall the policy is having an impact and circumstances are improving. Discussion took place regarding main corridor accessibility, handicap accessibility, ball bouncing throughout the building, and potentially modifying the menu at the

concession stand at indoor sporting events in order to alleviate food/drink problems in the gymnasium. Athletic Director Steven McGrane

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commended the maintenance department staff for the great job they do keeping the gymnasium clean.

Sabbatical Presentation – Gina Kilday – Metcalf teacher Gina Kilday gave a summary of her 2005 – 2006 Math Sabbatical. She gave an overview of accomplishments and benefits gained for both the district and her. She reported she is most proud of the school specific math web pages she developed for Lineham, Wawaloam, Metcalf, and the junior high. She reported she obtained financial support, (\$1,000.00) from \$SCRIPS to purchase Math Libraries for Grades K-3. Ms. Kilday reported, for the first time grade specific Summer Math Activity Sheets were sent home with students entering grades 1-6. Ms. Kilday thanked the committee and administrators for the opportunity and expressed her opinion of how lucky EWG teachers are to be afforded this opportunity.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to move up agenda item VI. New Business – J. Superintendent Job Posting to this time. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 5 – 0.

Chair DeSack reported she received a copy of the actual job posting today, the posting will take place in the timeframe as discussed, and the posting will be brought forward to Education Weekly and online with The Boston Globe and The New York Times.

Superintendent Seitsinger introduced John Pini, his recommendation for the role of interim Superintendent. Superintendent Pini said he appreciates the opportunity, expressed the tremendous respect he holds for Dr. Seitsinger, and explained his very specific goals – (1) to continue on with the stability set forth by Dr. Seitsinger, (2) to turn over the system as it is now, (no changes implemented) to the new incoming Superintendent.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept John Pini as the interim Superintendent. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 5 – 0.

Teacher of the Year 2005 – 2006 – Chair DeSack explained the 2005 – 2006 Teacher of the Year presentation will carry over to the next meeting in July, as the recipient is unable to attend tonight's meeting.

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

Member Munroe requested item A. Minutes – Executive Session Minutes of May 23, 2006 be pulled.

Vice Chair Cicero requested items B. Personnel Items – 1. Appointments – b. Job Fair Results and 3. Resignations – a. Letter of Resignation from Roy Seitsinger from his

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position as Superintendent, with regret, effective August 4, 2006 be pulled from the consent agenda.

Member Munroe moved to accept the consent agenda with items A. Minutes – Executive Session Minutes of May 23, 2006 and B. Personnel Items – 1. Appointments – b. Job Fair Results and 3. Resignations – a. Letter of Resignation from Roy Seitsinger form his position as Superintendent, with regret, effective August 4, 2006, pulled. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 5 – 0.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – (ENCLOSED) – Regular Minutes of June 13, 2006, Executive Session Minutes of May 9, 2006, Executive Session Minutes of June 1, 2006

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent) – (No

Change to Budgeted FTE's)

a. **Deborah St. Pierre as half-year High School ELA Teacher, Step 2, effective August 28, 2006.**

2. Leaves of Absence – (As Recommended by the Superintendent) – (ENCLOSED)

a. **Letter from Christine Petrarca requesting a leave of absence from her position as Grade 4 Metcalf Teacher, for the purpose of pursuing work as a Teacher Quality Fellow at the RI Department of Education, for the 2006 – 2007 academic year.**

3. Resignations – (As Recommended by the Superintendent) – (ENCLOSED)

b. **Letter of Resignation from Catherine Blais from her position as 0.5 FTE Jr. High School Science Teacher position, with regret, effective June 2006.**

4. Recalls – (ENCLOSED)

a. **See Enclosed Final Recall List June 27, 2006**

5. Grievances

C. Bills – (ENCLOSED) – In the amount of \$ 362,770.99

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

1. Kennedy, Anthony – Grade 7 – (2006-2007)

End Consent Agenda

Year-End Summary Report – No discussion took place regarding this matter.

Monthly Budget Projection 2005 – 2006 – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported, based on two-weeks ago, the 2005-2006 budget projection is still in the black. Members and Administrators briefly discussed this year's fund balance, the net fund balance projection, the money held back by Exeter, and the 2% cash reserve balance.

Superintendent Seitsinger read the list of correspondence.

Correspondence – Correspondence – (ENCLOSED) – (1) June 18, 2006

Memo from Member Clay and Vice Chair Cicero Regarding Agenda Requests, (2) June 15, 2006 Memo from Member Clay and Vice Chair Cicero Regarding Agenda Requests, (3) 2007 Budget Enacted by House Finance Data, (4) Memo from Director of Administration Robert

Ross Regarding Workers' Compensation Rates, (5) Sr. High School Student Nick Audette's Eagle Project Proposal Request, (6) E-mail from Vice Chair Cicero Regarding Senate Bill No. 2836, (7) June 19, 2006 Memo from Superintendent Seitsinger Regarding Interim Superintendent,

(8) Letter from RI Interscholastic League Regarding Denise Boulé,

(9) Letter from RIASP Regarding Denise Boulé, (10) Memo from Bob Ross Regarding Aesop, Automated Substitute Calling, (11) THE SHAPE OF THE STARTING LINE A policy review on improving education in Rhode Island By Tom Sgouros May 2006

Chair DeSack recognized there are two letters, correspondence (8) and (9) regarding Principal Boulé and offered Ms. Boulé congratulations. Member Clay inquired about correspondence (3) and asked how the additional funds will be used. Superintendent Seitsinger reported this item will be an agenda item at the next School Committee meeting. Member Clay referenced correspondence (5) and said it is inappropriate to approve of this project under correspondence. Superintendent Seitsinger explained this item is provided for members' information only and not for approval at this time.

NEW BUSINESS – Staffing Recommendations – Members asked clarifying questions. After a brief discussion regarding budgeted

staffing positions, consensus was to move agenda items, A. Staffing Recommendations, B. Sr. High School 0.5 FTE Reading, and G. Math Coach to Executive Session for discussion. The Superintendent emphasized this discussion will relate to each individual position under the collective bargaining agreement discussion and will not include a personnel discussion.

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Sr. High School 0.5 FTE Reading – This item will be discussed in Executive Session.

No Kingstown Superintendent's Proposal – Member Munroe moved to reject the North Kingstown Superintendent's proposal. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero.

Voted 5 – 0.

Teacher Assistants' Qualifications – Fragile Children – Member Clay asked Director of Administration Robert Ross to report on the status concerning this issue, as the district's nurse-teachers have voiced their concerns regarding teacher assistants' qualifications to assist a student requiring a constant attendant due to medical issues. After a brief discussion, consensus was Administration will craft a job description for members' review at the last meeting in September.

Athletic/Coach Handbooks – Annual Review – Chair DeSack

requested modifications to the Athletic Handbook – page 7 – 1st paragraph to include, coaches will make themselves available to meet individually with students not selected for a team, should the student desire to do so. Athletic Director Steve McGrane confirmed he meets with coaches prior to the season to review the handbooks and requires their signature of receipt.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the Athletic/Coach Handbooks with the recommended changes. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 5 – 0.

2006 – 2007 School Budget – No discussion took place regarding this matter.

Math Coach – This item will be discussed during Executive Session.

Dell Lease – Clerk Coutcher moved to accept the Dell Lease. Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 5 – 0.

Delta Dental Renewal – Member Clay moved to accept the Delta Dental Renewal. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher.

Discussion: A brief discussion took place relating to exploring other dental insurance carriers. Mr. Ross explained he has explored at least two other companies. He expressed his opinion that Delta Dental offers the district the best rates and provides a very good

service.

Voted 5 – 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policies – Review and Adoption – 6237 – Per Diem Substitute Teachers – 2nd Reading – Member Clay explained the suggested revisions were made. It was determined this policy was listed as a 2nd Reading at the last School

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Committee meeting. Vice Chair Cicero moved to adopt Policy #6237 – Per Diem Substitute Teachers. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 4 – 1. Member Munroe voted no.

8515 – Prohibited Behavior Between Students – 2nd Reading (continued) – Chair DeSack explained this policy will carry over to the next agenda for a 2nd Reading as it is necessary to have all members present in order to vote to adopt it.

8604 – Student Travel – Adoption - Vice Chair Cicero moved to adopt Policy #8604 – Student Travel. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 5 – 0.

2004-2005 Money Held Back by Exeter – Superintendent Seitsinger reported the town and district attorneys are talking but no action has

taken place to date.

Chair DeSack moved to start the filing process by sending a letter to the attorney. Member Clay seconded. Voted 4 – 1. Member Munroe voted no.

Superintendent Seitsinger clarified the committee is directing him to initiate the first step in the process – the filing of the judgment. Chair DeSack confirmed.

Metcalf Fire Alarm – Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross confirmed the cost for the Metcalf fire alarm architectural drawings will be within the projected amount of \$180,000 and will come out of the capital budget. Mr. Ross reported the drawings should be complete by mid July and the cost will be reported to members at the next (July 18th) School Committee meeting. Chair DeSack requested Mr. Ross secure a clause in the contract from the vendor that penalties will be imposed if the project is not complete within the agreed timeframe. Member Munroe asked Mr. Ross to explain why this project did not go out to bid. Mr. Ross gave detailed information explaining the delay in initiating the process. Member Munroe voiced his opinion that if the district had addressed this issue in a more timely fashion, it may have been able to save taxpayers money. Clerk Coutcher recommended the district have the Exeter Fire Marshal review and approve the drawings upon their completion. Robert Ross recommended securing as built drawings for each building to have readily available for the future. Chair DeSack recommended

adding Architectural Firms Discussion to the first meeting in September.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – Chair DeSack reverted back to items pulled from the consent agenda.

Member Munroe requested item, Executive Session Minutes of May 23, 2006 be pulled. Member Munroe moved to carry the Executive Session Minutes of May 23, 2006 over to the next meeting in July. Seconded by Chair DeSack. Voted 1 – 4. Chair DeSack, Vice Chair Cicero, Clerk Coutcher, and Member Clay voted no.

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Member Munroe declared the committee will have this discussion at the next meeting regardless of whether or not it is an agenda item. Chair DeSack reaffirmed the discussion will not take place at the next meeting.

Member Frank Maher arrived at this time, (8:35 p.m.)

Vice Chair Cicero requested item, b. Job Fair Results be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion in tonight's Executive Session regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement and reiterated that this

discussion will not be about personnel.

Vice Chair Cicero requested item, a. Letter of Resignation from Roy Seitsinger from his position as Superintendent, with regret, effective August 4, 2006 be pulled from the consent agenda and presented Dr. Seitsinger with a gift from members.

Superintendent Seitsinger expressed his sentiments of feeling very proud to have worked with the Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District. He said the district is an excellent place to work and live and he is very pleased to have served here. He wished everyone good luck and success and thanked everyone for their support.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept A. Approval of Minutes, Executive Session Minutes of May 23, 2006 and a. Letter of Resignation from Roy Seitsinger from his position as Superintendent, with regret, effective August 4, 2006. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 6 – 0.

Chair DeSack requested Discussion of note taking in Executive Session and at regular meetings be added to the next agenda, in order to determine if the committee is in agreement of bringing in a stenographer to capture all dialogue at its meetings.

Superintendent Seitsinger referenced correspondence, (10) Memo from

Bob Ross Regarding Aesop, Automated Substitute Calling, (as

recommended by the Superintendent) and asked for the committees' consensus to investigate the service and go forward with Aesop. Chair DeSack responded, "This item was voted on at a previous meeting." And the committee consensus was to move forward.

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – July 18, 2006 – School Committee meeting-(optional): August 8, 2006 – school Committee Meeting; August 22, 2006 – School Committee Meeting

Vice Chair Cicero asked to discuss scheduling two School Committee meetings for the month of July. There was a brief discussion and members exchanged differences of opinions concerning this subject.

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Member Clay moved to hold School Committee meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday in July. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 4 – 2. Chair DeSack and Member Munroe voted no.

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

8:42 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-46-5(a) (9) for the purpose of discussion regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement and 42-46-5 (a)(1) – for the purpose of discussion regarding Superintendent

Search. Seconded by Member Clay.

Voted 6 – 0.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:42 p.m.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 9:30 p.m.

Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in open session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-2(b) at 9:31 p.m.

Three votes were taken during Executive Session.

One vote to establish an Assistant Principal level PBGR position.

Voted 6 – 0.

One vote to establish a .5 FTE Reading Teacher (high school) position. Voted 6 – 0.

One vote to continue the Math Coach position as posted and filled.

Voted 5 – 0 – 1. Vice Chair Cicero abstained.

ADJOURNMENT – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.

Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 6 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK