

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 13, 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 Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Bill Clay, Paul McFadden, and Member Munroe. Member Frank Maher was absent. Superintendent Seitsinger; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; and Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo were present. Director of Administration Robert V. Ross was absent. Student Member Geoffrey Southworth was present.**

**ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order in Open Session at 7:00 p.m.**

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

**OPEN FORUM – Superintendent Seitsinger introduced the new senior high school student member Geoffrey Southworth. He explained Geoff will continue as the student representative for next year, offered him congratulations, and welcomed him aboard.**

**PRESENTATION – School Committee Apple Recognition Award – Gregg Charest – Superior Contribution – Chair DeSack gave a brief outline of the development of the School Committee Apple Recognition Award and recognized Jr. – Sr. High School Music Teacher Gregg Charest as tonight’s recipient. Superintendent Seitsinger recognized the improvement in the music department over the past 5-years as well as the increase in participation by students. He attributed these two achievements to Mr. Charest’s involvement and offered him congratulations for an excellent job. Chair DeSack presented Mr. Charest with a small recognition award. Chair DeSack and Vice Chair Cicero voiced their opinions and offered appreciation to Mr. Charest for the great job he’s done and the personal time he gives to his students. Mr. Charest thanked all for their support of the district’s music departments. He said he loves his job and is lucky to have the support of the School Committee and the Administrators.**

**Student Member Report – Chair DeSack recognized Student Member Geoffrey Southworth and explained the School Committees’ expectations, i.e. reporting on school events, sporting events, and issues of concern. Geoffrey reported the sr. high school student council has been restructured into three groups. The three areas of concern they are addressing are (1) bathroom changes, (2) lunch room theft, and (3) changing the honor roll system. He explained of these three issues, significant improvement has occurred with the lunch room as almost all theft has disappeared. Member Clay commented he has noticed over the last 3 – 4 years a reduction in**

**graffiti. Geoff voiced his opinion that that is attributed to the way Ms. Boulé, Mr. Alves, and Mr. Cobain run the school and also because the student body are a great bunch.**

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 13, 2006**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 2**

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

**Member McFadden requested consent agenda item A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of May 23, 2006 be pulled from the consent agenda.**

**Member Clay moved to accept the consent agenda with item A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of May 23, 2006 pulled. Seconded by Member Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0.**

**The following items were approved:**

**A. Minutes – Executive Session Minutes of June 6, 2006**

**B. Personnel Items**

## **1. Appointments**

## **2. Leaves of Absence**

## **3. Resignations**

**a. Letter of resignation from David Zyons, as Cross Country Track Team Coach, with regret, effective immediately.**

## **4. Recalls**

**a. See attached list**

## **5. Grievances**

**C. Bills – In the amount of \$ 149,531.45**

**End of Consent Agenda**

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

**D. Correspondence – (ENCLOSED) – (1) Letter to the Superintendent from RIDE Regarding 2006 – 2007 School Calendar, (2) The Press (5/18/2006) Article Regarding Installation Day at Metcalf Elementary School, (3) Letter to the Superintendent from Family Court of the State of RI Regarding the Truancy Court, (4) Copy of cover and page 2 of the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards Booklet (Featuring Andrew Wallace), (5) Memo from Member Clay and Vice Chair Cicero Regarding Agenda Requests, (6) Letter to Dr. Wilkinson**

**of Seascope Services from Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley Regarding Jr.-Sr. High School Grounds Care, (7) Email from Sr. High School Science Teacher Regarding Biotechnology**

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 13, 2006**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 3**

**Academy, (8) Memo from Mr. Ross Regarding Transportation Issues for 2006 – 2007 School Year, (9) Memo from Mr. Ross Regarding FY 05/06 Operational Budget Projection for June, (10) Memo from Sr. High School Guidance Counselor Tim McArdle Regarding Summary of 2006 Honors Night**

**Monthly Sub Committee Report – Policy Committee Report – Member Clay explained the policy committee met with the director of curriculum in order to resolve issues with policies 7803, 7804, 7704, and 7709. He said these policies will be forthcoming perhaps at the next meeting on June 27, 2006.**

**NEW BUSINESS- Policies – Review and Adoption - #6237 – Per Diem Substitute Teacher – 1st Reading – Member Clay referenced policy # 6237 section Substitute Salary Schedule item 2. and asked for clarification. Superintendent Seitsinger recommended a \$75 day rate; and after 10-days, an increase to a \$95 day rate. After a brief discussion regarding half-day pay rates, consensus was to add language relating to prorating. The policy committee will make the suggested modifications and this policy will carry over to the next**

**agenda for a 2nd Reading.**

**Special Services Staffing Request – Superintendent Seitsinger explained enclosed is a similar proposal to the one proposed previously for the ALP program. Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo confirmed this proposal will be a cost savings for the district as, although additional staff will be hired; students returning to the district will save money. She anticipates opening with four students. She explained one teacher and one teacher assistant would service up to six students, the program will be housed at Wawaloam School, funding is available through the 2006 – 2007 budget, and should the program become unnecessary; staff assignments would not be recalled at the close of the next school year.**

**Member Clay moved to accept Ms. DeCrescenzo's recommendation to hire a special education teacher and a teacher assistant for Wawaloam School for September 2006. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0.**

**Group Home Update – Superintendent Seitsinger reported he and Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo met with representatives of DCYF and will meet one more time. He explained he and Ms. DeCrescenzo are not satisfied with the group home situation, the operation of the home, and the way they care for EWG students. He anticipates coming back to the committee at a later date**

with very specific recommendations for their consideration. Ms. DeCrescenzo explained because of the nature of the needs of the students residing there, she and the Superintendent feel the group home should be reclassified as a residential facility; with its own school on campus, rather than a group home. Although some changes have occurred in the operational design of the group home, Ms. DeCrescenzo and the Superintendent feel they

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 13, 2006**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 4**

are not adequate and a more significant response is needed. The Superintendent explained if the home was reclassified as a residential home; with a school on campus, educational financing would become the responsibility of the town the student's family resides in. In summary, the Superintendent explained he and Ms. DeCrescenzo will continue to monitor the situation and will further update members at a later time.

**Educational Partnership – Member McFadden explained he requested this item be placed on tonight's agenda, referenced the Educational Partnership report, and expressed his hope that members will reflect on its content; which he feels is critical and interesting. Superintendent Seitsinger said Educational Partnership anticipates producing this report each year and that this is the second report from Educational Partnership in two years.**

**Summer Project Summary – Superintendent Seitsinger referenced the summer projects summary and explained it was provided to give members a sense of what district projects will be completed over the summer of 2006.**

**EWG Community Newsletter – Member Clay explained previously the School Committee agreed to report the successes of the school system to the community. He suggested administration provide a list of achievements and sports achievements to the committee so a newsletter can be constructed for distribution to the community. Chair DeSack requested each building administrator provide the necessary data to the Superintendent, who will then forward the data to the committee members responsible for constructing the newsletter. Consensus was to bring the newsletter to members for their review prior to mailing it to the community.**

**Retention or Social Promotion – Policy Discussion – Superintendent Seitsinger requested a policy be established regarding this issue and voiced his opinion that it is necessary to have a clear School Committee policy should this issue be challenged. On behalf of the policy committee, Member Clay asked for consensus of the committee to see if they are in favor of retention or social promotion. Superintendent Seitsinger voiced his opinion regarding both retention and social promotion. Referencing social promotion, he expressed it is inappropriate to move a student on without considerations for student support and without providing**

appropriate strategies based on student needs. He said when a student fails, it is inappropriate to place that student back into the same structure. Chair DeSack polled each member and all members present communicated their support for retention. Chair DeSack recommended the policy committee collect each individual school building's retention policy for reference and reiterated the School Committee is definitely not in favor of social promotion.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policy Review and Adoption - Policy #8701 – Student Medication – Revision – Member Clay explained additions made to policy #8701. Chair DeSack said this policy was voted on at the last meeting as amended.**

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 13, 2006**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 5**

**Policy #8515 – Prohibited Fraternization Between Students – 2nd Reading – Members discussed and exchanged views regarding policy language kissing and embracing and discussed allowing building administrators to determine what is inappropriate behavior.**

**Member Clay moved to leave Policy #8515 – Prohibited Fraternization between Students policy language as it. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 3 – 3. Chair DeSack and Members McFadden and Munroe voted no.**

**Chair DeSack asked the policy committee to bring this policy back to the next meeting with tonight's recommended modifications made and as it was presented this evening for a second vote, as Member Maher is not present tonight.**

**Policy #8604 – Student Travel – 2nd Reading – Member Clay reported the policy committee made additions to page 2 relating to chaperone/student ratio which has been left blank for members to review and discuss. Superintendent Seitsinger recommended a ratio of 10 – 1 for day fieldtrips and a ratio of 6 – 1 for overnight student travel. Consensus of the committee was to implement the Superintendent's recommendation into the policy. This policy will carry over to the next agenda for adoption.**

**Foreign Exchange Program 2006 – 2007 - Argentina – Superintendent Seitsinger explained this item was carried over from the last meeting, as the committee requested additional detail regarding the program. He asked sr. high school foreign language teacher Alicia Bailey to come forward. Ms. Bailey gave an overview of her detailed data and reported the proposed student/chaperone ratio is set at 6 – 1. She explained she chose Argentina as the destination because she has previously visited Argentina and has a personal interest as well as a connection. Students grade 9 – 12 are invited to attend; however, preference will be given to grades 11 and 12. Students in grades 9 and 10 have more years of opportunity available to them. Member Clay questioned page 6 of her detailed data, referencing language**

**pertaining to chaperones' may be subject to Background Criminal Investigations. Consensus of the committee was to change may be to shall. Ms. Bailey will make the correction.**

**Member Clay moved to authorize the Argentina Foreign Exchange Program. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 6 – 0.**

**2005 – 2006 Money Held Back by Exeter – Chair DeSack explained she has not yet received correspondence from the town of Exeter relating to this matter. Superintendent Seitsinger reported the attorneys for the town of Exeter and the district are in communication with each other in order to clarify the situation; however, no action has**

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 13, 2006**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 6**

**taken place to date. Superintendent Seitsinger will make members aware of any information he receives concerning this matter.**

**Metcalf Fire Alarm – Superintendent Seitsinger reported Director of Administration Robert Ross is requesting to sole source emergency procurement of the Metcalf fire alarm. As an initial step, the district**

needs to obtain new mechanical drawings, as the existing drawings are inadequate. Because projected cost of new mechanical drawings will be under \$20,000; this item does not need to go to bid. Mr. Ross is requesting the School Committee opt to vote to sole source this project to the district's fire alarm service provider of record, Electronic Alarms, in order to expedite the project and meet the August 25, 2006 opening day of school deadline. Member Munroe made inquiry as to why this did not go out to bid. The Superintendent reiterated the timeline is too tight.

Member McFadden moved to allow the School Committee to sole source the procurement of the alarm system at Metcalf School, not to exceed \$180,000, to Electronic Alarms. Seconded by Member Munroe.

Discussion: Member Munroe voiced his opinion that the School Committee will be in violation because the timeline is too fine and the committee is supposed to go out to bid. Chair DeSack reminded members they could not put this item out to bid until they received approval from taxpayers. Member McFadden said he agrees with Member Munroe; however, the committee is forced to sole source in order to meet the August 25, 2006 start date of school.

Voted 6 – 0.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – Chair DeSack reverted back to an item

**pulled from the consent agenda**

**Member McFadden pulled consent agenda item, B. – Regular Minutes of May 23, 2006, and requested, the Executive Session minutes for the meeting that took place last week in the administration building be amended to include a member of the committee calling him names.**

**Chair DeSack moved to accept the regular minutes of May 23, 2006. Seconded by Member McFadden. Voted 6 – 0.**

**IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – June 20, 2006 – 180th Day of School;**

**June 20, 2006 – Jr. High School Moving Up Ceremony @ 5:30 p.m.;**

**June 27, 2006 –**

**School Committee Meeting-(Facilities Presentation); July 18, 2006 – School**

**Committee Meeting-(optional)**

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

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 13, 2006**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 7**

**8:15 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-46-5(a) (1) for the purpose of discussion regarding Superintendent Search, and RIGL 420-46-5(a)**

**(9) for the purpose of discussion regarding Collective Bargaining - Grievances. Seconded by Member McFadden. Voted 6 – 0.**

**Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.**

**Chair DeSack moved to return to open session at 9:15 p.m. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 6 – 0.**

**Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in open session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-2(b) at 9:16 p.m.**

**Voted 6 – 0 to hire NESDEC to conduct the Superintendent's search.**

**ADJOURNMENT – Member Clay moved to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. Seconded by Chair DeSack. Voted 6 – 0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.**

**ROBIN CERIO**

**CLERK**