

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH April 10, 2007

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 6:30 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 Mary Walsh. Member Robert Bollengier was absent. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Chair DeSack moved to go into Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 and in accordance with RIGL 42-46-5(a)(8) for Student Disciplinary Hearing, written notice having been provided to the individual informing him/her of the right to hold the hearing in open session. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0.

Meeting moved to Executive Session at 7:15 p.m.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 8:05 p.m.

A vote was taken during Executive Session to accept the

Superintendent's recommendation for disciplinary action. Voted 5 – 1. Member Munroe voted no.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in open session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-2(b) at 8:05 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 summary regarding senior high school sports and the upcoming senior portfolio art shows. He also reported that a number of senior high school students will be traveling to Italy over April vacation.

High School Presentation – Chair DeSack reported that Principal Boulé has requested the High School Presentation be postponed, since some students involved in her presentation had to leave due to the delayed start of this evening's meeting.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to carryover agenda item, Senior High School Presentation to the next regular School Committee meeting. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 6 – 0.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Geismar

gave an overview of the Consent Agenda. Referencing consent agenda item B., 1., a., the Superintendent noted that at the next regular School Committee meeting this candidate's

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name will be brought to the committee for non-renewal. Referencing consent agenda item B., 1., b., the Superintendent pointed out that enclosed in tonight's supplemental packet is a copy of this candidate's Background Check Investigation - with fingerprinting. Referencing consent agenda item, B., 3., a., the Superintendent announced that he brings Principal Myers' resignation forward with sadness. He said that although he is happy for Principal Myers, he is sad for the district to see her go. He expressed appreciation of Principal Myers' early notice which allows ample time to search for her replacement.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 6 – 0.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session Minutes of February 7, 2007; Joint Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2007; Regular Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2007; Executive Session Minutes of March 27, 2007

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Michelle Curran appointed to 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher position, Salary \$13,446.50 effective February 2, 2007, for the remainder of the 2006 – 2007 school year

b. Asa Davis appointed as Jr. High School Baseball Coach, Stipend \$2,756 effective for the 2006 – 2007 season, contingent upon receipt of fingerprint background check

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations – (As Recommended by the Superintendent, with regret)

a. Letter of resignation from Patricia Myers from her position as Principal of Lineham and Wawaloam Schools, with regret, effective June 30, 2007

4. Grievances

B. Bills – (ENCLOSED) – In the amount of \$72,069.67

End Consent Agenda

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Chair DeSack reviewed the Correspondence.

Correspondence – (1) Information from Nancy Daley regarding Personal Conference Request Reports from teachers, (2) April 5, 2007 Memo and information from Superintendent Geismar regarding Larry Purtill; (3) March 28, 2007 E-mail to Superintendent Geismar regarding Happy Homework workshop; (4) Revised Executive Session Minutes of March 13, 2007; (5) Confidential Correspondence Regarding Robert S. vs. Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District

MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS – Superintendent’s Status Report – Members did not voice any questions or concerns regarding the Superintendent’s Status Report.

Business Status Report – Members did not voice any questions or concerns regarding the Business Status Report.

Curriculum Status Report – Members did not voice any questions or concerns regarding the Curriculum Status Report.

Special Education Status Report – Members did not voice any questions or concerns regarding the Special Education Status Report.

Maintenance Status Report – Members did not voice any questions or concerns regarding the Maintenance Status Report.

Technology Status Report – Members did not voice any questions or concerns regarding the Technology Status Report.

MONTHLY BUDGET PROJECTION 2006 – 2007 – Members did not voice any questions or concerns regarding the monthly budget projection.

NEW BUSINESS – Student Hearing – This item was discussed beforehand during Executive Session.

Fall Sports Schedule – Since the high school football field will potential be unavailable this fall due to the construction plans of EWG Sports for Kids, Athletic Director Steven McGrane advised the committee that he has met with the EWG Youth Soccer Board and that they have graciously granted permission to the district to play and practice at the town field on Rt. 102 in West Greenwich next fall. Referencing the football team fall schedule, Mr. McGrane reported that the Athletic Director and Superintendent of Coventry School

Department approved the use of Coventry's field next season. Superintendent Geismar said that Superintendent Di Pietro indicated to him that EWG will be allowed to use the concession stand as well. Mr. McGrane said that he will forward letters of thanks to both the EWG Youth Soccer Board and the Coventry School Department.

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Review and Provide Feedback to SORICO Regarding their Goals – Superintendent Geismar gave a brief overview defining SORICO (Southern Rhode Island Collaborative). He said that SORICO has requested that he bring forth their goals to the members of the EWG School Committee for review and to request that they provide feedback/suggestions. Chair DeSack asked members to bring any feedback they may have, in written form, to the next regular School Committee meeting of April 24, 2007.

Memorandum of Agreement – Superintendent Geismar referenced packet enclosure Memorandum of Understanding Regarding JHS Schedule Change (July 2007) and said that the MOA is what is in place at the Jr. High School - (D.A.R.E. Program), the Teachers' Association has signed off on the MOA, and it is working well. He requested that the committee ratify the MOA in the Jr. High School.

Clerk Coutcher moved to ratify the MOA in the junior high school schedule change.

Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 5 – 1. Member Munroe voted no.

Principal Search – Superintendent Geismar and members discussed beginning the process to develop a search committee to hire a new principal at Wawaloam School. Member Munroe asked that the committee consider promoting a vice principal or hiring from within, rather than searching for a new replacement. Chair DeSack said that during the budget process the committee did not make any budgetary decisions to eliminate an administrator. Clerk Coutcher and Vice Chair Cicero volunteered to serve as School Committee representatives on the search committee. The Superintendent will move forward with posting the vacancy and seeking out parent and staff volunteers to serve on the search committee.

Police Officer at Meetings – Vice Chair Cicero expressed her opinion that the committee should have a police officer in attendance at all future School Committee meetings.

Vice Chair Cicero moved that the committee have a police officer present at all School Committee meetings until further notice. Seconded by Member Walsh.

Members exchanged their opinions regarding the need to employ a police officer at meetings in order to keep orderly control, the approximate cost of employing an officer, and the right of the

committee to vote to remove a member from a meeting due to disorderly conduct. Members debated the cause for removing a member from a meeting and Member Munroe suggested that such action may incur potential liability. Member Maher called the vote. Chair DeSack repeated the motion on the table – to have a police officer present at all School Committee meetings until further notice. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 5 – 1. Member Munroe voted no.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS –Emergency Generator – Metcalf – Thomas McMillan of the Exeter Emergency Management and School Committee members discussed the amended Memorandum of Agreement that Mr. McMillan distributed at this evening’s meeting. It was determined that the Exeter Emergency Management will provide the funds needed to fuel the generator through a supplier, including self-testing by the supplier. Member Munroe reiterated his concerns regarding whether or not the town of West Greenwich should share in the costs associated with the emergency generator since Metcalf School is the property of the district.

Member Maher moved to approve the installation of the generator at Metcalf School - at 50% of the installation - not to exceed \$7,500 - by the school district. Seconded by Member Walsh.

In response to Member Munroe's inquiry, Director of Administration Robert Ross confirmed that funding for this installation shall come from the 2006 – 2007 budget. Member Munroe expressed his opinion that the 06/07 General Fund surplus may need to be used for health care expenses. Member Maher expressed his opinion that this is a worthwhile investment and said that based on the funds available, the committee should approve the installation. Chair DeSack said that, #2 - sentence two, of the Memorandum of Agreement – “Should the Metcalf School cease to be a shelter by decision of the Town or the School, the Town is required by the Grantor to relocate it to a subsequent shelter for the continued benefit of the Town” – will need to be amended to read – “Should the Metcalf School cease to be a shelter by decision of the Town and the School...” Superintendent Geismar expressed his concerns regarding the Memorandum of Agreement language relating to the maintenance of the system by the school. He said that the district needs the maintenance of the system to be defined prior to training district staff in order to make sure that the district has the ability to maintain the system properly.

Member Maher said that he will amend his motion to include - pending full approval of all recommended changes to the Memorandum of Agreement.

Chair DeSack clarified that if the committee votes to approve the

motion on the table, the committee agrees to fund part of the installation - not to exceed \$7,500 - once the committee agrees on the Memorandum of Agreement language and agrees to the responsibilities of the school district in the process.

The clerk read back the motion made by Member Maher, with the added amendment:

Member Maher moved to approve the installation of the generator at Metcalf School, at 50% of the installation, not to exceed \$7,500, by the school district, pending full approval of all recommended changes to the Memorandum of Agreement. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 5 – 1. Member Munroe voted no.

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Chair DeSack directed Superintendent Geismar to obtain all the recommended changes to the Memorandum of Agreement and to bring the changes to next regular School Committee meeting.

Letter from Senator Breene – Vice Chair Cicero moved to move agenda item Letter to Senator Breene to the next regular School Committee meeting. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 6 – 0.

Metcalf Fire Alarm – Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that he anticipates the Metcalf fire alarm project will be

completed within the next couple weeks. In response to Member Maher's inquiry regarding testing the new system, Mr. Ross reported that testing should take place next week (during spring recess). The bid-specs for Phase 2 of the project (the Egress portion) are currently with the engineer and a bid packet will be forwarded shortly. Mr. Ross said that the target date for completion of Phase 2 is the end of this summer.

Final Budget 2007 – 2008 – Superintendent Geismar explained this item was placed on tonight's agenda as a place holder incase there were issues to discuss concerning last evening's District Financial Meeting. Member Munroe said that he had one issue concerning the manner in which the resolution was presented. Member Munroe will forward a summary of his concerns relating to this issue to the Superintendent so that this item can be added to the next regular meeting agenda for discussion.

REPORTS/COMMENTS - None

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – April 16-20, 2007 – Spring Recess; Tuesday, April 24, 2007 – School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, May 8, 2007 – School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, May 22, 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 8:58 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (a) (9) – Collective Bargaining Agreement – Potential Litigation; and 42-46-5 (a) (2) – Collective Bargaining Agreement/Negotiation Discussion. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 6 – 0.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:58 p.m.

Chair DeSack moved to reconvene to Open Session. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 6 – 0.

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

No votes were taken during Executive Session.

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ADJOURNMENT – Chair DeSack moved to adjourn at 10:15 p.m. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0. Meeting adjourned 10:15 p.m.

**ROBIN CERIO
CLERK**