

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH October 23, 2007

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 6:15 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; Robert Bollengier; Frank Maher; Mary Walsh; and Bill Munroe. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; and Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar; and Student Member Katherine Matook were present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Member Bollengier moved to go into Executive Session at 6:25 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 and in accordance with RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel – Sick Leave. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero.

Voted 7 – 0.

Meeting moved to Executive Session at 6:25 p.m.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 7:05 p.m.

A vote was taken during Executive Session to allow teachers to donate sick days until the end of the fall semester to another teacher;

at that time the teacher must return to fulltime status, take a medical leave, or go into a job share situation. This action is to take no precedent. Voted 6 – 1. Member Munroe voted no.

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 – Parent Sherry Pitcavage asked the committee what is being done to ensure the safety of the students attending the junior high school. She reported that her daughter and her daughter’s boyfriend have been threatened (outside of school) by another junior high student. Ms. Pitcavage gave a detailed description of the threats that were made and about the threatening student’s webpage. Ms. Pitcavage said that she has been in contact with Principal Thompson and Superintendent Geismar concerning this issue and has been told that the matter is under investigation. She asked members to explain what “under investigation” means and asked why the young man remains in school. Chair DeSack advised that due to Open Meeting Laws, the committee is unable to engage in a discussion regarding this matter at this time. Chair DeSack requested that this item be placed on the next regular School Committee meeting agenda to be heard in Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. Chair DeSack told Ms. Pitcavage that School Resource Officer Petrarca, Principal Thompson, and Superintendent Geismar will be in contact with her to ensure the safety of students. School Resource Officer Petrarca

asked Ms. Pitcavage to see him tomorrow morning. Superintendent Geismar assured members that he will not hesitate to call an emergency School Committee meeting if it becomes necessary, but presently this matter is not at that point.

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Member Bollengier made a motion to move agenda item, VIII. B. 1. up under V. B. Chair DeSack said that she would prefer that agenda item, VIII. B. 1. is moved up after agenda items, Student Presentation and Recognitions/Achievements. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Matook gave an overview of Spirit Week activities at the senior high school and gave a brief summary regarding student participation in NECAP testing; PSAT taking; DECA; SADD and the Steven Anderson Road Race. Principal Boulé complemented the senior high school student body, noting that on Spirit Day over 700 students participated in 3-hours of activities and a pep rally without incident. She underscored how responsible students are for their actions and how fortunate the District is that our students do what they are asked to do.

Recognitions/Achievements – Superintendent Geismar introduced junior high school teacher/END THE SILENCE advisor Melanie

Lawhead and four of her advisees. Dr. Geismar reported that Christopher Gent and Caitlyn Studley – seniors, and Jillian Rounds and Jamie Briggs – Class of 2007, recently received the Community of Peace Award at the 10th annual MARCH TO END THE SILENCE event. Ms. Lawhead gave a brief summary of how and when this group was formed and about the community service projects they have been involved with. She said that this group is a small but strong group.

Student Member Matook left the meeting at this time.

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. Seconded by Member Bollengier.

Principal Boulé referenced the random sampling of report cards that she distributed to members and gave details about how a struggling student's grades affect their GPA thus causing him/her to be ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities. She said that the policy amendment to the terms of probation is not to lessen standards, but to allow those students who are doing the best that they can, who may be taking challenging courses to go to college, who are not behavioral problems, who are not absent from school, and who truly struggle with their coursework the opportunity to

participate in extra-curricular activities.

Vote 4 – 3. Clerk Coutcher, and Members Maher and Munroe voted no. Motion carries.

Clerk Coutcher moved to move the consent agenda up above the Torrado Presentation. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 7 – 0.

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

Clerk Coutcher requested that consent agenda items, B. 1. e. and f. be pulled for discussion.

In response to Member Bollengier’s clarify question, Superintendent Geismar confirmed that B. Personnel Items – 1. Appointments, b. and c. are not new positions. Dr. Geismar explained that Mr. Wilson will replace Ms. LeCour who was recently appointed to the position of Senior Project Coordinator and that Ms. Langer will replace a .4 speech (job share) teacher who resigned at the end of the 2006 – 2007 school year.

Member Maher moved to accept the consent agenda with items, B. 1. e. and f. pulled. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 7 – 0.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of October 9, 2007; Executive Session Minutes A of October 9, 2007; Executive Session Minutes B of October 9, 2007

B. Personnel Items

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

a. JoAnn Basel as 1.0 FTE Jr. High School Assistant Principal, Salary \$83,000; (pro-rated for 153.5 days; effective October 29, 2007; (Year-1 Probationary)

b. Anita Langer as .4 FTE Speech/Language Teacher, Job Share position, Step 21, Masters, Annual Salary, \$28,520; effective on or about October 24, 2007; contingent upon receipt of BCI

c. David Wilson as 1.0 FTE Sr. High School Math Teacher, Step 8, Masters, Annual Salary, \$56,669; effective October 3, 2007

d. Deborah DeMattio as 1.0 FTE, 2nd shift Custodian at Metcalf School., Step 1, Grade 1, Annual Salary \$23,072; effective on or about October 24, 2007

e. pulled

f. pulled

2. Leaves of Absence – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Lisa Borges request for a parental leave of absence beginning at the end of her maternity disability and continuing, without pay, from November 5, 2007 to

November 30, 2007; returning to work on December 3,

2007

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

5. Recalls

6. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$309,284.88

D. Home School Approvals

1. BUCKLEY – John and Christiana

2. NEGRI – Rachel and Alexander

3. PARENTEAU – Tyler

4. SEPE – Andrea and Dominique

5. ZINNO – Anthony and Albert

6. EDWARDS - Jacqueline

End Consent Agenda

Torrado LA Architects Presentation – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that he and Louis Torrado met with the Department of Education on two occasions to seek clarification on the new building regulations. Chair DeSack referenced a letter in members' supplemental packets from Attorney Gorham and explained that she had requested that the Superintendent seek legal opinion regarding the process of convening a Building Committee so that she could respond to a West Greenwich Building Committee

member's clarifying questions. She explained Attorney Gorham's opinion and reported that it is up to the School Committee to decide the role of the Building Committee.

Louis Torrado and Mr. Ross answered members' clarifying questions and had a lengthy discussion regarding the bond process, new state aid application regulations and the steps that must be completed in advance, and the School Committees' expectations of receiving Torrado Architects' Feasibility Study – detailing accurate estimates for all building projects this evening. Members emphasized that they want to see Torrado's study in advance to assist them in making a decision of which projects to complete and to present to the Town Councils to gain support. Consensus of the committee was to schedule a special meeting dedicated to this topic on November 14, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. The Special Meeting agenda will include Torrado Feasibility Study and Discuss New Building Regulations. An invitation shall be sent to invite the Exeter and West Greenwich Town Council members to attend. Administration and Torrado Architect will

move forward with steps to complete Stage I of the School Construction Application Process Flow Chart while simultaneously working to prepare the Feasibility Study for the committees' review. Mr. Torrado will try to submit his Feasibility Study to the Superintendent in time for it to be enclosed with the November 13, 2007 Regular School Committee Meeting packets. This will allow members time to review the study prior to the Special Meeting.

Correspondence – (1) Literacy Handbook – EWG 2007; (2) October 16, 2007 EWG District Discipline Suspension) Report; (3) October 16, 2007 EWG Sr. High School

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Discipline Report; (4) Home School Handbook for Parents; (5) October 22, 2007 Memo from the Superintendent regarding School Calendar Surveys; (6) October 23, 2007 Memo form the Superintendent regarding School Security Survey

Superintendent Geismar left the meeting at this time.

NEW BUSINESS – Policies – Review and Adoption - #6410 – Pre-Placement Physical Examination Policy – Review – Vice Chair Cicero said that the policy subcommittee is looking for direction from the School Committee concerning Policy #6410. She said that this policy states that new employees are to have pre-placement physical exams but the district is not following the policy.

Member Bollengier moved to table Policy #6410 for one meeting and to have the Superintendent get back to the committee to report on this policy.

Superintendent Geismar returned to the meeting at this time.

Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 7 – 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –Draft 2008 – 2009 Budget Timeline – Member Bollengier moved to modify the Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District 2008 – 2009 Budget Development Timeline incorporating two Town Council meetings into one on December 4, 2007. Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 7 – 0.

Transportation Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross brought to members' attention packet enclosures that specify hearing dates for a transportation issue family.

Bond Discussion – This item was discussed earlier this evening during agenda item, Torrado LA Architects Presentation.

Metcalf Fire Alarm – Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross updated members on the status of the Metcalf fire alarm project. This item will carry over to the next regular School Committee meeting agenda.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – Chair DeSack reverted back to items pulled from the consent agenda. Clerk Coutcher requested that items B., 1., e. and f. be pulled for discussion. Clerk Coutcher voiced his concern that since members were shown, at the last School Committee meeting, a big stack of resignation letters from teacher advisors he questions whether or not Ms. Arvidson and Ms.

Robinson will actually fill these positions if they are appointed this evening. The Superintendent said that it is his understanding that Ms. Arvidson and Ms. Robinson intend to fill the positions. He said that if they do not their stipends will not be disbursed. Members and the Superintendent discussed stipend disbursements and contacting Ms. Arvidson and Ms. Robinson to inquire whether

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or not they will fulfill the duties of the positions. Chair DeSack expressed that there is no point in approving their appointments if they will not fulfill their duties. Members discussed that going forward all appointees shall be required to attend the School Committee meeting in which their appointment will be considered.

Member Maher moved that going forward, any future personnel items or appointments that are part of the agenda - that person on the agenda that has been recommended to a stipend position or a regular salary position related to an FTE, needs to appear before the School Committee on the day of the agenda unless there is an emergency. Seconded by Member Munroe.

Member Bollengier pointed out that Member Maher's motion is out of order and that the committee must first act upon Clerk Coutcher's motion. Chair DeSack asked Clerk Coutcher to clarify his motion.

Clerk Coutcher moved to continue consent agenda items, B., 1., e. to the next regular School Committee meeting agenda. Seconded by Member Munroe.

Voted 7 – 0.

[B. 1. e. Anne Arvidson as Sr. High School National Honor Society Advisor, Stipend \$858 and Junior High School National Honor Society Advisor, Stipend \$772.; effective for the 2007- 2008 school year, and f. Karen Robinson as Sr. High School Co-Advisor to the Class of 2009, Stipend one-half of \$2,231; effective for the 2007-2008 school year]

Chair DeSack repeated Member Maher’s motion that any future appointments brought to the School Committee on the consent agenda, whether they be stipend or FTE, that person, unless there is an emergency, needs to come before the School Committee. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 7 – 0.

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Monday, November 12, 2007-Veterans’ Day; Tuesday, November 13, 2007-School Committee Meeting; Thursday, November 15, 2007-Evening Parent Conferences at the Jr./Sr. High School; Friday, November 16, 2007-Parent Conferences Districtwide-(No School for Students); November 22 and 23, 2007-Thanksgiving Recess; Tuesday, November 27, 2007-School Committee Meeting

ADJOURNMENT – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 7 -0. Meeting adjourned 8:55

p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK