

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH November 28, 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; Frank Maher; Bill Munroe; and Bill Clay. Paul McFadden was absent. Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo; and Student Member Geoffrey Southworth were present. Interim Superintendent James A. DiPrete was absent.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM – Vice Chair Cicero acknowledged that this is Member Clay's last School Committee meeting after serving the district for the past ten years. She expressed her sincere appreciation to Member Clay for his time commitment, dedication, and hard work to the district. Vice Chair Cicero said that Member Clay has been an asset to the committee and the district and that she has enjoyed working with him. She said that she has learned a lot from him, that she

appreciates everything he has done, and that she will miss him. Director of Administration Robert Ross echoed Vice Chair Cicero's sentiments. He expressed his appreciation for Member Clay's "leadership as a true gentleman". He said that it has been an honor to have worked with Member Clay. Chair DeSack communicated that she too has learned a lot from Member Clay who she has looked to for guidance, help, and support. She said that Member Clay has given to the district something that can never be replaced. Chair DeSack thanked Member Clay and then, on behalf of the School Committee, she presented him with a School Committee Apple Recognition Award. Member Coutcher thanked Member Clay and said that he too has learned from him. He expressed that he finds it remarkable that although Member Clay has no children involved in the school district, he has shown such dedication to the district and the community. Clerk Coutcher emphasized that it has been a pleasure to work with Member Clay. Member Maher expressed that it has been an honor to work with Member Clay over the last two years. And voiced his opinion that Member Clay always approaches issues with a level head and does what is best for the district and the students. He said that every time he looks at a policy he will be reminded of Member Clay and he knows that the district will never forget Member Clay's service and dedication. Member Clay asked Member Maher to read a statement that he had prepared. "It has been a long run since West Greenwich Town Council appointed me, and the voters returned me twice, knowing my constituents would be the EWG kids; not them. After 230 regular meetings with only 2 missed,

10 budget cycles, three contract negotiations with EWG Teachers' Association and four with Council 94, it leaves me feeling as if I am retiring from a second career. I have worked with great colleagues and made friends with the committee and among school administrators. We have had

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successes. The new committee will continue these successes. There will be increased budget and continued negotiation challenges. To this, I can't say that I won't miss being here to work with you."

Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo told Member Clay that she has been working with him for 10 years and she will truly miss his questions. She said that he has been a tribute to the School Committee and has always been with the students' interest. She said, "I thank you for that on behalf of administration."

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – On behalf of the student body, Geoffrey Southworth also extended thanks to Member Clay for all he has done over the years for the students of Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District. Geoffrey then gave a brief overview of the upcoming events planned at the Sr. High School which include: Monday, December 4th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – The Kristi Lussier Blood Drive; Tuesday, December 5th from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. – Hunger Awareness Dinner (\$6.00 per person – tickets will be available at the door). Geoffrey said that, at this very moment, the

football team is playing its first playoff game at Middletown.

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 6 -0.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of November 14, 2006, Executive Session Minutes of November 14, 2006

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

2. Leaves of absence

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

C. Bills – In the amount of \$357,573.96

D. Home School Approvals

End Consent Agenda

Chair DeSack reviewed the correspondence.

D. Correspondence (1) November 28, 2006 Memo from Nancy Daley Regarding SAT Prep Alternative Solutions Additional Information, (2) November 17, 2006 Memo from Member Clay and School District Charter Amendments, (3) November 20, 2006 Confidential Memo from

Nancy Daley, (4) EWGSH Profile 2006 – 2007, (5) Memo from Robert Ross Regarding Grant Writing for the District, (6) November 21, 2006 Memo from Robert

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Ross Regarding Budget Subcommittee Members, (7) DRAFT 2007-2008 Budget Development Timeline, (8) Key Work Reminder Flyer and

AGENDA from SORICO

Chair DeSack referenced correspondence (3) and requested that this item be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS – New Elementary Math Program Proposal – Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley gave a preliminary overview of the three-year math plan currently in place in its second year at the elementary level and explained the math committees' accomplishments to date. She briefly summarized the two math programs currently being reviewed by the teachers. Ms. Daley said that both of these programs will meet the Grade Level Expectations. She reported that she has received proposals that reflect an average initial cost of \$68,000 for the new math program. That amount includes fully equipping each classroom (K – 5) for the preliminary year (2007– 2008). Ms. Daley asked the committee for guidance in how this should be reflected in the upcoming budget. She explained

that each subsequent year following will require the workbook line at each elementary school to be increased to reflect the purchase of consumables (at an approximate high-end estimate of \$20,000). Additionally, Ms. Daley requested the committee consider that the half-time mathematics coach position be increased to full-time for the 2007-2008 school year in order to properly provide the support necessary to implement the new program. In response to Ms. Daley's question regarding budget lines, consensus of the committee was that the cost should be divided up between each individual elementary school. Member Clay commented that this is a big request. He recommended that since the upcoming budget will be a horrendous one, Ms. Daley should alter some of her memo language to reflect that this program is recommended by ... rather than the program is necessary. Chair DeSack said that the School Committee can not give its approval to move forward with this proposal prior to undergoing the budget process.

Conversion of the Art Room at the Jr. High School – Principal Thompson explained that last year his proposed budget included the conversion of the Junior High School art room into two separate classrooms, one for art and one for a new science lab. Principal Thompson said that he is seeking the committees' permission to allow Mr. Ross to contact Torrado Architects, Inc. in order to obtain an estimate for the conversion. This will enable Principal Thompson to have an understanding of what budget amount is needed to fund this project in the upcoming year.

Member Munroe moved to have Torrado Architect, Inc. give an estimate for the conversion of the art room at the Jr. High School. Seconded by Member Maher.

Voted 6 – 0.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Metcalf Fire Alarm – Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross referenced a memo enclosed in members' supplemental packets and gave a brief update on the Metcalf School fire alarm system bidding process. He recommended that the committee award the project to the low cost bidder, contingent upon the review and approval of the bid with Torrado Architects, Inc. as well as a completed reference check. Mr. Ross and members briefly discussed the project timeline and the egress component (phase two). Mr. Ross reported that phase one of the project will begin January 2, 2007.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to award the Metcalf School fire alarm system project to the lowest bidder, contingent upon Torrado Architect's review and completion of references. Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 6 – 0.

Mr. Ross and members discussed how the additional, unanticipated costs of the project will be funded and what projects were funded with last year's DFM Capital Improvement appropriated funds. Mr. Ross reported that presently the General Fund balance holds sufficient funds; and when it becomes necessary, he will bring forward a request for additional funds.

Superintendent Search – Chair DeSack informed members that a copy of the new Superintendent's contract for employment is enclosed in their supplemental packet. She said that she used the previous Superintendent's contract as a model and simply inserted the current dates and figures. The wording remained the same with the exception of an additional paragraph under Article V – Benefits and Expenses. This is because Superintendent Geismar has elected to have the district make an equivalent dollar value payment to his current medical benefits provider in lieu of accepting coverage through the district health coverage program. At the request of Chair DeSack, Member Clay reviewed Article V and altered the language somewhat. Member Munroe indicated that he thought that the salary offered to Superintendent Geismar would remain the same for his first three years of service without an increase. Upon determining that this was not the case, at Member Munroe's request, the School Committee discussed altering the annual salary increase percentage rate to a lower rate. Consensus was to have the employment contract language state "an annual salary increase of no less than 3%". Chair DeSack asked the committee for its permission to e-mail the contract

to Superintendent Geismar for his review.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the Superintendent's contract with the changes discussed. Clerk Coutcher seconded. Voted 6 – 0.

Alternate Transportation Sub Committee – Vice Chair Cicero moved to create a Transportation Subcommittee and to add this category to the list of assignments and standing subcommittees for the School Committee. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 6 – 0.

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REPORTS/COMMENTS – None

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Friday, December 1, 2006 – Proposed Deadline for Submission of Administrative Draft Budget to the Director of Administration; Monday, Monday, December 4, 2006 – Key Works Meeting at SORICO; Tuesday, December 12, 2006 – School Committee Meeting; Saturday, December 16, 2006 – Proposed Date for Budget Sub Committee Meeting; Friday, December 22, 2006 through Monday, January 1, 2007 – Winter Recess; Tuesday, January 2, 2006 – Superintendent Thomas Geismar's effective start date; Tuesday, January 9, 2006 – School Committee Meeting; Monday, January 15, 2006 – Martin Luther King Day; Tuesday, January 23, 2006 – School Committee Meeting

Chair DeSack said that the 2007-2008 Draft Budget Development Timeline provided in members' November 28, 2006 School Committee packets will no longer be considered a DRAFT and that members will be obligated to those dates. Members confirmed that they are still in agreement that it is no longer necessary for a budget subcommittee to meet prior to the budget workshops; therefore, the planned December 16, 2006 budget subcommittee meeting is to be eliminated from the timeline calendar. Vice Chair Cicero emphasized that it will be necessary to do a good job of communicating to the community that the (April 9, 2007) District Financial Meeting starting time has been legally changed from 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Chair DeSack said that a notice needs to be sent to the members of the Exeter and West Greenwich Town Councils informing them of the planned School Committee/Town Council Joint Meeting. She reminded members that in past years, prior to the School Committee approving the final budget, they have made it a point to include members of both town councils in the budget discussion. She suggested that the listed Joint Meeting date of December 12, 2006 should be changed to take place in January because there is no need to engage council members prior to the completion of the budget workshops.

Due to the unavailability of the Jr. – Sr. High School Library, consensus of the committee is to hold the December 12, 2006, (rescheduled from December 5, 2006) School Committee meeting in the Jr. High School cafeteria.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 6 – 0. Meeting adjourned 7:50 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK