

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH September 11, 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; Frank Maher, and Bill Munroe. Member Mary Walsh arrived at 7:04 p.m. and Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson arrived at 7:05 p.m. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; and Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar were present. Director of Administration Robert V. Ross and Student Member Katherine Matook arrived at 7:04 p.m.

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

OPEN FORUM – None

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report –

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

Member Mary Walsh; Director of Administration Robert Ross; and Student Member Katherine Matook arrived at this time, (7:04 p.m.).

Superintendent Geismar answered Member Bollengier's clarifying questions regarding consent agenda item, B. 1. b.. The Superintendent confirmed that Ms. LeCour is a veteran teacher and that there are no changes to budgeted FTE's as a result of her appointment to this position.

Member Maher moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 6 – 0.

Vice Chair Cicero arrived at this time, (7:05 p.m.).

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of August 21, 2007; Executive Session Minutes of August 21, 2007; Special Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2007; Executive Session Minutes of August 28, 2007

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B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent) (No Change to Budgeted FTE's)

a. Nicole Linhares as 1.0 FTE Sr. High School Math Teacher at the Sr. High School, Step 2, Masters, Salary \$41,235; effective retroactive to August 31, 2007

b. Tonya LeCour as 1.0 FTE Sr. Project Coordinator, Salary \$73,360; effective on or about August 31, 2007

c. Patricia Smith as .5 FTE Sr. High School Senior Project Coordinator, Step 11, B+36, Salary \$34,9775; effective on or about September 10, 2007

2. Leaves of Absence

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

a. Letter of Resignation from Elaine Joyal-Healy from her position as National Honor Society Advisor, effective for the 2007 – 2008 school year

4. Grievances

5. Recalls

6. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – September invoices in the amount of \$279,596.59; July 2007 Accruals in the amount of \$8,687

D. Home School Approvals – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. MORELLI – Haley

End Consent Agenda

Since new Student Member Katherine Matook is now present at the meeting, Chair DeSack reverted back to agenda item, Student Member Report. Superintendent Geismar introduced Student Member Matook and welcomed her aboard. Members of the committee and administrators introduced themselves to Katherine. Katherine reported that the first week of school has been very busy. She said that she will give a more detailed report at the next meeting.

Correspondence – (1) NEASC Report on Visiting Committee-EWG Sr. High School October 15-189, 2006

Consensus of the committee was to carry Correspondence (1) to the next regular School Committee meeting. Superintendent Geismar requested that members try to remember to bring their copy of the NEASC Report with them to the next meeting in order to avoid having to reprint this rather lengthy report.

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Monthly Status Reports – Superintendent – Members did not express

any questions or concerns regarding the Superintendent's Status Report.

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

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

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

Maintenance – Director of Administration Robert Ross answered Member Bollengier's clarifying question regarding the Maintenance Status Report's item marked traffic lights. Mr. Ross said that the traffic lights are the yellow blinking school zone signs/lights that are located on Rt. 3, (near Metcalf and Lineham Schools) and Rt. 102, (near Wawaloam School), and that they are owed and maintained by the district.

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

NEW BUSINESS – Public Records Request from the Providence Journal – Superintendent Geismar referenced the information, (which was enclosed in members' School Committee packets) that was sent

to a Providence Journal reporter in response to his request. Chair DeSack advised that after checking with legal council the district found that it was obligated to fulfill the request. Director of Administration Robert Ross answered Member Munroe's clarifying questions regarding the data relating to overtime paid to each employee.

Peanut Free Legislation – Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of what is required of the district concerning the new peanut law. He said that while the district is abiding by the law, it is not scheduling students by their allergies and that the district's principals and school nurse teachers had been on top of this issue prior to the implementation of the new legislation. The Superintendent reported that on opening day the school nurse teachers held a safety workshop for all staff members. Dr. Geismar said that the district will seek clarification from the RI Department of Education as to whether or not the restrictions apply to the PTA selling cookie dough containing nuts. Members had a brief roundtable discussion and voiced their opinions regarding the responsibilities of parents, students, and the district as it relates to this life-threatening matter.

Leading Learning – Superintendent Geismar explained that Leading Learning is a professional development opportunity offered to Superintendents. He gave an overview of the program and its timetable. He said that endorsement of the School Committee is a

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requirement to participate in the program as well as the committees' authorization to fund a maximum of \$500 toward the registration fee. Dr. Geismar voiced his opinion that this is a good program.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to approve the Superintendent's participation in Leading Learning with \$500 put aside. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 7 – 0.

Elevator Repair at the Senior High School – Director of Administration Robert Ross gave an overview of circumstances surrounding the need to have additional repairs done to the Jr. – Sr. High School elevator. He advised that the quote received from the district's service contractor ThyssenKrupp of \$6,980.00, to repair the elevator selector switch, is over \$5,000 and requires that the bid process take place. Mr. Ross asked the committee for direction on whether to put this item out for bid. Member Munroe voiced his concern regarding why ThyssenKrupp did not find this additional repair work earlier when they recently repaired the elevator at a cost of \$26,000. Member Munroe recommended requesting that the engineer do an assessment of the elevator prior to allocating addition funds to repair it. In response to Clerk Coutcher's inquiry, Mr. Ross confirmed that it is required by law that the district repairs the selector switch of the elevator since it is malfunctioning at this time. Consensus was that Mr. Ross will request that ThyssenKrupp provide the district with an

assessment of the elevator at the Jr. – Sr. High School in the near future.

Member Walsh moved to approve the repair to the Jr. – Sr. High School elevator at a cost of \$6,980. Seconded by Member Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policies – Review and Adoption - #8607 – Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities – Including Athletics - Amendment – Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept Policy #8607 – Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities – Including Athletics – Amendment. Seconded by Member Bollengier.

Members exchanged opinions and concerns regarding new provisions made to policy #8607 that may or may not lower academic standards. Clerk Coutcher pointed out some discrepancies with policy language. Member Bollengier said that the language discrepancies were drafting problems and that the policy subcommittee will fix the language at its meeting tomorrow morning.

Vice Chair Cicero withdrew her motion. Policy #8607 will carry over to the next regular School Committee meeting on September 25, 2007.

Jr. High School Assistant Principal Search – Superintendent Geismar reported that the search is underway for an assistant principal at the Jr. High School and that interviews will be scheduled in the near

future.

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Director of Student Affairs Search – Superintendent Geismar said that the interview process concluded today. Vice Chair Cicero said that she anticipates that a recommendation may come before the committee at its next regular meeting of September 25, 2007.

Bond Discussion – Superintendent Geismar reported that Exeter Town Council President Calvin Ellis said that he anticipates forwarding the names of building committee members to the Superintendent at the beginning of October. Chair DeSack said that it is appropriate for the School Committee to see the feasibility report prior to it going to the building committee. Consensus of the committee was that Director of Administration Robert Ross will contact L. Torrado Architectural Firm to attempt to obtain a feasibility report for members to review at the next regular meeting of September 25, 2007. Chair DeSack said she anticipates scheduling a building committee meeting for sometime in October.

Legal Counsel Services – Member Munroe moved to hire Vincent Ragosta as Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District's attorney to replace attorneys Gorham and Gorham. Member Bollengier seconded.

Members debated whether it was necessary to hire and dismiss legal counsel services since it is not required that the district hire an attorney of record, the district currently utilizes legal counsel representatives on a need by need basis by area of expertise, and the district would incur additional expenses by placing Mr. Ragosta on retainer. Member Munroe withdrew his motion and said that he did not want to cause the district to incur any unnecessary expenses.

Metcalf Fire Alarm – Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that the fire alarm system construction component is complete, installers did an excellent job, and that the 60-hour test will be completed and the fire marshal will signoff on Friday. This item will carry over to the next regular School Committee meeting for a final report.

SAT Prep Course – Superintendent Geismar reported that a math and English teacher and guidance counselor have been found to teach the SAT Prep Courses. He said that the guidance counselor will teach the mini SAT retake course. Dr. Geismar said that he anticipates that at the next regular School Committee meeting he will have a start date and schedule to present to members. He said that a refundable \$100 deposit will be required of students taking the course and that hardship cases will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Comprehensive Guidance Discussion – Chair DeSack said that this

item will be carried over to the next regular meeting agenda of September 25th since Principal Boulé could not be present at tonight's meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

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Transportation Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross gave a detailed outline of the current status of the 2007/08 transportation issues resolution process. Mr. Ross advised that the transportation subcommittee met for mediation on one transportation issue of a special needs student which to date has not yet been resolved. Members and Administrators had a general discussion regarding in-district and out-of- district transportation. Member Bollengier told members that as a follow-up to the recent transportation subcommittee meeting with involved parents, a second meeting has been scheduled in two weeks to allow parents to gather information and then present their feedback to the subcommittee. Chair DeSack said that if the one transportation issue heard in mediation is not resolved and the district is required to temporarily add on an additional bus, the circumstances concerning that issue will be heard in Executive Session.

REPORTS/COMMENTS

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Monday, October 8,

2007-Columbus Day; Tuesday, October 9, 2007-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, October 23, 2007-School Committee Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 AND RIGL 42-46-5 – Member Bollengier moved to go into Executive Session at 8:20 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 Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:20 p.m.

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

Voted 7 – 0.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 8:50 p.m.

There were no votes taken during Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT – Vice Chair moved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0. Meeting adjourned 8:50 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK