

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 23, 2007

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; Robert Bollengier, and Mary Walsh. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; and Student Member Geoffrey Southworth were present.

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

OPEN FORUM – None

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Geoffrey Southworth gave a brief overview of high school sports and upcoming planned activities at the Sr. High School.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Geismar

gave an overview of the Consent Agenda. Referencing items B., 1., a. and b., Superintendent Geismar expressed his thanks to Maureen Pontarelli and the Association for their assistance in reaching an agreement for the Art Club stipend amount. Referencing item B., 3., a., Superintendent Geismar acknowledged that Mrs. Ferri has been teaching in the district for 17 years, has many accomplishments to be proud of, and will be missed. He expressed thanks to her for her years of dedicated service to the district.

Chair DeSack requested consent agenda item, B. Personnel Items, 1. Appointments, e. Request to hire 0.5 FTE half-year, Sr. High School Special Education Teacher, Salary \$23,476, Effective on or about February 14, 2007 be pulled for discussion.

Referencing consent agenda item C. Bills, Member Bollengier asked for clarification regarding two items listed on the 1/18/2007 Expenditures by Vender Report. Regarding Account Key - FOSTER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT, Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo responded that the district purchases services from the Foster School Department for two EWG students that are severely and profoundly retarded. Regarding Account Key – U.S. GAMES, INC., Ms. DeCrescenzo responded that she presumes the items purchased were used for occupational therapy/motor sensory development, but will cross-reference and review these items in order to seek accurate clarification. Clarifying information will be provided to members in Correspondence at the next regular School Committee

meeting.

Member Bollengier moved to accept the consent agenda with item, B., 1., e. pulled. Seconded by Member Walsh. 7 – 0.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of January 9, 2007

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

a. Elizabeth Lind as Sr. High School Art Club Co-Advisor, Effective for the 2006 – 2007 school year, Stipend – one-half of \$858.

b. Nicole Pichette as Sr. High School Art Club Co-Advisor, Effective for the 2006 -2 007 school year, Stipend – one-half of \$858.

c. *Donna McCarthy as 0.67 FTE Half-Year, (second semester) Sr. High School Foreign Language Teacher, Masters- 30, Salary \$24,243, Effective January 24, 2007.

d. Patricia Pepler as 0.5 FTE Half-Year, Sr. High School Reading Specialist, Step 25, M – 30, Salary \$36,680.27, Effective on or about January 22, 2007.

f. *Brian Kennedy as Jr. High School Wrestling Coach,

Stipend \$3,604, effective for the 2006 – 2007 season

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

a. Letter of Resignation from Eileen Ferri, for the purpose of retirement, from her position as a Grade 6 Elementary Teacher at Metcalf School, with regret, effective February 5, 2007.

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

a. Deborah St. Pierre as 1.0 FTE, Half-Year, (first semester) Sr. High School English Teacher – hired to fill in for a teacher on sabbatical leave.

C. Bills – In the amount of \$284,211.77

D. Home School Approvals

E. End Consent Agenda

Chair DeSack reviewed the correspondence.

Correspondence (1) January 9, 2007 RI Department of Health letter Regarding Distribution of Hand Sanitizing Gel, (2) Memo to the School

Committee Regarding Maintenance at Metcalf School, (3) Envelope Addressed to Individual School Committee Members from Carolyn Quiterio and Stephanie Gratt

Superintendent Geismar referenced Correspondence (1) and advised members that the estimated cost to maintain the refilling of the state mandated hand-sanitizing dispensers for the remainder of the school year is \$23,360. Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley has conducted a cost comparison study and has found that this state bid list price is the least costly available. Members and Administrators exchanged views and ideas concerning this matter. In response to Member Munroe's recommendation, Superintendent Geismar agreed to research different types of dispensers. Other suggested aspects to research were bulk pricing and appropriate placement of dispensers. Consensus of the committee was to continue this item to a future agenda for further discussion following Administrations' completion of its analysis.

Budget 2007 – 2008 – Superintendent Geismar expressed his appreciation for the hard work that staff and principals are doing throughout the budget process. Member Bollengier distributed budget analysis booklets that he created for members to review. He advised that Director of Administration Robert Ross has not yet had the opportunity to review this document. Chair DeSack said that this document may be discussed at the next budget workshop.

NEW BUSINESS – AP Chemistry Fume Hood Vents Purchase – Superintendent Geismar gave a brief overview of the Senior High School AP Chemistry Lab Renovation project components. Dr. Geismar requested the committee approve Torrado Architect’s proposal for task order #2 in the amount of \$6,585.00 in order for the project to progress toward completion. Director of Administration Robert Ross said that he estimates the AP Chemistry Lab Renovation project will exceed the \$35,000.00 approved as a District Capital Request in the 2006/2007 budget due to unforeseen venting issues and emergency shutoff issues. Chair DeSack expressed concern regarding underestimating the cost of the project to taxpayers at last year’s District Financial Meeting. Members asked clarifying questions.

Member Bollengier moved to approve \$6,585.00 to keep the project moving. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 7 – 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Metcalf Fire Alarm - Update – Superintendent Geismar reported that Attorney Gorham has advised that AFA has withdrawn their amendment to the Metcalf School fire alarm system project contract and he has given his approval to move forward.

Director of Administration Robert Ross explained that AFA is in the

process of forwarding the required submittals to Torrado Architect for approval and the project will begin as soon as possible thereafter. Mr. Ross referred to Torrado Task Order #3 – Door and Window Replacement at Metcalf School - (Phase 2 – Egress component). In response to Chair DeSack's inquiry, Mr. Ross confirmed that Torrado Task Order #3 will be inline with what is acceptable and was ordered by the State Fire Board Appeal and Review and the fire marshal, which by order of the State Fire Board must be completed during the summer of 2007, and which is eligible for Housing Aid reimbursement in June 2007 and June 2008. Mr. Ross and members discussed the financial aspect of this Capital Fund project. In response to Member Bollengier's inquiry, Mr. Ross explained that should the voters decline to approve additional funding for this project at the District Financial Meeting in April 2007, as long as a surplus exists in the General Fund and Capital Fund. The district may draw funds from both to pay for the project.

Member Bollengier moved, in light of Mr. Ross' explanation, for the approval of what is identified as Task Order 3 in the amount of \$14,490.00 be paid to Torrado and Associates out of the Capital Fund. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 7 – 0.

In response to Member Maher's inquiry, Mr. Ross agreed to speak with AFA about starting the project during February vacation, but said that he hopes they will begin sooner.

Schedule a School Committee Retreat to Discuss Rules on Bylaws – After a brief discussion, consensus of the committee was to table this item for further discussion after the District Financial Meeting at the regular April school committee meeting.

SAT Prep Course Program – Superintendent Geismar reported that he was able to reach an agreement with the Teachers' Association regarding the compensation for the 30-hour SAT Prep Course Program instructor position. The instructor will receive the teacher's hourly rate of pay as well as compensation for prep time. The Superintendent plans to meet with the Association again in order to establish the amount of prep time needed. Superintendent Geismar and Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley answered members clarifying questions and members and Administrators expressed views and thoughts regarding curriculum development, instructor qualifications, cost effectiveness, outside programs, student enrollment incentives, methods for measuring success, and perhaps incorporating the program into the curriculum as a credited elective course that student could take during the regular school day or after school hours. In response to Member Walsh's recommendation, Superintendent Geismar said that he will investigate if the district can legally establish a course payment plan that offers student reimbursement upon completion of the course and whether the concept is worth looking into. Principal Boulé said the program may begin as soon as the job posting process is complete. Administrators will investigate incorporating the program into the curriculum as a credited elective

course. Administration will prepare a job description and advertise the vacancy and the program may begin thereafter.

Emergency Response Communications – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that he conducted a broad investigation of Homeland Security grant awards availability and found that most of those types of grants are set up for municipalities and not for school districts. He emphasized that there is a need for these communication devices and that this proposal includes a good price and an e-rate reimbursement.

Chair DeSack moved to allow the purchase of communication devices at a cost of \$9,597.60 per year. Seconded by Member Walsh.

Members and Administrators discussed formulating a policy or user contract in order to avoid misuse of the devices. Chair DeSack recommended disabling the text messaging feature. Mr. Ross emphasized that the School Committees' approval of purchasing these devices will afford the district to be in a better place to respond in the event of an emergency. Member Maher extended his appreciation to Mr. Ross for his efforts in investigating grant funding.

Voted 7 – 0.

Policies – Review and Adoption - #6205 – Employee Protection from Bloodborne Pathogens – Adoption – Clerk Coutcher moved to adopt

Policy #6205 – Employee Protection from Bloodborne Pathogens.

Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – Chair DeSack reverted back to the item that she requested be pulled from the consent agenda, B., 1., e. Request to hire 0.5 FTE half-Year, Sr. High School Special Education Teacher, Salary \$23,476, Effective on or about February 14, 2007 and asked for clarification as to what is being requested. Superintendent Geismar confirmed that this is not a new FTE position, but is to fill a vacancy for a teacher who has taken a newly posted 0.5 FTE position.

Member Maher moved to accept consent agenda item, B., 1., e. Request to hire 0.5 FTE half-Year, Sr. High School Special Education Teacher, Salary \$23,476, Effective on or about February 14, 2007 . Seconded by Clerk Coutcher.

In response to Member Bollengier’s inquiry, Superintendent Geismar clarified that the stipend amount mentioned in consent agenda items B., 1., a. and b. will be shared by the appointees.

Voted 7 – 0.

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Tuesday, January 30, 2007 Senior High School, Districtwide/Facilities/Athletics Budget Workshop; Wednesday, January 31, 2007 – Town Council/School Committee Joint Meeting; Thursday, February 1, 2007 – Budget

Workshop (if needed); February 13, 2007 – School Committee Meeting; February 19, 2007 – Presidents’ Day; February 19-23 – Winter Recess; February 27k 2007 – School Committee Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Chair DeSack moved to go into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-26-5 (a) (9) – Collective Bargaining Agreement – Grievance(s) and 42-46-5 (a) (2) – Collective Bargaining Agreement/Negotiation Discussion. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 7 – 0.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:030 p.m.

Chair DeSack moved to reconvene to Open Session. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 9:12 p.m.

Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in Open Session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-2 (b) at 9:12 p.m.

A vote was taken during Executive Session to fill vacated seat on upcoming teacher contract negotiation team.

ADJOURNMENT – Member Maher moved to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 7 – 0. Meeting adjourned 9:15

p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK