

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH July 25, 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; Paul McFadden; Frank Maher, Bill Clay, and Bill Munroe. Gregory Coutcher, Clerk arrived at 7:03 p.m. Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; and Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo were present. Superintendent Seitsinger was absent.

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

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

OPEN FORUM – Member McFadden read RIGL 42-46-5 aloud. Clerk Coutcher arrived at this time, (7:03 p.m.). Member McFadden read RIGL 16-2-11 aloud. He brought the committees' attention to paragraph 11 – referencing passage regarding authorization of purchases. He said the district is presently without a Superintendent.

Chair DeSack reminded members the district still has a

Superintendent who is on the payroll until August 7, 2006.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – None

**ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Director of Special Services
Maureen DeCrescenzo gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.**

**Member Clay moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by
Vice Chair Cicero.**

Voted 7 – 0.

The following items were approved:

**A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of July 17, 2006, Executive
Session Minutes of June 13, 2006, Executive Session Minutes of June
27, 2006**

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

**a. John Dwyer as Sr. High School Boys' Cross Country Track Coach,
Stipend, \$2,575, and Sr. High School Girls' Cross Country Track
Coach, Stipend, \$2,575 for the 2006 – 2007 season, effective July 25,
2006**

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH July 25, 2006

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 2

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

C. Bills – July invoices in the amount of \$ 47,458.58. June 30, 2006 accruals in the amount of \$43,838.67.

End Consent Agenda

Chair DeSack reviewed the correspondence.

Correspondence – (1) Memo to School Committee Regarding Chain-of-Command, (2) Letter from Lineham Teacher Tammie Cash-Calise Regarding Request for a Parental Leave of Absence

Chair DeSack advised, members may ask clarifying questions regarding the correspondence at this time. Member Munroe referenced correspondence (1) and asked for clarification - if the Superintendent is still employed, why did the district appoint Principal Boulé as Acting Superintendent? Chair DeSack reported the chain-of-command will become effective after Superintendent Seitsinger's last day of employment if at that time an interim Superintendent is not in place. Member McFadden questioned the matter of authorization for signature in the absence of a Superintendent and requested inquiring about the appointment of an individual. Chair DeSack will seek a legal opinion regarding

authorization to sign during the absence of a Superintendent.

NEW BUSINESS – School Committee Meetings Schedule 2006 – 2007 – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding the 2006 – 2007 meeting schedule.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the 2006 – 2007 School Committee Meetings Schedule. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 5 – 0 – 2. Members McFadden and Clay abstained. Member Clay said he abstained because the schedule did not pertain to him.

2007 Budget Enactment by House Finance – Member Clay had requested this item be placed on tonight’s agenda for discussion. The data needed for discussion was not included in members’ packets. This item will continue onto the next agenda on August 8, 2006.

Policies – Review and Adoption - #7704 – Student and Parent Challenges to Planned Instruction – 1st Reading – Members did not express and questions or concerns regarding this policy at this time.

#7803 – Controversial Issues in School Forums – 1st Reading – Members discussed where the district obtained direction for this new policy. Member Munroe voiced his opinion that policies 7803 and 7704 place the burden on parents. He expressed his view,

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH July 25, 2006

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 3

if a teacher wishes to bring controversial lessons into his/her classroom; the burden of coming before the School Committee should be placed on the teacher not the parent. Member McFadden expressed his opinion that most controversial lessons are “after the fact” which gives teachers full rein for what is acceptable. For that reason, he suggested such issues should go before the department head prior to the School Committee. Chair DeSack read policy passage and expressed her belief the policy directs teachers how to handle controversial subject matters in classroom. Members exchanged their concerns and opinions regarding allowing controversial subjects in the classroom, students hearing both sides of issues, and what controversial issues may be discussed. Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo gave one example of a probable controversial matter that may take place in a Junior High School health class. Member McFadden suggested Member Clay, on behalf of the policy committee; bring forth copies of other districts’ policies concerning this matter. Vice Chair Cicero emphasized, a great deal of work goes into each policy and suggested if Member McFadden feels more research is needed pertaining to these policies, he should do the research himself. Member Clay suggested Members Munroe and McFadden bring their research results/suggestions to the next discussion concerning these policies; and if applicable to the policies, they can be implemented. Chair DeSack requested members wishing to bring forward suggestions do so by the next meeting, (8/8/06) and their suggested modifications will be given to the policy

committee at that time. Consensus was members will bring suggested modifications to the policy committee by the August 8, 2006 meeting and policies 7704, 7803, and 7804 will carry over to the August 22, 2006 meeting for 2nd Readings.

#7804 – Introduction of Supplementary Instructional Materials and Presentation – 1st Reading – This policy was included in the preceding discussion of policies 7704 and 7803. This policy will carry over to the August 22, 2006 meeting for a 2nd Reading.

2006 – 2007 School Calendar Revised – Final Approval – Chair DeSack explained members' supplementary packets contain a revised copy of the 2006 – 2007 school calendar, (attached to a memo on blue paper). She asked members to disregard the calendar previously mailed to them in their packets. She explained the September 12, 2006 change is state mandated.

Member Clay moved to accept the 2006 – 2007 School Calendar as revised on July 25, 2006. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0 – 1. Member McFadden abstained.

Request for Proposal for Architect Service – Director of Administration Robert Ross explained, this type of service will allow the School Committee to improve efficiency of identifying, evaluating, and executing District Capital Improvement repairs that require expertise not readily available with District personnel. He confirmed

this service would be a one-year renewable for two additional years contract, will not require a retainer fee, and will include an hourly rate to perform services as needed.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH July 25, 2006

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 4

Member Clay moved to grant Mr. Ross' request to issue a RFP for Architect Service. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero.

Mr. Ross confirmed a vote in favor will not incur the district to pay a retainer, the district will only be required to pay for services rendered, the contract will include an hourly rate, and there will not be a penalty if the service is not used.

Voted 7 – 0.

Jr. High School Promotion/Summer School Policy Proposal – Principal Thompson distributed copies of an amended Jr. High School Promotion/Summer School Policy Proposal. Member Clay suggested several additional modifications. Members asked clarifying questions. Principal Thompson and members discussed cost per class, number of students per classroom, and the maximum allowance of make-up summer school course work. Principal Thompson confirmed he will make the recommended changes and will submit a revised proposal at the next meeting. This item will

continue onto the next agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Metcalf Fire Alarm – Update – Chair DeSack summarized, at its Special Meeting on Sunday, July 23, 2006, the School Committee voted to award the contract for Metcalf’s Fire Alarm System to Electronic Alarms. Since that time, Electronic Alarms has provided a timeline and a new contract as requested by the School Committee. Chair DeSack expressed her concern that because of the new estimated schedule start date of August 15, 2006 and finish date of November 20, 2006; which means completion will not take place prior to the first day of school after all, the basis for sole sourcing this project is no longer a valid one. Members had a lengthy discussion and exchanged their concerns and views regarding project cost, student safety; should the project take place during the school year, the appeal filed, the timeline, putting the project out to bid, the bid process/timeline, changing or withdrawing the School Committees’ vote on July 23, 2006 to award the contract to Electronic Alarms, moving forward with the Electronic Alarms contract, the fire marshal possibly refusing to allow Metcalf School to open on time, the potential rise in cost of materials should this project be delayed until next summer, and purchasing materials in advance.

Member Clay moved to rescind the vote taken on Sunday, July 23, 2006 to award the contract to Electronic Alarms. Member Munroe Seconded. Voted 6 – 1. Clerk Coutcher voted no.

Member Munroe moved to go out to bid for the Metcalf fire alarm system. Member McFadden seconded.

Discuss: Further discussion took place regarding putting the project out to bid without a bid-spec; as the previous bid-spec is now the property of Electronic Alarms, having Mr.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH July 25, 2006

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 5

Ross solicit various companies to see if they are willing to bid without a bid-spec drawing, and seeking a new bid-spec; should Electronic Alarms withhold the existing bid-spec.

Member Munroe withdrew his motion to go out to bid for the Metcalf fire alarm system. Member Munroe moved to bid under the directive the School Committee just gave to Mr. Ross - to first call five companies of various sizes to solicit if they will bid on as built drawings and if not, direct Mr. Ross to go to an engineer to create a bid-spec to build the Metcalf fire alarm system. Member McFadden seconded.

Member Clay expressed he will not support going out to bid without a bid-spec because the school district does not possess the expertise to write or create a bid-spec. Member Munroe said School Committees do it all the time. Member Clay stated we authorized to

sole source which is not a bid-spec. Member Clay said that the School Committee can authorize up to \$10,000 to obtain an architectural bid-spec.

Member McFadden agreed there is a lot of merit to Member Clay's point.

Member Munroe withdrew his motion. Member McFadden moved to give Mr. Ross the authority to acquire a bid-spec for the Metcalf fire alarm system; the cost of the bid-spec not to exceed \$10,000. Member Munroe seconded. Voted 6 – 1. Clerk Coutcher voted no. Clerk Coutcher said he voted no because he still wants to sole source the project because of the time restraints involved.

2004 – 2005 Money Held Back by Exeter – Chair DeSack reported the town of Exeter has proposed an offer to pay the money owed plus \$2,500 of the accrued interest to cover the district's legal fees.

Member Clay moved to accept the town of Exeter's offer. Member McFadden seconded.

Consensus was Chair DeSack will make the town of Exeter aware of the committees' decision and will stipulate the payment must be received within 30-days.

Voted 7 – 0.

Superintendent Search – Chair DeSack reported, as a result of a situation that occurred between Interim Superintendent John Pini and the School Committee during the last regular School Committee meeting on July 17, 2006, John Pini withdrew as interim Superintendent. Vice Chair Cicero clarified the situation occurred between an individual School Committee member and John Pini – not the entire School Committee. Chair DeSack communicated, due to the situation that occurred; presently the district is without an acting Superintendent. She reported she has been in contact with the search company presently employed by the district and they have agreed to also assist in seeking an

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH July 25, 2006

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 6

interim Superintendent for the district. Member Munroe said he has researched some online services as another option and will bring this information forward at a future meeting for members' review. Chair DeSack reported the advertisement for a new Superintendent will run in Education Weekly on July 26th, the brochure will be ready at the next School Committee meeting for review, and when the ad runs copies should be available for members' review. The search company has reported they have received inquiries as a result of the advertisement on their website. The ad will run for 30-days. Chair DeSack emphasized she is very disappointed in the situation the district is presently faced with. Member Clay requested an item be

placed on the August 22nd agenda in order to further discuss the above mentioned subject and to notify the individual member. The member will have the option to have this subject matter discussed in open session or during executive session. Vice Chair Cicero said she seconded Member Clay's request. Chair DeSack will make certain the proper open meeting law is quoted on the agenda. Member McFadden requested the rationale also be listed. Consensus of the committee was to add this item, (in executive session) to the agenda of the August 22, 2006 School Committee meeting.

Member Maher requested a 5-minute recess at this time, (9:05 p.m.).

Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in open session at 9:08 p.m.

Community Newsletter – Member Clay suggested postponing this item to the September School Committee meeting. Member McFadden suggested using the newsletter to introduce the community to the status of the Metcalf fire alarm system. After a brief discussion, Member McFadden volunteered to compose a brief paragraph summarizing the status of Metcalf's fire alarm system to post on the district website. He agreed to bring it to the next meeting on August 8, 2006.

Literacy Coach Job Description Discussion – Vice Chair Cicero requested the Literacy Coach Job Description include holding a

qualification of a Reading Specialist. Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley will make the recommended modification to the job description. Members briefly discussed this year's Job Fair.

Policies – Review and Adoption - #8515 – Prohibited Behavior Between Students – 2nd Reading – Continued – Member Clay explained as per members' requests, the enclosed draft copy of Policy 8515 provides an underlined, bolded alternative Definitions for Prohibited Behavior. He asked which language members prefer to use.

After a brief discussion, Member Clay moved to use the original language listed under Prohibited Behavior, not in bold. Chair DeSack read the referenced policy language aloud. Vice Chair Cicero seconded. Voted 2 – 5. Chair DeSack, Clerk Coutcher, Members Munroe, McFadden, and Maher voted no.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH July 25, 2006

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 7

Member Clay moved to withdraw the policy entirely, as in his opinion it doesn't mean anything anymore. Seconded by Chair DeSack. Voted 1 – 6. Chair DeSack, Vice Chair Cicero, Clerk Coutcher, Members Munroe, McFadden, and Maher voted no.

Member Clay will make the necessary amendments and this policy

will carry over to the next agenda for adoption.

#6237 – Per Diem Substitute Teacher – Adoption – Clerk Coutcher moved to adopt Policy #6237 – Per Diem Substitute Teacher.

Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero.

Voted 6 – 1. Member Munroe voted no.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – Member McFadden and Member Munroe proposed another Executive Session for another member for name calling be added to the next agenda.

Member Clay suggested the committee should discuss whether additional meetings are needed in the month of August due the lack of a Superintendent and the current status of the Metcalf fire alarms system. Chair DeSack will solicit how to empower the Superintendent to a person who is not the Superintendent and said the committee may hold a special meeting if need be with Denise Boulé present at the meeting.

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – August 8, 2006 – School Committee Meeting; August 22, 2006 – School Committee Meeting; August 28, 2006 – Teacher Orientation Day; August 30, 2006 – 1st Day – All Students

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

**ADJOURNMENT – Member McFadden moved to adjourn at 9:25 p.m.
Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK