

July 23, 2006

**Exeter-West Greenwich
Regional School District
Minutes
Open Session**

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District met in Open Session at 8:01 AM on Sunday July, 23 in the administration building. Members present: Sue Desack, Chairperson; Greg Coutcher, Clerk; Bill Clay; Frank Maher (arrived 8:16AM), Bill Munroe. Others present: Bob Ross; Bill Plumley. Vice Chair Cicero and Member McFadden were absent.

Order- Chair Desack called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM

Old Business-Metcalf Fire Alarm-

Chair DeSack informed the school committee that legal counsel has requested an expedited hearing from the State Fire Marshall's office regarding the appeal of certain items in Exeter Fire Marshall St. Jean's March 1, 2005 report. Chair DeSack stated that legal counsel felt very certain that the school committee would be granted extra time to complete the new Metcalf fire alarm system. The expedited hearing will take place any Tuesday in August 2006.

Chair DeSack did note the risk of gambling that a decision on the districts appeal would come back favorable. If the decision were to

be unfavorable, the school committee would need to proceed with the new fire alarm system, which could delay the start of school at Metcalf until possibly November. Chair DeSack stated that regardless of how the committee decided to proceed, a vote from the June 13, 2006 meeting must be rescinded.

Member Clay made a motion to rescind the vote of the following motion from June 13, 2006:

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. Voted 6-0 in favor.

Member Clay's motion seconded by Clerk Coutcher.

Voted 5-0 in favor.

The discussion now turned to the committee's next course of action. Member Munroe insisted that the school committee must send the fire alarm system out to bid regardless of timing issues, as he felt it would be illegal not to do so. Member Clay and Clerk Coutcher shared concern that if the State Fire Marshall finds that the district must install the new system for school to open in August, the committee must take action now to ensure that school can open on time. Member Maher felt the committee should await the decision from the State Fire Marshall before moving forward. A long and heated debate followed, in which Member Munroe told Clerk Coutcher to "Go to Hell."

Clerk Coutcher made a motion to sole source the Metcalf fire alarm system to Electronic Alarms not to exceed a total cost \$235,000, and work will begin as quickly as possible. Member Clay seconded the motion. Voted 3-2 in favor. Member Munroe and Maher were opposed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Member Maher. Seconded by Chair DeSack.

Voted 5-0 in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30AM

Greg Coutcher, Clerk