

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH July 17, 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; Robert Bollengier; Mary Walsh; and Bill Munroe. Vice Chairperson Teri Cicero and Member Frank Maher were absent. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; and Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo were present. Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley and Student Member Geoffrey Southworth were absent.**

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

**OPEN FORUM – Audience member David Anderson voiced his point of view regarding the discrepancies in the levels of the national proficiency report card vs. the state proficiency report card. He identified himself as a consultant for a small business. He said that he brought along reports for interested members to review.**

## **PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – None**

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

**Member Bollengier requested that two typographical errors in consent agenda item A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of June 26, 2007 be corrected.**

**Member Bollengier moved to accept the consent agenda as presented with two noted corrections for the Regular Minutes of June 26, 2007. Seconded by Member Walsh.**

**Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo answered Member Munroe’s clarifying questions regarding consent agenda item C. Bills.**

**Chair DeSack repeated the motion made by Member Bollengier and seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 5 – 0.**

**The following items were approved:**

**A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of June 26, 2007, with corrections**

**B. Personnel Items**

**1. Appointments**

**2. Leaves of Absence**

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

**a. Letter of resignation from Mark Bartley, from his positions as Class Co-Advisor to the Class of 2009 and Girls' Assistant Basketball Coach, effective June 29, 2007**

**4. Grievances**

**5. Recalls**

**C. Bills – In the amount of \$282,080.56**

**D. Home School Approvals**

**End Consent Agenda**

**Correspondence – None**

**Monthly Budget Projection 2006 – 2007 – Director of Administration Robert Ross explained circumstances surrounding the new financial software upgrade that has prohibited his office from running an accurate financial report at this time. This item will be deferred to the next regular meeting agenda of August 7th.**

**Monthly Status Reports – Superintendent – Members did not comment regarding this item.**

**Business – Members did not comment regarding this item.**

**Curriculum – Members did not comment regarding this item.**

**Special Education – Director of Special Education Maureen DeCrescenzo distributed correspondence that she received this afternoon from legal counsel and gave a brief summary of the proceedings to date concerning an ongoing legal case.**

**Maintenance – Members did not comment regarding this item.**

**Technology – Superintendent Geismar addressed Member Bollengier’s inquiry for clarification regarding the wording of Technology Status Report – Section 2 – State Reporting. Dr. Geismar gave his interpretation that Mr. Wight’s report indicates that there were no reports due in the month of May. Superintendent Geismar said that to his knowledge all state reporting was done accurately and on time.**

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**Monthly Subcommittee Report – Policy Subcommittee – Member Bollengier advised members that policy subcommittee member Bill Clay informed the subcommittee of Principal Boulé’s plan to request that August 7th agenda item, Policy 8607 – Participation in Extra Curricular Activities – Including Athletics – Amendment be pulled and that Principal Boulé will ask that the original policy remain in place. Member Bollengier voiced his concern that this will pose a problem since the new policy amendment relates to both the junior high and the senior high schools. Superintendent Geismar confirmed that Principal Boulé intends to request that for this year the district maintain the same policy as in the past. Dr. Geismar said that he will meet with Principal Thompson to address the junior high section of the amended policy. Dr. Geismar will report back to the committee at its August 7th meeting regarding this matter.**

**NEW BUSINESS – 2008 – 2009 School Calendar – Superintendent Geismar reminded the committee of its request for him to investigate potential changes to the customary format of future school calendars. He requested that the committee allow him to survey members of the School Improvement Teams and PTA concerning this matter. The Superintendent said that he will report back to the committee with any feedback at the second October 2007 School Committee meeting.**

**Members and Administrators had a roundtable discussion concerning potential changes to the customary calendar. Consensus**

of the committee was to have the Superintendent report back to the committee with his findings at the end of April. The committee will revisit this discussion then and will take into account Member Bollengier's concern regarding consideration of allowing adequate time for students to complete teacher assigned projects during school vacation time.

**Student Insurance Special Activities Rider – Director of Administration Robert Ross recommended that the committee approve the purchase of a student school insurance special activity rider for those student's who may incur auto related injuries while in route to or from extracurricular activities while traveling in a private vehicle. The cost of the rider is approximately \$900 annually. Mr. Ross confirmed that the purpose of purchasing this \$900 insurance rider policy is to protect the school district from possible legal action.**

**Member Bollengier moved to approve the requested purchase of insurance at an annual cost of \$900. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 4 – 1. Member Munroe voted no.**

**Reading Recovery Training – Superintendent Geismar requested authority to spend, if necessary, up to \$20,000 to train two teachers in Reading Recovery. He said that he anticipates that SORICO may provide up to as much as \$10,000 for the training of one teacher. The Superintendent answered members clarify questions regarding the**

**program and its makeup.**

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**Clerk Coutcher moved to accept the Superintendent's request to spend up to \$20,000 for having two teachers trained in Reading Recovery. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 4 – 0 – 1. Member Munroe abstained.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policies – Review and Adoption - #8506 – Suspension and Expulsion – 2nd Reading – Members did not voice any questions or concerns regarding this item. This item will continue to the next regular meeting agenda.**

**Bond Discussion – Chair DeSack reminded members that at its previous meeting the committee had directed administrators to contact the two Town Councils regarding the formation of a building committee. It was noted that Dr. Geismar sent letters on behalf of the School Committee to both towns on July 5, 2007 and is awaiting responses.**

**Legal Counsel Services – As a follow-up to the previous School Committee meeting, Superintendent Geismar reported that Attorney**

**Vincent Ragosta could not find evidence that the district is required to have a counsel of record. He also reported that Attorney Ragosta is willing to represent the district as legal counsel. Chair DeSack requested that Superintendent Geismar, as a courtesy, contact Senator Breene to clarify with him about his mention of the counsel of record requirement in his earlier letter to the committee. This item will continue to the next regular meeting of August 7, 2007.**

**Metcalf Fire Alarm – Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that the Metcalf Fire Alarm project is making progress, is on budget, and is on time.**

**AP Science Hoods Venting – This agenda item is to follow-up on Member Munroe’s request at the previous School Committee meeting to present the Metcalf Fire Alarm Phase II and the Sr. High AP Science Vents projects costs separately. Members did not voice any questions or concerns regarding this item.**

**Special Education Director Search – Superintendent Geismar informed members that the Special Education Director search committee has completed five initial interviews and three second round interviews. Dr. Geismar advised that he will interview the committees’ two recommended semifinalists next week and he anticipates bringing his recommended finalist to the School Committee at its August 7th meeting.**

**SAT Prep Course – Superintendent Geismar reported that he met with one SAT Prep Course instructor applicant yesterday; he expects to run two classes simultaneously in the fall, (1) a mini refresher for seniors taking the SATs for a second time and (2) a 30-hour course for first time takers; and one 30-hour course again in the spring. Dr. Geismar emphasized that he will make certain that the curriculum for this course will help students be prepared to take the test since this is not a content course.**

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**In response to Member Bollengier’s inquiry, Superintendent Geismar confirmed that his recommendation for Special Education Director will be presented on the next meeting agenda under Personnel/Appointments.**

**Auditor Bid – Member Bollengier moved to approve Bacon and Company as returning auditing firm for the district. Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 5 – 0.**

**Chair DeSack collected the correspondence handed out earlier in the meeting by Director of Special Education Maureen DeCrescenzo for shredding.**

**REPORTS/COMMENTS –**

**IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Tuesday, August 7, 2007 – School Committee Meeting; Monday, August 13, 2007 – Holiday; Tuesday, August 21, 2007 – School Committee Meeting; Friday, August 25, 2007 – New Staff Training; Monday, August 28, 2007 – Teacher Orientation Day; Tuesday, August 29, 2007 – Professional Development Day; Wednesday, August 30, 2007 – First Day of School  
All Students**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 AND RIGL 42-46-5 – Member Bollengier moved to go into Executive Session at 8:18 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (a) (2) – Collective Bargaining Agreement/Negotiation Discussion and 42-46-5 (a) (9) – Collective Bargaining Agreement - Grievances. Seconded by Member Walsh.  
Voted 5 – 0.**

**Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:18 p.m.**

**Clerk Coutcher moved to reconvene to Open Session. Seconded by Member Walsh.  
Voted 5 – 0.**

**Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 8:30 p.m.  
There were no votes taken during Executive Session.**

**ADJOURNMENT – Clerk Coutcher moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.**

**Seconded by Chair DeSack. Voted 5 – 0. Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.**

**ROBIN CERIO**

**CLERK**