

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH April 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; Frank Maher; Mary Walsh; William Munroe; and Robert Bollengier. Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson arrived at 7:15 p.m. Gregory Coutcher, Clerk 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.**

**ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 – None**

**Recognitions/Achievements – Superintendent Geismar recognized**

**student David Barnes who is attending tonight's meeting as part of a requirement in earning a Citizenship Merit Badge. Next, Dr. Geismar introduced Jr. High School student Ashley Peltier. He said that Ashley is a phenomenal speller and that she is this year's Rhode Island Spelling Bee Champion. He offered congratulations to Ashley and her family. On behalf of the School Committee, Chair DeSack offered congratulations to Ashley and presented her with a School Committee Recognition Award and gift.**

**Jr. High School Presentation – Superintendent Geismar introduced Jr. High School Principal Thompson and Vice Principal Basel and said that he is proud of the work that they and their staff are doing. Principal Thompson and Vice Principal Basel gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the NECAP Testing results and gave an interpretation of the results. Other items highlighted in the presentation were suspensions and strategies used for reducing suspensions, and the MTI-URI After School Program, which is in place to support students who are in danger of falling behind academically.**

**Vice Chair Cicero arrived at this time, (7:15 p.m.).**

**Principal Thompson answered members' clarifying questions regarding homework club, how the extra-curricular activity policy is affecting the Jr. High, and testing analysis as it relates to the gender gap. In response to Vice Chair Cicero's inquiry, Principal Thompson**

said that in September 2007 a letter was sent to all 7th grade parents explaining the pathway from Jr. High to the Sr. High for students that do not take algebra during

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH April 22, 2008**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 2**

their Jr. High experience. Principal Thompson said that he would provide a copy of the letter to Vice Chair Cicero. Vice Chair Cicero took note that the extra-curricular activity policy, as it relates to the Jr. High, needs to be addressed at the next policy subcommittee meeting to bring it inline with the requirements at the Sr. High.

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

Director of Administration Robert Ross answered Member Bollengier's clarifying questions regarding consent agenda item, Bills.

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

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Budget Workshop Minutes of February 28, 2008; Joint Meeting Minutes of March 5, 2008; Regular Minutes of April 8, 2008; Executive Session Minutes of April 8, 2008; Budget

**Workshop Minutes of January 15, 2008; Budget Workshop Minutes of February 18, 2008**

**B. Personnel Items**

**1. Appointments**

**2. Leaves of Absence**

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

**a. Letter of Resignation from Jacqueline Mears from her position as Sr. High School Spanish Teacher, effective June 2008**

**b. Letter of Resignation from Craig Main from his position at Assistant Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach, effective for the 2008 – 2009 season**

**c. Letter of Resignation from Sharon Lee from her position as 1.0 FTE Sr. High School Science Teacher, effective June 2008**

**4. Grievances**

**5. Non-Renewals**

**6. Recalls**

**7. Sabbaticals**

**C. Bills – In the amount of \$392,660.89**

**D. Home School Approvals**

**End Consent Agenda**

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH April 22, 2008**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 3**

**Correspondence – (1)REVISED 2008 – 2009 School Calendar; (2) April 10, 2008 Memorandum to Kevin Breene from H. Weiner Regarding EWG Bond Issue; April 15, 2008 EWGRSD Discipline Report 2007 – 2008; (3) April 15, 2008 EWG Sr. High School Discipline Report**

**At the recommendation of Superintendent Geismar, Correspondence (1) will continue to the next regular meeting agenda for review/approval.**

**NEW BUSINESS – Biotechnology Book Adoption – Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley explained that the new biotechnology text is needed because the senior high school has begun a new 3-year biotechnology pathway. Ms. Daley confirmed that the purchase would be taken from the current year’s budget. This item will continue to the next regular meeting agenda to allow members time to examine the proposed textbook prior to voting to adopt.**

**EWG Sports 4 Kids Track Update – Superintendent Geismar referenced the Memorandum of Agreement in members’ packets and explained that the document was prepared by Attorney Brad Gorham. He said that the MOA clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the Building Committee for the track, the School Committee, and EWG Sports 4 Kids. In response to Member Bollengier’s inquiry as to whether or not, under the new statute of 18-months ago, the district will be held responsible financially if the project is overspent because it owns the land, consensus of the committee is that Superintendent**

**Geismar will seek further clarification from Attorney Gorham. This item will carry over to the next regular meeting agenda for consideration.**

**Policies – Review and Adoption - #8516 – Police Investigations on School Premises – 1st Reading – Member Bollengier communicated that this policy was discussed at the last policy subcommittee meeting and was drafted by Mr. Clay. He expressed that he wants members aware that he has serious issue relating to this policy and said that he is researching if a child in Kindergarten who is suspected in violation of this policy can be interrogated by a police officer without a parent present. Chair DeSack said that this is a first reading of this policy and that members should contact policy subcommittee members if they have any concerns or questions relating to it. This item will carry over to the next regular meeting agenda for a 2nd Reading.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – #4150 – AIDS Virus – HIV/Hepatitis – 2nd Reading – Chair DeSack expressed her observation that all policies read like a mini novel and are long and cumbersome. In response to Member Walsh’s clarifying questions, policy subcommittee members Cicero and Bollengier advised that Mr. Clay takes the language for the policies from the required statute. Chair DeSack said that this policy will be brought for adoption at the next regular meeting and that members should contact policy subcommittee members if they have any questions or concerns relating to it.**

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH April 22, 2008**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 4**

**#7505 – Home-Schooling – Adoption – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adopt Policy #7505 – Home-Schooling. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.**

**#7502 – Curriculum Coordination and Articulation – Adoption – Member Bollengier moved to adopt Policy #7505 – Curriculum Coordination and Articulation. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.**

**Wawaloam Fire Alarm/Egress Issue – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that he met Luis Torrado and Fire Marshal St. Jean last week. They conducted a walkthrough and review at Wawaloam School in order to compose a design to present to the RI Safety Code Fire Board of Appeal and Review on April 29, 2008.**

**Upon completion of the walkthrough, it was agreed that one window in each of nine classrooms on the new side of the building should be replaced. Mr. Ross advised that this course of action will meet code and is the most cost effective solution to resolve the egress issue. He said that Fire Marshal St. Jean is in agreement with having the windows replaced during this summer break.**

**Bond Discussion – Director of Administration Robert Ross advised**

that there is a Building Committee meeting this Friday at 4:00 p.m. He explained that the district needs to get the bidding process underway.

Mr. Ross said that Attorney Gorham has expressed an interest in acting as the district's bond counsel. Mr. Ross said that he will research how that filters through RIHEBC and will report back to the committee at the first meeting in May.

**2008 – 2009 Budget – None**

**REPORTS/COMMENTS –**

**IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Monday, May 5, 2008-SORICO Key Works Meeting; Tuesday, May 6, 2008-NECAP Workshop; Tuesday, May 13, 2008-School Committee Meeting-(Lineham/Wawaloam Presentation @ Wawaloam); Monday, May 26, 2008-Holiday; Tuesday, May 27, 2008-School Committee Meeting (Special Education Presentation in Jr. High Cafeteria)**

Chair DeSack requested that the committee is provided with a list of end of the year events.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - None**

**ADJOURNMENT – Member Maher moved to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 6 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned 8:05 p.m.**

**ROBIN CERIO**

**CLERK**