

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH May 22, 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. High School Cafeteria. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Bill Munroe; Frank Maher; Robert Bollengier; and Mary Walsh. 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.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Vice Chair Cicero read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM – Chair DeSack said that under the advice of legal council a discussion will take place at this time so that the School Committee and the community can be made fully aware of the events that took place today. Superintendent Geismar gave a detailed account of the events leading up to and including the four-hour lockdown/search that took place at the Jr. – Sr. High School this morning in connection with graffiti that was written on a girls'

bathroom wall. He expressed his appreciation for the excellent support and cooperation of the West Greenwich and State Police Departments, staff, students, and parents. He reported that a complete search of all Jr. and Sr. High School lockers, book bags, and students' cars was conducted. Dr. Geismar said that overall the lockdown process went well; however, after debriefing it was learned that there are some areas to improve on. West Greenwich Police Chief Ronald Lepre offered his review of what he called a great learning experience that turned out to be a graffiti issue rather than an actual threat. He said that the lockdown process went well, but there is more work to be done. The Superintendent said a plea was made to students, via the intercom system, to assist in determining who is responsible for this disruptive behavior. Chair DeSack expressed appreciation to administration for its support and quick response to the situation. On behalf of parents working within the district, teacher Christine Southworth expressed her appreciation to administrators for keeping them abreast of the circumstances throughout the entire ordeal.

On behalf of the Southworth family, Christine Southworth extended an invitation to members and administrators to attend the Champlin Eagle Court of Honor being held at the Boy Scout Reservation in Cranston on Saturday, June 16th at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Geoffrey Southworth gave a brief overview of upcoming important

end of the year events at the Senior High School.

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Recognitions/Achievements – Student Achievement Recognition(s) – Superintendent Geismar introduced himself, School Committee members, and Administrators and recognized five members of the school community for their wonderful accomplishments in academics, athletics/coaching, and the arts.

Katherine (Katie) Clarke – Grade 12: Sr. High School art teacher Elizabeth Lind reports congratulations are in order to Katie on a recent Congressional Citation for the James Langevin “Artistic Discovery” competition. Katie also went on to win the Langevin Congressional Competition final selection at the New Urban Arts Center in Providence on April 29th. She and her family will now fly to Washington, DC and attend several events to honor the artists across the country. Southwest Air will do a celebratory sendoff – balloons, etc. Her drawing will be part of a national exhibition in the Cannon Tunnel; a pedestrian walkway that leads to the US Capitol. This has been a remarkable year for the Fine Arts Department. We have some truly amazing students!

Nicholas Petrarca – Grade 1: PTA member Diane Romano reports that the National PTA sponsors a Reflections Arts contest every year. Students participate by entering their works of art in various categories. This year EWG had 2 Rhode Island State PTA level winners go on to Nationals. One of those entries received a Merit Award at this level! (So exciting) The student is Nicholas Petrarca, a first grader at Wawaloam School. The PTA presented him with his certificate and citation from Governor Carcieri on May 21st at the Knotty Oak Room in Coventry. Nicholas' entry was a video entitled – “My Favorite Place” featuring Roger Williams Park Zoo. Nicholas has been asked to do a voiceover for a summertime zoo commercial!

Coach Recognition(s) – Mike Messier – EWG Sr. High Football Coach: Vice Principal Jim Alves reports that Coach Messier was recently recognized as the Coach of the Year for Division IV at the RI High School Gridiron Football Banquet on Wednesday, May 9, 2007 at the 1025 Club in Johnston.

Tim Daft – EWG Sr. High School Wrestling Coach (and P.E. Teacher): Vice Principal Jim Alves reports that Coach Daft was recognized as the RI High School Wrestling Coach of the Year at their annual banquet at Wright's Farm in Burrville back in April.

Teacher Recognition(s) – Patricia Jordan, one of our veteran teachers at Metcalf School has been selected for the Japan Fulbright Award. Pat will be traveling to Japan with Fulbright for a three-week

education tour in October 2007. When she returns, she will be sharing her experiences with her colleagues and the School Committee. This is an outstanding award!

Special Population Presentation – Maureen DeCrescenzo referenced the informational packets that were provided for members’ review and gave a detailed overview, explained the processes and procedures, and answered clarify questions regarding four items of
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interest – (1) Status of Special Education Programs K - 12; (2) Update - Rhode Island Reauthorization of RI Regulations; (3) EWG Local Advisory Reorganization; (4) Special Education Support Visit Process/Report. Ms. DeCrescenzo introduced EWG Local Advisory Committee Leadership Team Meeting Facilitator Mary Beth Cournoyer who is looking to reform a local advisory committee. Ms. Cournoyer gave a brief description of the Advisory Committees’ main goals and asked members to review and approve the official By-Laws of the Exeter-West Greenwich, Rhode Island Local Advisory Committee on Special Education

Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the bylaws of the local advisory committee, as presented. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 7 – 0.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to move up agenda item VI. C. Foreign

Language 2008 Trip Proposal to this time. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 7 – 0.

Foreign Language 2008 Trip Proposal – Vice Chair Cicero moved to approve the trip to Chicago on March 13 – 15 or 16, 2008. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 7 – 0.

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

Director of Special Education Maureen DeCrescenzo and Director of Administration Robert Ross answered Member Bollengier's clarify questions regarding consent agenda item V., C. Bills.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 7 – 0.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2007; Executive Session Minutes of May 8, 2007; Executive Session Minutes of April 24, 2007; Executive Session Minutes of May 8, 2007

B. Personnel Items – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

1. Appointments

2. Leaves of Absence

a. Request from Jacqueline Mears to continue her parental leave of absence from her position as .67 FTE Sr. High School Foreign Language Teacher for the 2007 – 2008 academic year

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3. Resignations

a. Letter of Resignation from Anita Iannuccilli from her position as Sr. High School Science Teacher and Science Department Chairperson, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2007

b. Letter of Resignation from Elizabeth Cavanagh from her position as Sr. High School English Teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective August 31, 2007

c. Letter of Resignation from Robert Zoglio from his position as Sr. High School Mathematics Teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 2007

4. Grievances

5. Recalls

a. Please see attached list

B. Bills – (ENCLOSED) – In the amount of \$385,334.91

End Consent Agenda

Chair DeSack reviewed the Correspondence.

Vice Chair Cicero requested that Correspondence (4) May 17, 2007 Memo from Superintendent Geismar to School Committee members be placed on the next regular meeting agenda for discussion.

Director of Administration Robert Ross answered Member Munroe's clarifying questions regarding Correspondence (5) May 22, 2007 Memo from Mr. Ross Regarding Emergency Elevator Repair Jr./Sr. High School. Chair DeSack advised that this item will be added to the next regular meeting agenda for consideration. Superintendent Geismar explained that since the information regarding this matter was not brought to the attention of Director of Administration Robert Ross until after the agenda had been advertised, it was brought forward under Correspondence in tonight's supplemental packet.

Correspondence – (1) Monthly Sr. High School Discipline Report; (2) May 14, 2007 FORTUNE Magazine Article – Failing the Test; (3) Spring '07 Student Paths Newspaper; (4) May 17, 2007 Memo from Superintendent Geismar to School Committee members; (5) May 22, 2007 Memo from Mr. Ross Regarding Emergency Elevator Repair Jr./Sr. High School

NEW BUSINESS – Emergency Discussion Pertaining to the Events that took place at the Sr. High School on May 22, 2007 – This item was

addressed/discussed earlier in the evening during Open Session.

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Special Education Director Search – Superintendent Geismar recommended that the School Committee select two members to serve on the search committee of the Director of Special Services in accordance with the policy. Chair DeSack referenced a letter requesting that a representative of the Local Advisory Committee be considered to serve on the search committee. As recommended by Chair DeSack, consensus of the committee was to select two Local Advisory Committee members to serve – (one from Exeter and one from West Greenwich). Vice Chair Cicero and Member Walsh volunteered to serve on the search committee as School Committee representatives.

Kindergarten Sessions 2007 - 2008 – As a follow-up to Member Coutcher’s inquiry at the previous regular meeting, Superintendent Geismar reported that he met with Principal Myers to review 2007 – 2008 kindergarten enrollment figures. Currently there are ninety-seven students enrolled. Fifty-eight are from West Greenwich and thirty-nine are from Exeter. Plans are to have three sections in the morning to serve Exeter and four sections in the afternoon to serve West Greenwich. Dr. Geismar said that he is optimistic that there will be additional registrations which the district can accommodate for with this schedule.

School Opening and Closing Times – Superintendent Geismar presented his recommended school start and end times for the 2007 – 2008 school year. These times reflect the state requirements of a 330 minute student day for grades 1 – 12 and a 165 minute day for half-day kindergarten. The time change requires that morning elementary bus runs begin approximately ten to fifteen minutes earlier than they do currently. The district will communicate the changes to parents. Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding this item.

Member Maher moved to adjourn for a brief recess at this time, (8:55 p.m.). Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0.

Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in Open Session at 9:01 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Metcalf Fire Alarm - Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross gave a brief summary regarding his May 9, 2007 meeting with the district’s architectural firm Torrado, Metcalf’s fire alarm installer AFA, and Deputy Fire Marshal St. Jean concerning the work stop order that was issued by the State Deputy Fire Marshal on April 24, 2007. Mr. Ross reported that the issue at hand concerns the need to update the as-built drawings to reflect the changes made [by AFA] to the single panel and then to have them reviewed and approved by Deputy Fire Marshal St. Jean. Mr. Ross confirmed that

AFA paid the \$1000 fee associated with the change to the drawings.

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School Calendar 2007 - 2008 – After a brief discussion regarding potentially reconfiguring the customary format of the school calendar moving forward, consensus of the committee was to add the school calendar to the July agenda for discussion.

Member Maher moved to accept the 2007 – 2008 School Calendar as presented. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 7 – 0.

Principal Search – Superintendent Geismar reported that the principal search committee will meet on May 24, 2007 to consider who to interview. He said that there are approximately 20 candidates to choose from. This item will remain on the agenda until the position is filled.

SAT Prep Course Program – Update – Superintendent Geismar offered his apology for his delay in getting the SAT Prep program up and running. He said that he is presently working with the teachers' association on the terms and agreement for this position. This item will remain on the agenda until the program is established. Chair

DeSack emphasized that this program is in the best interest of the students and that the committee expects this program to run at least one course this summer and at least two courses during the upcoming school year. Chair DeSack requested that a program outline be provided to the committee within the next couple of meetings.

REPORTS/COMMENTS

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – 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; Tuesday, June 12, 2007 – School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, June 26, 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 9:15 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (a) (2) – Collective Bargaining Agreement/Negotiation Discussion. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 7 – 0.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 9:15 p.m.

Vice Chair Cicero left the meeting at this time, (9:16 p.m.).

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Member Bollengier moved to reconvene to Open Session. Seconded by Chair DeSack.

Voted 6 – 0.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 9:56 p.m.

No votes were taken during Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair DeSack moved to adjourn at 9:57 p.m. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 6 – 0. Meeting adjourned 9:57 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK