

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH October 9, 2007

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 6:00 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, and Bill Munroe. Member Mary Walsh was absent. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; and Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar were present. Student Member Katherine Matook was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Member Bollengier moved to go into Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 and in accordance with RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) for Collective Bargaining Agreement/Negotiation Discussion. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0.

Meeting moved to Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 7:07 p.m.

No votes were taken during Executive Session.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Director of Administration Robert Ross read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM – None

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Absent

Torrado LA Architects Presentation – Director of Administration Robert Ross explained that Mr. Torrado has had a scheduling conflict and is anticipating arriving at this meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m. Chair DeSack noted that this item may need to be rescheduled if Mr. Torrado does not arrive prior to the conclusion of tonight’s meeting.

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

Member Bollengier moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0.

Member Bollengier said that he plans to research one item listed under Bills - BIG TOYS, INC. He requested that if the Bills are approved this evening, that he be allowed

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH October 9, 2007

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 2

to bring this item back to a future agenda. The committee agreed with Member Bollengier's request.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of September 25, 2007; Executive Session Minutes of September 25, 2007

B. Personnel Items

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

a. Michael Dias as Sr. High School Assistant Boys' Soccer Coach, Stipend \$2,402.00, contingent upon receipt of RI Coaching Certificate, effective for the 2007 – 2008 season

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

5. Recalls

a. Caroline Scheff recalled to an additional .13 FTE Music Teacher at Metcalf School, to account for added section that the district needs her to teach to accommodate the length of the school day, (this represents a request to change her FTE status from .4 to .53); Salary \$21,989.74; effective retroactive to August 27, 2007

6. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$161,856.32

D. Home School Approvals

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence – (1) September 26, 2007 Letter to the Superintendent from James E. Swanberg of the RI State Police Regarding Intruder Based School Threat Assessment; (2) October 2, 2007 Memo to School Committee from Superintendent Geismar Regarding the Wall Street Journal October 1, 2007 article: (3) October 1, 2007 Letter to the Superintendent from First Student, Inc.; (4) Letter to the Commissioner of Education from Attorney Andrew Henneous Regarding Charter School Transportation Issue of Special Education Student

Director of Administration Robert Ross answered Member Bollengier’s clarifying question regarding Correspondence (4).

Monthly Status Reports – Superintendent – Members did not comment on the Monthly Status Reports.

Business –

Curriculum –

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH October 9, 2007

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 3

Special Education –

Maintenance –

Technology –

Monthly Subcommittee Report(s) – Policy Subcommittee Report – Vice Chair Cicero pointed out that the policy subcommittee report is

requesting that Policy 6410 – Pre-Placement Physical Examination Policy be added to the next regular meeting agenda for discussion and review. She requested that a copy of the current policy be included in members' October 23, 2007 School Committee packets.

NEW BUSINESS – Format for Reporting District Suspensions to the School Committee – Superintendent Geismar referenced the EWGRSD Discipline Report 2007-2008 that was provided in members' packets. He said that, if the format is satisfactory to the committee, he will use it to report to the committee at the second meeting of every month under Correspondence. Chair DeSack suggested eventually adding graphs to the report. Member Munroe requested that the report clarify the type of weapon, and Vice Chair Cicero requested that the report include the length of a suspension.

Jr. - Sr. High 2008 Foreign Language NYC Trip Proposal – The Superintendent reported that this proposal is withdrawn due to a lack of interest.

Draft 2008 – 2009 Budget Timeline – Upon reviewing the draft 08/09 budget timeline, consensus of the committee is to do away with the Budget Subcommittee; adjust the March 4, 2008 Budget Workshop because it is Primary Day; eliminate the budget subcommittee meetings of October 16, 2004 – November 21, 2007 and December 15, 2007; and to follow the presentation format that was used last year, however, ensure that the same format is used for each school.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policies – Review and Adoption - #8607 – Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities – Including Athletics - Amendment – Member Bollengier said that this item was carried over to tonight’s meeting agenda with the intention that Principal Boulé would be in attendance at the meeting, however, Principal Boulé could not be here tonight due to a scheduling conflict.

Member Bollengier moved to continue Policy #8607 – Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities – Including Athletics – Amendment to the next meeting for that reason. Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 6 – 0.

Jr. High School Assistant Principal Search – Superintendent Geismar presented, as part of the appointment process, Jo-Ann Basel as the candidate for Junior High School Assistant Principal. Ms. Basel gave an overview of her background and explained why she is interested in working at the Jr. – Sr. High School. In accordance with new district policy, Ms. Basil’s appointment shall be carried over to the next regular meeting agenda.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH October 9, 2007

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 4

Transportation Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross updated members on the ongoing transportation issues. He

referenced paperwork enclosed in members' packets and advised that a parent has submitted a request for an impartial due process hearing. Mr. Ross gave an overview of circumstances surrounding this matter that have occurred since the last School Committee meeting. Members discussed having Mr. Ross research group stops for all students for the next school year, and that the policy subcommittee intends to take up this discussion at its meeting tomorrow morning. Consensus of the committee was to have Mr. Ross begin to research potentially implementing group stops for all students for next school year. Mr. Ross answered Member Maher's clarifying questions regarding mediation dates, sessions that took place with parents, and the advisory seeking process. Member Maher expressed his opinion that the advisory seeking process is taking too long and he voiced his frustration with the fact that this issue is going to hearing. He expressed his concern that the time it takes to resolve issues may result in more and more hearings. Superintendent Geismar gave a detailed overview of the timeline concerning this matter and advised that it takes time to try to solve a matter so that no one loses. Member Bollengier offered his opinion from a legal stand point that these things take time to research and he asked Member Maher to appreciate the fact that an attorney may not be free to address items immediately. Chair DeSack said that administrators have been working toward solving these matters, but that all parties are not willing to work.

Bond Discussion – Chair DeSack advised that the first scheduled

meeting is set for October 16, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. with the appointed Building Committee members. However, since Mr. Torrado has not yet presented pertinent information to the School Committee, the meeting may need to be rescheduled. Mr. Ross extended Mr. Torrado's apologies and said that Mr. Torrado is presenting in another district this evening. He said that Mr. Torrado has a list of important issues to speak to tonight and hopefully will arrive by 8:00 p.m. In response to Member Munroe's inquiry, Chair DeSack confirmed that the Building Committee meeting will need to be rescheduled until after the School Committee has had the opportunity to hear Mr. Torrado's presentation.

Literacy Handbook – Superintendent Geismar advised that a lot of time and effort was put into the Literacy Handbook, and that Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley and involved teachers deserve credit. Ms. Daley said that a final copy will be provided to members in their next School Committee packet. Chair DeSack requested that the teachers signoff that they are in agreement with the handbook.

Metcalf Fire Alarm – Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that there are currently three issues pending prior to the approval of the Metcalf fire alarm signoff plans. A device shall be added to a room; the old fire alarm system shall be removed, (which is 80% complete); and the district is awaiting the return of the

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH October 9, 2007

paperwork for the completed 60-hour test that was submitted to the fire marshal. Mr. Ross advised that the fire marshal will be the final signatory on the system.

SAT Prep Course – Superintendent Geismar said that an ad will be posted one more time for the fall course.

REPORTS/COMMENTS - None

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Tuesday, October 16, 2007-Building Committee Meeting; Tuesday, October 23, 2007-School Committee Meeting;

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 AND RIGL 42-46-5 – Member Bollengier moved to go into Executive Session at 7:59 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (a) (2) – Collective Bargaining Agreement/Negotiation Discussion. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 7:59 p.m.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to reconvene to Open Session. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 6 – 0.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 7:59 p.m.

No votes were taken during Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 6 – 0. Meeting adjourned 8:25 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK