

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH February 13, 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; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Frank Maher; Bill Munroe; Robert Bollengier, and Mary Walsh. Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson arrived at 7:05 p.m. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo; and Student Member Geoffrey Southworth were present. Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; was absent.**

**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 – Wawaloam Literacy Coach and Reading Recovery teacher Deborah Blake gave an overview of informational data that she provided to support the cost effectiveness of the literacy program as it pertains to possible future budget cuts and she reviewed data showing the impact the literacy program has on students and teachers.**

**Vice Chair Cicero arrived at this time.**

**Grade 1 teacher Susan Wieboldt expressed her views on the importance of keeping the availability of a coaching staff in the district, and asked members to reconsider cutting these programs in order for the district to continue on its road of high performing. Literacy Coach Maureen Pontarelli asked members to consider other options when making budget cuts and to put priorities in the right place. A parent of students in grades K, 1, and 5 expressed her concerns regarding the potential cuts in the Reading Recovery and Literacy Coach positions. She asked members to seek alternative options.**

**Parent Patricia D'Andrea restated her concerns with the cleanliness of Metcalf School. Chair DeSack asked Ms. D'Andrea to first bring her concerns to Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley and Principal Boyce. Chair DeSack asked Ms. D'Andrea to contact her if her concerns are not suitably addressed so that this item can be added to a future agenda for discussion.**

**PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Geoffrey Southworth reported that the Sr. High School Drama Department will be presenting “Little Shops of Horrors” from March 8 – March 11 and invited all to attend. He then gave a brief overview of past and upcoming scheduled events at the high school. He**

**informed members that in support of recent fire victims (Metcalf teachers) Lenore Dorson and Denise Sherman a PASTA DINNER will be held on Friday, March 16th in the Metcalf School cafeteria from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices - \$10 Adults; \$5 Students**

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**Facilities Presentation – Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley gave an overview of his February 13th Maintenance Report and detailed his concerns regarding pending repairs/improvements of the district’s facilities. Mr. Plumley expressed that all of the items listed in his February 13, 2007 Maintenance Report need to be completed and that he is petitioning the School Committee to provide a solution to fund the necessary improvements. Consensus of the committee was that Mr. Plumley will attend the upcoming scheduled School Committee/Town Council Joint Meeting on March 1, 2007 and will bring along a copy of his Maintenance Report for further review and discussion.**

**ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda. Referencing items B., 3., a., Superintendent Geismar expressed thanks to Metcalf Custodian Frank Frisella for his many years of service to the district and said that Frank will be missed. Vice Chair Cicero also expressed her sentiments that Frank Frisella has done a great job of serving the**

**district. It was noted that on Friday, March 16, 2007, there will be a breakfast celebration honoring Mr. Frisella at 8:00 a.m. in the Metcalf Cafeteria.**

**Referencing items B., 5., a., Superintendent Geismar expressed that the non renewal list is a difficult list which he is required by law to bring before the School Committee prior to March 1st. Dr. Geismar expressed that at the end of the budget process, this rather large list may affect very few job positions, if any at all. He also noted that the list is much larger than he would like it to be, but is necessary in order to meet the budget constraints the district is faced with.**

**Member Maher moved to pull consent agenda item, B. Personnel Item, 2. Leaves of Absence, a. Request for an extension of Leave of Absence without pay from Larry Purtill, from his position as Sr. High School History Teacher, for the 2007 – 2008 and 2008 – 2009 school years and to table it for an Executive Session, pending the discretion of the Chairperson. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0.**

**Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the consent agenda with item, B., 2., a. pulled. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 7 – 0.**

**The following items were approved:**

**A. Approval of Minutes – Joint Meeting Minutes of January 31, 2007; Regular Minutes of January 23, 2007; Executive Session Minutes of**

**January 23, 2007**

**B. Personnel Items**

**1. Appointments**

**a. Valerie Druken as 0.5 FTE District wide Nurse/Teacher, Step 3, BS, Salary - \$25,602.00, effective on or about February 14, 2007**

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**b. Benjamin Blackett as Junior High School Theater Drama Advisor, Stipend - \$1,374.00, effective for the 2006 – 2007 school year**

**2. Leaves of Absence**

**3. Resignations**

**a. Letter of Resignation from Frank Frisella, for the purpose of retirement, from his position as 1.0 FTE Custodian at Metcalf Elementary School, with regret Teacher at Metcalf School, with regret, effective February 5, 2007.**

**4. Grievances**

**5. Non-Renewals**

**a. See Attached INITIAL List**

**C. Bills – In the amount of \$173,468.08**

## **D. Home School Approvals**

## **E. End Consent Agenda**

**Chair DeSack reviewed the correspondence.**

**Correspondence – (1) January 17, 2007 signed Agreement regarding the Art Club stipend amount; (2) October 2006 Memo to School Committee Members and Informational Pamphlet regarding SAT Prep Alternative Solutions; (3) New England Winter '07 Student Paths; (4) Winter 2007 FOCUS Newsletter; (5) Memo, Invoice, and P.O. in response to Member Bollengier's 1/23/2007 inquiry regarding C. Bills - US Games, Inc. expenditure**

**Monthly Budget Projection 2006 - 2007 – In response to Member Bollengier's inquiry, Director of Administration Robert Ross confirmed that members will receive Monthly Budget Projection Reports at each School Committee Business meeting.**

**Budget 2007 - 2008 – Superintendent Geismar explained that he will bring his proposed 2007 – 2008 Budget to the committee at its next regular meeting. He gave an overview of the recommendations he will present at that time. Dr. Geismar emphasized that his recommendations are in the best interest of all, while dealing with multi-year budget cap issues and continuing to move in the correct**

**direction. Some members voiced their concerns regarding providing and tracking reading support services and the need to assure that all students requiring this service receive it.**

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**MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS – Superintendent – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding the Monthly Status Reports.**

**Business –**

**Curriculum –**

**Special Education –**

**Maintenance –**

**Technology –**

**NEW BUSINESS – Hand Sanitizer Dispensers – After discussing the current status of the state mandated hand sanitizer dispensers with members, Superintendent Geismar said that he plans to research the state requirements and to report back to the committee with a plan to provide the dispensers in the most cost effective way.**

**EWG Sports for Kids Access Road and Parking Request – EWG Sports for Kids committee members Ron Correia and Sharon Pelsler spoke with members regarding the necessity to construct an access**

road into the site of the planned track and field in order to gain immediate access for construction vehicles, emergency vehicles, and for the disabled; and the necessity to construct additional parking. Mr. Correia said that EWG Sports for Kids anticipates starting this project within 30 – 60 days. He and Mrs. Pelsler, Administrators, and members had an in-depth discussion regarding funding, disruption of school activities, construction vehicles onsite, maintenance and/or damage to the roads on campus, managing traffic patterns, the fall sports' schedule, and alternate playing/practice fields for fall sports. Members Bollengier and Munroe voiced their concerns that construction vehicles may damage the roads on campus. Member Munroe emphasized that he would like EWG Sports for Kids to sign a guarantee to repair damages construction vehicles will cause to school property and to post a bond. In response to Mrs. Pelsler's indication that fall sports teams might possibly be able to play on the home field next fall, Member Bollengier voiced his opinion that using a brand-new field, within the first year of construction, will destroy the complex. Member Bollengier voiced his concerns regarding agreements for utilizing alternate playing/practice fields. Consensus of the committee was to have Athletic Director Steve McGrane attend the first regular School Committee meeting in April to present an outline of his plans for the fall sport schedule. In response to Member Bollengier's clarifying questions regarding culverts as indicated on the plans provided, Mr. Correia reported that an engineer has confirmed that there are no wetland issues.

**Vice Chair Cicero moved to approve the plan submitted by EWG Sports for Kids to develop an access road and parking area, as depicted in the documents here. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher.**

**Members asked Mr. Correia additional clarifying questions regarding potential road damage. Mr. Correia indicated EWG Sports for Kids has a 10% contingency plan in place. Member Munroe reiterated his concerns regarding damage to the roads on campus**

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**and emphasized again that he wants EWG Sports for Kids to provide a written guarantee to pay to repair road damages caused by construction vehicles. Clerk Coutcher voiced his opinion that the school district will ultimately receive a \$600,000 track for \$50,000 and it is well worth it. He said that EWG Sports for Kids needs the access road to begin this project and if the district has to make minimum repairs he is in agreement.**

**Vice Chair Cicero called the vote.**

**Member Bollengier made one final clarifying comment to reinforce that if the committee approves the motion, the committee is saying it is accepting the possibility that the district may or may not need to pay to make repairs not included in the project. Superintendent Geismar said that it is reasonable to expect the roads may need to be**

**fixed, but that EWG Sports for Kids does have a \$60,000 contingency fund in place. Chair DeSack said that the organization has not led the district to believe that it would leave potential road repairs undone. Vice Chair Cicero voiced her opinion that EWG Sports for Kids is dedicated to the district.**

**The motion on the floor was restated.**

**Voted 6 – 1. Member Munroe voted No**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Metcalf Fire Alarm - Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that the awarded service provider AFA is scheduled to be on site on Friday, February 16, 2007 to begin the preliminary work and that project procedures are moving along smoothly. AFA plans to work during February vacation and to accomplish 50% of the work by next week. AFA will shift to an evening schedule thereafter.**

**REPORTS/COMMENTS – None**

**IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS –February 19, 2007 – Notice to Board of Canvassers; February 19, 2007 – Presidents’ Day; February 19 - 23 – Winter Recess; February 27, 2007 – School Committee Meeting; March 1, 2007 – Joint Meeting; March 13, 2007 – School Committee Meeting**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Vice Chair**

**Cicero moved to go into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (a) (2) – Collective Bargaining Agreement/Negotiation Discussion; and 42-46-5 (2) – Robert S. vs. Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District – Discussion Regarding Pending Litigation. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 7 – 0.**

**Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 9:05 p.m.**

**Chair DeSack moved to reconvene to Open Session. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero.**

**Voted 7 – 0.**

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**Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 10:15 p.m.**

**No votes were taken during Executive Session.**

**ADJOURNMENT – Clerk Coutcher moved to adjourn at 10:15 p.m. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0. Meeting adjourned 10:15 p.m.**

**ROBIN CERIO**

**CLERK**