

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH April 24, 2007

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 6:10 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Frank Maher; Robert Bollengier; and Mary Walsh. Member Bill Munroe arrived at 6:50 p.m. Susan DeSack, Chairperson was absent. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; and Student Member Geoffrey Southworth were present. Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Vice Chair Cicero moved to go into Executive Session at 6:10 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 Clerk Coutcher. Voted 5 – 0.

Meeting moved to Executive Session at 6:10 p.m.

Member Munroe arrived at 6:50 p.m.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 7:22 p.m.

A vote was taken during Executive Session to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for disciplinary action. Voted 5 – 0 – 1. Member Munroe abstained.

ORDER – Vice Chair Cicero called the meeting back to order in Open Session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-2(b) at 7:22 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all, senior high school student Joe Nicastro sang The Star-Spangled Banner, and Member Munroe read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM – None

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Geoffrey Southworth said that he, along with other fellow-students, just returned from a trip to Italy. He also said that on Wednesday evening the second half of the senior portfolio art show will take place in the senior high library.

Recognitions/Achievements – Superintendent Geismar introduced himself, School Committee members, and Administrators and said that one of the district's proudest moments is to recognize the achievements of students and staff. He acknowledged several Jr. – Sr. High School students and Jr. High School/Wawaloam School art

teacher

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Amie Ray for their exceptional accomplishments in academics, athletics, and the arts and Vice Chair Cicero presented each of them with recognition awards.

Erica Prenda – Grade 8 was recognized for her contribution as the Keynote Student Speaker at the New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS) Conference at the Convention Center in Providence on March 25th. She spoke about life and lessons of a middle school student.

Emma Walsh – Grade 12 received first place in this year's Junior Federal Duck Stamp Competition. She went on to win the Best of Show for the State of Rhode Island. Her painting of two Canadian geese will go to DC to compete for the National Award.

Amber Harper – Grade 12 received first place in this year's Junior Federal Duck Stamp Competition.

Amie Ray – Jr. High School/Wawaloam School Art Teacher, for the first time, entered art to the Federal Duck Stamp Competition and was awarded the Teacher Award.

Justin Belanger – Grade 12 made First Team All State in Wrestling for the third year in a row at 130 pounds. His wrestling accomplishments over the past four years place him in the ranks among Rhode Island Hall of Fame Wrestlers.

The following students attended the Rhode Island Annual State D.E.C.A. (Distributive Education Clubs of America) competition on March 2nd at the Johnson & Wales Harborside Campus and participated in a variety of Marketing/Business based tests along with role plays. Each student had to take a 100 question test about their topic. When they completed the test, students participated in judged role play events. 1st and 2nd place finishers qualify for Nationals at the end of April. This year Nationals are being held in Orlando, Florida April 27 – May 2. We have 11 students that will be attending.

Katherine Fish – Grade 12: DECA Quiz Bowl – 2nd Place

James Glendinning – Grade 11: DECA Quiz Bowl – 2nd Place

Sakara Perry – Grade 10: DECA Quiz Bow – 2nd Place

Derek Murphy – Grade 11: DECA Quiz Bowl – 2nd Place

Jasmine Collins – Grade 12: Travel and Tourism Marketing – 3rd Place

Kristen Wright – Grade 12: Travel and Tourism – 3rd Place

Benjamin Fain – Grade 11: Accounting Applications – 2nd Place

Katherine Matook – Grade 10: Buying and Merchandising – 1st Place

Jessica Rowan – Grade 10: Buying and Merchandising – 1st Place

Michael Miozzi – Grade 11: Marketing Management – 2nd Place

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Jacob Mount – Grade 12: Sports and Entertainment Marketing – 1st Place

Zachary Ricci – Grade 12: Sports and Entertainment Marketing – 1st Place

Benjamin Ricci – Grade 11: Business Services Marketing – 2nd Place

Leah Small – Grade 10: Business Law and Ethics – 1st Place

Jarrid Trudeau – Grade 10: Business Law and Ethics – 1st Place

Dr. Geismar noted that some of the students mentioned above were unable to attend this evening's meeting to receive their recognition rewards. Vice Chair Cicero requested that they be invited to attend the next regular School Committee meeting of May 8, 2007.

High School Presentation – Principal Boulé reported that she recently received notice from NEASC (New England Association of Schools

and Colleges) that as a result of the NEASC fall visit evaluation report, the Senior High School is fully accredited. She gave an overview of this year's accomplishments, programs, school climate, and community involvement. She expressed her opinion that the high school's state ranking of High Performing and Commended is a reflection of the expertise and the amount of work that the teaching staff and students are doing. She referenced a three page list of colleges that graduating senior have been accepted to, which includes three students that will be attending RI School of Design in the fall and she expressed how proud she is.

Director of Student Affairs Christopher Cobain reported on the RI Department of Education Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements (PBGR) Commissioner's Review Report and gave an overview of the processes, procedures, required data submissions, and timeline to date and going forward. He said that this is an ongoing process and the high school needs to receive approval from the state for 2008. Mr. Cobain reported that some state mandates could not or will not be met due to contract negotiations, which will be challenging, but he offered assurance that the required data (to prove that EWG Sr. High School is a good school) will be provided.

Assistant Principal James Alves and Principal Boulé gave a summary and answered member's questions concerning discipline issues, attendance data, and truancy court. Principal Boulé said that an end of the year discipline report will be provided to members. Vice Chair

Cicero requested that going forward the committee be provided with a monthly report rather than waiting until the end of the year. In response to Member Maher's inquiry, Mr. Alves, Ms. Boulé, and Mr. Cobain reported that during his 5 – 6 year tenure, School Resource Officer Peter Petrarca has been a great asset to the district and has made a positive impact with students, parents, and community members.

In closing, Principal Boulé referenced page 4 of the EWGRHS Program of Studies

2007- 2008 – MISSION STATEMENT and explained that NEASC has requested that the high school combine its Mission Statement with the Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements into one document.

She asked that the committee review this condensed

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version of the Mission Statement and to approve it at the next regular meeting of May 8, 2007. This item will be added to the May 8, 2007 meeting agenda for School Committee approval.

Vice Chair Cicero clarified, for the record, that the student trip to Italy that Student Member Southworth talked about at the start of this evening's meeting was not a school sanctioned trip, but one that was put in place under section Non-Sanctioned Student Travel of district policy 8604.

Member Maher moved to move up agenda item, VII. NEW BUSINESS, D. Compass School Transportation to this time. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 6 – 0.

NEW BUSINESS – Compass School Transportation – Director of Administration Robert Ross explained that since the addition of one new Compass School student to the Niantic Trail area of West Greenwich bus route last January, the bus ride has increased to approximately a two-hour commute for some students. After investigating alternative solutions, Mr. Ross and Laidlaw's terminal manager found one potential solution of adding an afternoon bus from the Compass School for the remainder of the school year. The approximate cost for the additional bus will be \$2,960 for the remainder of the school year. Mr. Ross confirmed that if Laidlaw is given advanced notice when the afternoon bus does not need to run, the district will not be billed and he said that his department will audit these runs to be sure that the district is not billed accidentally. Mr. Ross said that due to the tax levy in place, the district will need to look at transportation with a heavier hand and that all bus routes for the 07/08 school year will need to be reviewed.

Member Maher moved to approve the additional bus to the Niantic area of West Greenwich, with a fiscal impact as explained in the agenda item packet requesting on or about \$2,960.00, pending a start and finish date. Seconded by Member Walsh.

Voted 5 – 1. Member Munroe voted no.

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

Vice Chair Cicero requested that consent agenda item A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of April 10, 2007 be pulled for discussion.

Member Maher moved to accept the consent agenda with item A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of April 10, 2007 pulled for discussion. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 6 – 0.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session Minutes of April 10, 2007

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B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

a. Michelle Curran as 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher, - hired effective February 2, 2007, for the remainder of the 2006 – 2007 school year

B. Bills – (ENCLOSED) – In the amount of \$482,150.50

End Consent Agenda

Vice Chair Cicero reviewed the Correspondence.

Correspondence – (1) April 10, 2007 Memo from Principal Boulé to Superintendent Geismar; (2) RI Association of School Committees 2007 Annual Meeting Flyer; (3) RIASC – Tenth Annual Howard Kay Award Flyer; (4) April 10, 2007 Letter to School Committee members from Merrily Wilbur Regarding Career Awareness Night

Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding Correspondence.

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

Policy Committee Review of Athletic Handbook – Vice Chair Cicero reminded members that the Athletic Handbook is supposed to be reviewed by the committee on an annual basis. Members asked Athletic Director Steve McGrane clarifying questions. Mr. McGrane expressed that he would like to see the academic eligibility

GPA/probationary period procedure revisited since he feels that the standards imposed are too difficult; more difficult than RI Interscholastic League's standards, and that no one is monitoring those students with a 2.1 GPA to be sure they do not fall behind. Vice Chair Cicero expressed her opinion that the junior high academic eligibility standards should follow the same criteria as the senior high school and suggested that the committee needs to decide if it wants to have the same rules applied at both schools. She said that the policy committee needs members' feedback prior to reviewing the policy. Principal Thompson offered to come back to the next regular meeting to explain the junior high school thought process concerning this matter and agreed to meet with Mr. McGrane to obtain

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his input prior to that meeting. In response to Vice Chair Cicero's inquiry, Member Bollengier confirmed that this item did not need to continue onto the next agenda.

K – 5 Mathematics Curriculum – Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley referenced packet enclosure Mathematics Curriculum for Grades K – 5 and explained that this document is a partial document which is the first part of a larger document. She said that the document demonstrates what a student should know and be able to accomplish in mathematics by the end of each grade K – 5. She asked members

to review the document since she will be bringing this item forward for School Committee approval at the next regular meeting. Clerk Coutcher suggested that copies of this document be provided to parents at the beginning of the school year. This item will carry over to the next regular meeting agenda for School Committee approval.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –Emergency Generator – Metcalf – Director of Administration Robert Ross said that this item is a continuation from the previous two meetings. He reported that the suggested changes to the Memorandum of Understanding have been made and the annual cost to the district for maintenance of the emergency generator is \$650. He said that the installer will provide the routine and annual maintenance of the emergency generator.

Member Maher moved to approve the expenditure of \$650 for the maintenance of the emergency generator; based on the last motion he made at the last meeting, contingent upon the changes of the Memorandum of Agreement. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher.

Voted 5 – 1. Member Munroe voted no.

Metcalf Fire Alarm – Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that the final”as built drawings” are in the process of being created. The Fire Marshal will not sign-off on the new system until this document is completed. This document will reflect the changes made to the system which will be helpful to the district when the Fire Marshal does his evaluation. Mr. Ross explained some obstacles that

prevented the testing of the system to take place during April vacation and said that he anticipates that the testing will not take place while school is in session. He said that the second phase (egress) bid process will begin before the end of this month and that he anticipates that Metcalf's new fire alarm system will be in place and good to go in September.

Principal Search – Superintendent Geismar reported that he issued a notice to all staff members soliciting those interested in serving on the principal search committee. A classified advertisement has been placed in the Providence Journal. He will bring forward names of persons interested in serving on the search committee at the next meeting for members' consideration.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – Member Maher asked for feedback on how the recent Board of Regents meeting concerning the state's proposed school construction

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regulations went. Director of Administration Robert Ross gave a brief summary of what the new proposed regulations are. Superintendent Geismar said that administration will provide an update concerning this matter to members at the next regular School Committee meeting.

Vice Chair Cicero reverted back to the item pulled from the consent agenda. Vice Chair Cicero requested that consent agenda item, Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of April 10, 2007 be pulled for discussion.

Member Maher moved to amend the regular minutes of April 10, 2007 to reflect that the vote taken during Executive Session is changed from 6 – 0, to 5 – 1 – Member Munroe voted no. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 6 – 0.

Vice Chair Cicero reviewed the important dates and meetings:

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Tuesday, May 8, 2007 – School Committee Meeting; Saturday, May 12th and Saturday, May 19th – EWG High School Plant Sale (Greenhouse) 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; Wednesday, May 16th – High School Chorus Concert @ 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, May 20, 2007 – HS Band Concert @ 4:00 p.m.; May 17 – 20 – Senior Class Trip to Busch Gardens; Tuesday, May 22, 2007 – School Committee Meeting; Friday, May 25, 2007 – Jr./Sr. Prom – Hyatt, Goat Island, Newport; Monday, May 28, 2007 – Memorial Day; Thursday, May 31, 2007 – Honors Night 6:30 p.m.; Friday, June 1, 2007 – Freshman/Sophomore Semi Formal SH Gymnasium; Saturday June 2, 2007 – Kristi Lussier Memorial Walk – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; Thursday, June 7, 2007 – Class Day 7:00 – 11:00 a.m. in the HS Auditorium; Saturday, June 9, 2007 – Graduation @ 12:00 p.m. - The Ryan Center

Student Member Geoffrey Southworth commented that the band concert has been changed from May 2, 2007 to June 3, 2007.

Vice Chair Cicero referenced an e-mail that was sent to all members from the Senior High School inquiring if members would be wearing gowns at graduation. Consensus of the committee was that members would not wear gowns at graduation.

Superintendent Geismar asked members to send him their feedback regarding SORICO's goals by next Thursday for the SORICO meeting on Monday.

Members and administrators briefly discussed calendar conflicts; specifically the volleyball team playoff schedule conflict with the junior-senior prom date.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Clerk Coutcher moved to go into Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (a) (2) – Collective

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Bargaining Agreement/Negotiation Discussion. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 6 – 0.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 9:35 p.m.

-----Vice Chair Cicero moved to reconvene to Open Session.

Seconded by Clerk Coutcher.

Voted 6 – 0.

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

No votes were taken during Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adjourn at 10:26 p.m.

Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 6 – 0. Meeting adjourned 10:26 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK