

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 22, 2008

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; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Frank Maher; Robert Bollengier; William Munroe and Mary Walsh. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar and Student Member Katherine Matook were present.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Chair DeSack read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM – None

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member

Katherine Matook gave an overview of team sports and upcoming planned activities at the Sr. High School. She explained the application process for National Honor Society; talked about our high school students' involvement in the DECCA State Career Development Conference at Johnson & Wales University next week, and said that the Winter Ball will take place this Saturday evening.

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

Member Maher pulled consent agenda items, B. 1. Appointments c. – j. for discussion.

Member Bollengier pulled consent agenda items, B. 1. Appointments b.; and B. 3. Resignations a. for discussion.

Superintendent Geismar answered Member Bollengier's clarifying question regarding

B. 3. Resignations a.. Member Bollengier withdrew his request to pull B. 3. Resignations a. from the consent agenda.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the consent agenda with items, B. 1. Appointments b., c. – j. pulled. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of December 11, 2007: Executive Session Minutes of December 11, 2007; Special Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2007: Special Meeting Minutes of January 3, 2008; Regular Minutes of January 8, 2008; Special Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2008

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Roy Immonen as 1.0 FTE Senior High School Math Teacher, Step 25, M-15, Salary \$72,626.00; effective on or about January 23, 2008

b. Pulled

c. Pulled

d. Pulled

e. Pulled

f. Pulled

g. Pulled

h. Pulled

i. Pulled

j. Pulled

2. Leaves of Absence

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

a. Letter of Resignation from Jayma DeCesare Coghlin from her position as .5 FTE Reading Recovery/.5FTE Grade 2 Teacher at Wawaloam School effective February 1, 2008

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$154,914.16

D. Home School Approvals

End Consent Agenda

Superintendent Geismar reviewed the Correspondence.

Correspondence – (1) January 2, 2008 letter from Attorney McAllister regarding Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion of Interest (2006-38); (2) January 15, 2008 EWGRSD District Discipline Report 07/08; (3) January 15, 2008 EWG Senior High School – Discipline Report; (4) January 22, 2008 Memorandum from Kathleen

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 22, 2008

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 3

LaCroix to School Committee Members Regarding Management Letter, Response and Questions from Committee Member Bollengier;

(5) January 22, 2008

Memorandum from Superintendent Geismar to School Committee Members Regarding High School Diploma System

Vice Chair Cicero moved to have Correspondence (5) pulled and placed on the next regular meeting agenda of February 12, 2008.

Seconded by Member Maher.

Voted 7 – 0.

Budget 2008 – 2009 – Members did not comment on this agenda item.

NEW BUSINESS – Curriculum Revision Cycle Plan – Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley referenced the Curriculum Revision Cycle Plan proposal enclosed in members' packets and explained that the district does not currently have a process in place to continuously review and revise curriculum. She proposed that the committee adopt a five-year curriculum revision cycle. Ms Daley requested the committees' consideration to amend Policy #7502- Curriculum Coordination and Articulation to include the creation of a comprehensive and cohesive curriculum system and review process. Ms. Daley answered members' clarifying questions. Consensus of the committee was that

Ms. Daley will provide members with additional details outlining the curriculum cycle implementation process and the Curriculum Councils membership. Ms. Daley will also attend the next policy subcommittee meeting to provide her input regarding revisions to

Policy #7502.

Policies – Review and Adoption - #4150 – AIDS Virus-HIV/Hepatitis – 1st Reading. – Member Walsh’s concerns regarding conflicting policy language was taken upon advisement by policy subcommittee members Bollengier and Cicero and will be reviewed at the next policy subcommittee meeting. This policy will continue to the next regular meeting agenda for a second reading.

Discuss and Approve Legislation for the \$5,877,308.03 Bond Issue – Superintendent Geismar recognized the legislation prepared by Attorney Brad Gorham enclosed in members’ packets and advised members that the legislation must be approved by the School Committee and the General Assembly in order to proceed with the bond issue.

Member Walsh moved to approve the legislation for the bond issue as written. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 5 – 2 in favor. Members Bollengier and Munroe voted no.

Superintendent Geismar reported that Director of Administration Robert Ross recently met with RI Department of Education School Construction Coordinator Joe DeSilva regarding Phase I of the bond issue. As part of the process, Mr. DeSilva has requested that a letter be submitted to him outlining the school district’s and the two towns’ Capital Project Plan.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 22, 2008

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 4

Member Wash moved to approve the letter. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher.

Superintendent Geismar and Director of Administration Robert Ross answered Member Bollengier's clarifying questions regarding the omission of the Capital Project athletic fields portion.

Voted 6 – 1 in favor. Member Munroe voted no.

WB Community Health Contract Extension Approval – Clerk Coutcher moved to approve the extension of the WB Community Health contract. Seconded by Member Walsh.

Members had a lengthy debate regarding Member Munroe's recommendation to once again seek bids from other health care providers, namely United Health, prior to committing to the WB Community Health Contract extension. Director of Administration Robert Ross advised that the healthcare costs associated with retention rates will be lowered significantly upon signing the contract extension with WB Community Health. The contract provides language that allows members to exit WB and seek alternative healthcare management providers without incurring any penalties;

although, run out and run in costs would still be applicable.

Voted 6 – 1 in favor. Member Munroe voted no.

Member Bollengier moved for reconsideration of the prior motion - to table the motion for 30-days to allow United Health to come to show that we can undercut the costs. Seconded by Member Maher.

Members and Administrators further discussed this subject.

Voted 3 – 4. Chair DeSack, Vice Chair Cicero, Clerk Coutcher, and Member Walsh voted no. Motion is defeated.

Chair DeSack said that the matter will continue to the next regular meeting agenda and requested that Administration research United Health fees.

Changes to Medicaid Reimbursement – Director of Administration Robert Ross advised members of the recent ruling by CMS eliminating payments for administrative activities and transportation of Medicaid eligible students. He said that the elimination of these payments lowers the district's 2008-2009 operations income by approximately \$20,000.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Metcalf School's Gymnasium Floor – Director of Administration Robert Ross said that he will be meeting

with Luis Torrado on Thursday

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 22, 2008

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 5

and he anticipates that they will be addressing Metcalf School's gymnasium floor at that time.

Transportation Update – There were no comments/questions communicated regarding this item.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – Chair DeSack reverted back to items pulled from the consent agenda. She cautioned members that personnel issues targeting individuals need to be addressed in Executive Session.

Member Maher requested that consent agenda item(s), B. 1. c. – j. be pulled for discussion. He explained that he has still not received the detailed information relating to administrators' individual earnings and performance evaluations that he had requested from the Superintendent. He suggested that the School Committee should gain access to those details prior to considering the reappointments.

Chair DeSack read passage from the EWGRSD School Committee Bylaws relating to the roles and responsibilities of the School Committee vs. the Superintendent. She emphasized her

understanding that the School Committee hires and selects the Superintendent to manage the district and it is the committees' responsibility to allow the Superintendent to do his job. Member Maher put forward his request to table these items until detailed information relating to salaries, raises, and clarification if performance evaluations have been completed are given to the School Committee for review. Chair DeSack said that salary information is forthcoming at the January 29, 2008 Budget Workshop meeting. Superintendent Geismar confirmed that the performance evaluations have been completed. Chair DeSack said that she will need to seek legal advice concerning whether or not the performance evaluations are a public document and are subject for review.

Superintendent Geismar made a plea to the committee to recognize the good job these Administrators do and the disappointment and tremendous problem with moral that will be caused by postponing these reappointments.

Member Maher moved to table personnel items of Tuesday, January 22, 2008 Consent Agenda c. – j. until the information I requested is available. Upon such time the committee will move forward with the recommendation of the Superintendent to reappoint the individuals. Seconded by Member Munroe. Vote 2 – 5. Motion defeated. Chair DeSack, Vice Chair Cicero, Clerk Coutcher, Members Bollengier and Walsh voted no.

Member Walsh moved to accept consent agenda item(s) B. 1. c. – j. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 5 – 1 – 1 in favor. Member Munroe voted no. Member Maher abstained.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 22, 2008

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 6

The following items were approved.

a.

b.

c. Denise Boulé as 1.0 FTE Senior High School Principal – Reappoint to a new 3-Year Contract/July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011

d. James Alves as 1.0 FTE Senior High School Assistant Principal – Reappoint to a new 3-Year Contract/July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011

e. Louise Boyce as 1.0 FTE Metcalf Elementary School Principal – Reappoint to a new 3-Year Contract/July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011

f. Carol Nolan Fish as 1.0 FTE Metcalf Elementary School Assistant Principal – Reappoint to a new 3-Year Contract/July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011

g. Nancy Daley as 1.0 FTE Director of Curriculum – Reappoint to a new 3-Year Contract/ July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011

h. Kathleen LaCroix as 1.0 FTE District Treasurer – Reappoint to a new 3-Year Contract/July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011

i. Robert Ross as 1.0 FTE Director of Administration – Reappoint to a new 3-Year Contract/July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011

j. Mark Thompson as 1.0 FTE Junior High School Principal –

Reappoint to a new 3-Year Contract/July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011

Member Bollengier requested that consent agenda item, B. 1. a. be pulled for discussion. Athletic Director Steve McGrane answered Member Bollengier's inquiry regarding Mr. Alves' retroactive effective date of August 2007. Member Bollengier recommended that appointments should come to the committee in a more timely fashion going forward.

Member Bollengier moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation of Steve Alves as Sr. High School Assistant Football Coach with a stipend of \$2,402.00; effective retroactive to August 2007 - for the 2007 – 2008 season. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 6 – 1 in favor. Member Munroe voted no.

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Tuesday, January 29, 2008 – (Districtwide/Facilities/Athletics and Junior High Budget Workshops); Wednesday, January 30, 2008-Hearing; Thursday, February 7, 2008-Town Council/School Committee Joint Meeting; Friday, February 15, 2008-Notice to Canvassers; Monday, March 3, 2008-Town Council/School Committee Joint Meeting;

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 22, 2008

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 7

Wednesday, March 5, 2008-Budget Workshop; Tuesday, March 11, 2008-School Committee Meeting-(Budget Adoption)

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 AND RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5–

Vice Chair Cicero moved to go into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (a)(9) – Collective Bargaining Agreement – Grievances and 42-46-5 (a)(2) – Collective Bargaining Agreement/Negotiation Discussion . Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 7 – 0.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

Member Maher moved to reconvene to Open Session. Seconded by Member Walsh.

Voted 7 – 0.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 8:59 p.m.

A 7 – 0 vote in favor was taken during Executive Session to accept the settlement agreement.

ADJOURNMENT – Member Maher moved to adjourn at 8:59 p.m. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned 8:59 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK