

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH March 27, 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; Robert Bollengier, and Mary Walsh. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo; and Student Member Geoffrey Southworth were present. Member Bill Munroe arrived at 7:10 p.m. Director of Administration Robert V. Ross was absent.

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

OPEN FORUM – None

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Geoffrey Southworth exclaimed that the senior high school student body is happy due to the springtime weather. He gave a brief overview of band activities/performances and reminded members

that, due to inclement weather, the Pasta Dinner benefiting fire victims has been rescheduled from March 16th to March 30th.

Achievements/Recognitions – Superintendent Geismar recognized students

Kara Chelo – Grade 12, Khiara LaBrie – Grade 12, Claudia Heaney - Grade 8, and Ashley Peltier – Grade 6. He presented each of them with an Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District Recognition Award for their tremendous athletic and academic achievements. Kara was recognized for qualifying to represent the United States at the Synchronized Skating World Challenge Cup for Juniors in Nottingham, Great Britain in March 2007; Khiara was recognized for her win as RI Interscholastic League Individual State Gymnastics Champion this year; Claudia Heaney was recognized for placing 1st in this year's annual District Spelling Bee; and Ashley Peltier was recognized for placing 2nd in this year's annual District Spelling Bee. Superintendent Geismar expressed how proud he is of these young ladies and thanked them for their representation of the school district.

Metcalf School Presentation – Principal Boyce welcomed all to Metcalf School and she and Vice Principal Fish gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting Metcalf School's assessment scores, goals, programs, teams, academics, after school activities, SALT survey results, and discipline comparison report. Teacher Lenore Dorson offered reviews of past performances and activities held through an

Arts Reach Curriculum Development Grant. Under the direction of music teacher Caroline Scheff, grades 3 and 4 choral students performed. And band director Stacey Place led members of the 6th grade after

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school band in a performance. Principal Boyce extended thanks to the teachers and students for all their efforts.

Chair DeSack called a brief recess at this time, (8:00 p.m.).

Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in Open Session at 8:10 p.m.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Member Munroe requested consent agenda items, A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2007 and Executive Session Minutes of March 13, 2007 be pulled for discussion near the conclusion of tonight's meeting.

Vice Chair Cicero requested consent agenda item, B. Personnel Items, 1. Appointments, b. Sandra Carter as 1.0 FTE Special

Education Teacher Assistant at Wawaloam School, Salary \$3,357 – temporary position for the remainder of the 2006 – 2007 school year be pulled for discussion near the conclusion of tonight’s meeting.

Member Bollengier asked for clarification regarding consent agenda item, C. Bills, page 2, Membership Dues c/o Linda Celona. Superintendent Geismar confirmed that this expenditure is for District Treasurer Kate LaCroix’s and Director of Administration Robert Ross’ RI Association of School Business Officials membership dues and that Linda Celona maintains that membership.

Member Maher moved to accept the consent agenda with items, A. Approval of Minutes and B., 1., 2. pulled. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 7 – 0.

The following items were approved:

B. Personnel Items – (No Change to FTE’s)

1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Gerald Boucher as Sr. High School Girls’ Track Coach, Stipend \$3,604 - effective for the 2006 – 2007 school year

c. Eric McMahon as Volunteer Senior High School Boys’ Volleyball Assistant Coach, effective for the 2008 – 2007 season

forming a subcommittee to review the function of collaborative classrooms. She asked members to consider approving the creation of a subcommittee and to decide who will serve on it. Vice Chair Cicero expressed her opinion that the subcommittee should consists of two to three School Committee members, one parent of a regular education student, one parent of a special education student; who has had a child in a collaborative classroom, one regular education teacher, one special education teacher, one grade-level appropriate building administrator, and the Special Education Director. Chair DeSack said that the goal of the subcommittee is, upon completion of its review, to report back to the School Committee on whether collaborative classrooms function well or are in need of improvement. Special Education Director Maureen DeCrescenzo reported that presently there are twenty-six K – 12 collaborative classrooms and she recommended that the subcommittee begin its review at the elementary level.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to approve the creation of a subcommittee to look at collaborative model review. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 7 – 0.

Member Walsh and Vice Chair Cicero volunteered to serve on the Collaborative Model Review subcommittee. Chair DeSack asked that they keep the School Committee informed of their meeting notes.

Emergency Generator - Metcalf – Superintendent Geismar introduced

Tom McMillan of the Exeter Emergency Management Agency and gave a brief review of a March 20, 2007 memo from Director of Administration Robert Ross regarding Metcalf School Emergency Electric Power Generator. The Superintendent explained that he and Mr. Ross met with Mr. McMillan last week and discussed potential events of emergency that may require Metcalf School to be used as a shelter. The Superintendent said that Mr. McMillan, on behalf of the town of Exeter, is inquiring about the willingness of the

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School Committee to split the cost of a generator hookup. Dr. Geismar recommended the committee grant the Town of Exeter's request to fund 50% or \$7,500; whichever is less, of the cost of the electrical hookup for the emergency generator at Metcalf School. Member Munroe voiced his concerns and recommended that prior to approving this expenditure, the committee should make certain that the generator is the proper size to service the building. Mr. McMillan reported that an outside firm, hired by the State of RI and the Emergency Management Agency, has conducted a study to determine what size generator is needed, the generator purchased is large enough to service the entire building, and the electrical load in the building will serve the entire building without rearranging the existing circuitry. Mr. McMillan, Superintendent Geismar, and Members had a lengthy discussion, asked clarifying questions, and exchanged opinions and views regarding the pros and cons of

funding the hookup. Superintendent Geismar expressed his opinion that this request was not unreasonable and that this is a nominal amount to expend in exchange for the use of a generator. Member Munroe expressed his concerns that the district is shared; therefore, the committee needs to determine if both towns should contribute, since West Greenwich residents would not be turned away in the event of an emergency. And he said that he wishes to first review documentation confirming that the generator is the correct size to service the building, to make certain that this is not the same generator that Exeter Job Corp. refused because it was not big enough. He emphasized that prior to the School Committee agreeing to fund the hook up; both of these concerns should be answered. Member Bollengier voiced his view that he does not perceive this funding as a function of the School Committee and questions why the school district, with its limited funds, would be asked to pay for something that is the responsibility of the town. Member Bollengier clarified that he is not objecting to using the school as an emergency shelter. Member Walsh suggested Member Bollengier look at this as the school receiving a generator for \$7,500. Clerk Coutcher referenced School Committee packet enclosure, Memo of Understanding – Emergency Generator Metcalf School, - 3. The School recognizes that the generator system is, and will be documented as, the property of the Town, to remain in use at the Metcalf School as long as the Metcalf School serves as an emergency shelter for the Town and that it may/will be removed by the Town should the Metcalf School cease to be a shelter for the Town and said

that although he agrees with both Member Bollengier and Member Walsh, if the town chooses to remove the generator, the district will have wasted \$7,500. Member Munroe suggested funding may cost the district more than \$7,500 since diesel fuel will need to be stored for the generator. Chair DeSack said that the School Committee needs additional information concerning the maintenance, and fuel expenses; and clarification regarding the language of the Memo of Understanding – Emergency Generator Metcalf School; particularly 3. and 4., and clarification of who determines whether Metcalf School is a shelter or not. Chair DeSack said that this item will be tabled to the next regular school committee meeting of April 10, 2007. She asked Mr. McMillan to take the committees' concerns to the town of Exeter and to come back with the requested information.

Approval of Upgrade to HTE Financial Package – Superintendent Geismar reminded members that this matter had been previously discussed during budget workshops and

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reiterated that this upgrade is necessary since the current financial, personnel, and fixed asset software program is outdated and will no longer be supported by the vendor. He confirmed that the fiscal impact for this software upgrade is \$36,900 which was previously earmarked to the current school year budget. Member Munroe said that he will check to see if this item is indeed in last year's budget, as

he does not remember the committee approving it last year.

Member Bollengier moved to approve what is marked as Item # 0006 - request to approve the purchase of financial, personnel, and capital assets software upgrade. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 6 – 0 – 1. Member Munroe abstained with an explanation. He said that he recalls budgeting Article 31 funds for (hardware) for the upcoming year, but is unsure about the \$36,900 disbursement. He said that will check to see where the School Committee approved that last year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Metcalf Fire Alarm – Update – Superintendent Geismar said that there is nothing new to report at this time concerning the Metcalf Fire Alarm installation project.

Letter from Senator Breene – Chair DeSack said that she spoke with Senator Breene and that he said there is no need to respond to his letter since he understands that the information was delivered to School Committee members and how it was delivered. Member Bollengier asked Chair DeSack to clarify, in order to show accurate reflection in the School Committee minutes, if Senator Breen is retracting his letter. Chair DeSack said that this item will carry over to next agenda.

Policies – Review and Adoption - #7605 – Promotion Retention Policy – Adoption – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adopt Policy #7605 – Promotion Retention Policy. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 –

0.

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS –Friday, April 6, 2007 – Good Friday; Monday, April 9, 2007 – District Financial Meeting; Tuesday, April 10, 2007 – School Committee Meeting; April 16 – 20, 2007 – Spring Recess; Tuesday, April 24, 2007 – School Committee Meeting

REPORTS/COMMENTS – Chair DeSack reverted back to item(s) pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Member Munroe pulled consent agenda items, B. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2007 and Executive Session Minutes of March 13, 2007. Referencing Executive Session Minutes of March 13, 2007, a. iii., he requested the minutes be modified to reflect that he was against the committees' consensus. Clerk Coutcher will amend the March 13, 2007 Executive Session minutes to reflect Member Munroe's objection. Member Munroe agreed that the Regular Minutes of March 13, 2007 did not need to be discussed after all.

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Vice Chair Cicero pulled consent agenda item B. Personnel Items, 1. Appointments, a. Sandra Carter as 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher Assistant at Wawaloam School, Salary \$3,357 - temporary position for the remainder of the 2006 - 2007 school year and asked clarifying

questions. Director of Special Education Maureen DeCrescenzo confirmed that this position, will service the Alternative Learning Program at Wawaloam and two additional collaborative classrooms for the remainder of the 2006/07 school year, is a temporary position, and will be funded by IDEA funds. She said that this position has been created in response to challenging student behaviors in order to lend support to resolving these issues. She confirmed that this position will no longer be needed after June 2007.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to approve consent agenda items, B. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of March 13, 2007; Executive Session Minutes of March 13, 2007 as modified; B. Personnel Items, 1. Appointments, a. Sandra Carter as 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher Assistant at Wawaloam School, Salary \$3,357 – temporary position for the remainder of the 2006 – 2007 school year. Seconded by Member Bollinger. Voted 7 – 0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Vice Chair Cicero moved to go into Executive Session at 9:07 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (a) (9) – Collective Bargaining Agreement – Grievance(s); 42-26-5 (a)(2) – Collective Bargaining Agreement/Negotiation Discussion; 42-26-5 (a)(2) – Robert S. vs. Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District – Discussion Regarding Pending Litigation; 42-46-5 (a) (2) – Alex T. – Resolution Update; and 42-46-5 (a) (1) – Personnel – Sick Leave. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 9:07 p.m.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to reconvene to Open Session. Seconded by Member Walsh.

Voted 7 – 0.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 10:25 p.m.

During Executive Session the School Committee took two votes.

The committee voted 6 – 1 to allow teachers to donate their sick days to another teacher. Member Munroe voted no, and stated he would go public and name names of the committee members who voted to support this motion, claiming they are wasting taxpayer money.

The second vote taken during Executive Session was 6 – 1 in favor that if Member Munroe were to go public with his stance that he would not be representing the School Committee. Member Munroe voted no.

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ADJOURNMENT – Chair DeSack moved to adjourn at 10:26 p.m. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 7 – 0. Meeting adjourned 10:26 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK