

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 10, 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 Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Frank Maher; Mary Walsh; and Robert Bollengier. Vice Chairperson Teri Cicero arrived at 7:10 p.m. Clerk Gregory Coutcher arrived at 7:54 p.m. Member William Munroe 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 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Chair DeSack read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM – Anne Peters, parent of a special education student, expressed her concern that Carmella Farrar’s probationary period as Director of Special Education is officially over and asked what is being done to evaluate her performance working in conjunction with parents. She asked if there is an evaluation procedure for administrators. Chair DeSack responded that there is an evaluation

process which is administered by the Superintendent. She advised that the committee will answer questions about the evaluation process but that if Ms. Peters has a personal issue and is unsatisfied with an administrator, the discussion will be deferred to the June 24, 2008 School Committee meeting agenda in Executive Session at the end of the meeting. She said that the evaluation process and evaluation form outline will be brought to the meeting. In response to Ms. Peters' inquiry, Chair DeSack said the evaluation process does not include parental input, but perhaps at some point a parental questionnaire could/should be implemented

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Chair DeSack requested Student Member Matook be invited to one more meeting to give an end of the year update. Subsequent to that, this item will be omitted from the agenda during the summer break.

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

Member Maher moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 4 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of May 27, 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 Christine Southworth from her position as 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Metcalf School, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 2008

b. Letter of Resignation from Barbara Valois from her position as 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Wawaloam School, for the purpose of Retirement, effective June 2008

c. Letter of Resignation from Judith Fulford from her position as 1.0 FTE Kindergarten Teacher at Lineham School, for the purpose of Retirement, effective June 2008

d. Letter of Resignation from Debra Magee from her position as 1.0 FTE Kindergarten Teacher at Lineham School, for the purpose of Retirement, effective June 2008

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals – Council 94

a. Please see enclosed June 10, 2008 Memorandum

6. Non-Renewals

7. Recalls

a. Please see enclosed June 10, 2008 Additional Recall List

8. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$94,865.57

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence – (1) May 30, 2008 Memorandum from Superintendent Geismar to School Committee Regarding West Greenwich Police Department Procedures for Interrogation of Students; (2) NSBA Affiliation Notice; (3) June 4, 2008 Memorandum from Superintendent Geismar to School Committee Regarding Professional Development Information

Member Maher pulled Correspondence (2) for clarification.

Vice Chair Cicero arrived at this time, (7:10 p.m.).

In response to Member Maher's inquiry, Chair DeSack clarified that Superintendent Geismar will take care of filling out and submitting the NSBA renewal form for all members.

Monthly Budget Projection 2007 – 2008 – In response to Member Maher's inquiry, Director of Administration Robert Ross gave details surrounding the -337,664 Expenses

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Balance which he explained was the result of unforeseen transportation expenses, (fuel and the addition of two buses) and an increase in tuition to SORICO, (six students @ \$11,000 per student).

Monthly Status Reports- Superintendent –

Curriculum

Special Education

Maintenance

Technology – In response to Member Maher’s inquiry about how Administration is handling District Network Administrator David Wright’s question about selling older equipment on eBay, Director of Administration Robert Ross said that this can be done but Administration wants it to be a School Committee sanctioned process. A general discussion ensued about the process and about district liability. Member Maher questioned if it is worth the time to pay someone to monitor items on eBay and pointed out that this type of equipment becomes obsolete quickly. He offered to make a motion if necessary, but expressed his opinion that it is a time consuming undertaking. Members did not express any concerns when Chair DeSack asked for the Committees’ consensus of if this suggestion is

worth pursuing.

Business – In response to Vice Chair Cicero’s question if the last bullet item of the Business Status Report is included in the Bond, Mr. Ross replied that it is not. Chair DeSack advised that this topic is part of an upcoming item on tonight’s agenda and will be discussed at that time.

Subcommittee Reports – Policy Subcommittee Report – Chair DeSack said that she took a call from a member of the policy subcommittee requesting consideration to add Superintendent Geismar as a new member to the subcommittee. She said that the Superintendent sits in on all of the meetings anyhow and that there is no conflict of interest involved.

Member Maher made a motion to add the Superintendent to the Policy Subcommittee as a member. Seconded by Member Walsh.

Member Bollengier said that he wanted to bring to the attention of the Chair that nonschool personnel members of the policy subcommittee sometimes have difficulty meeting due to their work schedules.

Voted 4 – 0 in favor.

NEW BUSINESS – Personnel – None

Policies – Review and Adoption - #8701 – Administering Student Medications – 1st Reading – Superintendent Geismar said that Policy #8701 has been reviewed by the school nurse teachers and the modifications are shown in red ink. Members Walsh and Maher asked clarifying questions. This item will continue to the next regular meeting agenda for a 2nd Reading.

Job Fair Vacancies – Superintendent Geismar brought members' attention to the REVISED June 10, 2008 list of Job Fair Vacancies. He said the list was revised due to the additional notices of retirement. He added that the recall list could change again as well.

Superintendent Geismar addressed Member Bollengier's uncertainty regarding the Job Fair Vacancies and the new retirees' positions. He asked Member Bollengier to disregard the list provided in his School Committee packet and to refer to the REVISED list that was provided in his supplemental packet.

Council 94 Job Fair Vacancies – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding this item.

Carpet Replacement – Wawaloam School – Director of Administration Robert Ross answered Vice Chair Cicero's questions pertaining to

the carpet installation process and room assignments for teachers.

Vice Chair Cicero made a motion to accept the proposal to allocate approximately \$7,200 for replacement of carpeting at Wawaloam in two classrooms. Seconded by Member Walsh.

Mr. Ross answered Member Maher's and Vice Chair Cicero's clarifying questions. Chair DeSack suggested replacing the carpet in the eleven remaining classrooms if there is leftover funding remaining when the Capital Project is completed. Mr. Ross said that he will bring that suggestion to the Capital Project Building Committees' attention.

Voted 5- 0 in favor.

Workers' Compensation Insurance Bid Award – Director of Administration Robert Ross referenced his memo dated June 10, 2008 regarding the Workers' Compensation Bid Award. He asked members to cross out the error listed in the third column under The Trust - \$73,594.92 as The Trust did not bid on the RFP. In response to Member Maher's question, Mr. Ross gave details regarding the scheduled credits the district receives each year from The Beacon.

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Member Maher moved to accept the bid for The Beacon Workers' Compensation bid award. Member Bollengier seconded. Voted 5 – 0 in favor.

Grade 6 Everyday Mathematics Program – Superintendent Geismar reminded members that under the direction of Curriculum Director Nancy Daley the district adopted the Everyday Mathematics Program for Grades K – 5. He said that grade 6 teachers have decided that they too would like to adopt the program. The fiscal impact of \$10,500 is not budgeted for. Dr. Geismar suggested looking at next year's budget to see if funding is available and then bringing this item back to the next regular meeting agenda for further discussion, or to look at the general fund balance to fund the request. Ms. Daley advised that she has spoken at great length with teachers and it makes better sense to have a K – 6 mathematics program. She said this program is aligned to the GLE's. In response to Members Bollengier's inquiry, Ms. Daley said that the overall cost is the same whether grade 6 is added next year or if it had been added initially along with grades K – 5. The Professional Development costs are already budgeted for next year for grades K – 5 and grade 6 teachers will be able to attend that PD as well at no additional cost to the district. In response to Members Maher's question, Ms. Daley said that grade 6 uses connected math but does not use investigations. Last year an investigations program was piloted but the district decided not to use it.

Member Walsh moved to adopt Everyday Mathematics – Grade 6; funded from the General Fund. Member Maher seconded.

In response to Vice Chair Cicero's question about the program's impact on special education students, Director of Special Education Carmella Farrar reported that students are co-taught and are no longer pulled out of the classroom for alternative programs. The program has been very positive for special education students and it includes many hands-on activities. Ms. Daley added that special education teachers were included in the professional development and they have that background.

In response to Vice Chair Cicero's questions about the transition to the Junior High School and if the math program aligns with the Jr. High, Ms. Daley said she has had preliminary conversation and will have further discussions with Principal Thompson and Mathematics Department Chair Karen Purtil about this matter. She said that the Jr. High uses some connected math. When Member Maher asked about NECAP testing score and Grade 6 mathematics, Ms. Daley said that NECAP mathematic testing scores are flat and a change in those scores should be seen one year from now. She said that, if permitted, she will issue a purchase order tomorrow and should receive the program in time for the first professional development day in August 2008.

Voted 5 - 0 in favor.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Jr. High School SALT Visit Report – The Jr. High School SALT Visit Report is not yet available for discussion.

Capital Project Update – Chair DeSack reported that the Metcalf School gymnasium (rubber) floor replacement was approved by the Building Committee, the bids are done for the roofs, and construction work will begin the day after school closes. She referred to the gymnasium floor maintenance machinery that the School Committee had previously discussed purchasing, (which is not part of the bond) and said the School Committee shall look at the cost and further discuss this potential purchase.

Clerk Coutcher arrive at this time 7:54 p.m.

Chair DeSack suggested the committee may want to consider purchasing two machines; one for Metcalf and one for the Jr. – Sr. High School.

Mr. Ross answered Member Maher's questions regarding the roofing contract costs.

Copier Contract Award – Member Walsh made a motion to approve the photo copier contract with RICHO Business Solutions, \$64,432.92. Seconded by Member Maher.

Director of Administration Robert Ross responded to Member Bollengier’s inquiry and told members the RICHO contract includes the same guarantees as the district’s current photocopier vendor, there is an approximate \$14,000 cost savings over the life of the contract, and if the contract is approved this evening; RICHO has agreed to underwrite the overage charges.

Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Board of Regents Proposed NEW Graduation Requirements – Vice Chair Cicero reported that SIT members met and dialogued with the Board of Regents last week for one hour. SIT shared its concerns and obtained over 1,300 signatures not supporting NECAP as a graduation requirement. The BOR was respectful and requested that SIT continue connecting and dialoguing with them. Vice Chair Cicero gave her opinion that the BOR is focusing on urban districts that are doing poorly and said that they recognize they may need to let the districts that are doing well make some decisions. The BOR has decided to wait until the fall to vote on this matter. Its next meeting is in August and they may schedule more public forums. Vice Chair Cicero said that SIT has made an impact. Vice Chair Cicero will notify

Chair DeSack or Dr. Geismar's secretary when this item is ready to be added to a future agenda.

Health Care Discussion – None

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REPORTS/COMMENTS –

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Monday, June 16, 2008-8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony; Monday, June 16, 2008-Last Day of School; Tuesday, June 24, 2008-School Committee Meeting-(Facilities Presentation); Tuesday, July 15, 2008-School Committee Meeting-(Optional or Eliminate); Tuesday, August 12, 2008-School Committee Meeting

In response to Chair DeSack's inquiry, Vice Chair Cicero, Clerk Coutcher, and Member Maher said they will attend the 8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony. She asked Superintendent Geismar to inform Principal Thompson.

There was a brief discussion regarding whether or not the optional July 15th School Committee meeting should be held. Consensus of the committee is the July 15th meeting will remain in place.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 AND RIGL 42-46-5 – Member Maher moved to go into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. in accordance with 42 -46-5 (a)(2) – Collective Bargaining Agreement/Negotiation Discussion and 42-46-5 (a)(1) – Personnel.. Seconded Member Bollengier. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Member Walsh left the meeting at this time, 8:10 p.m.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:10 p.m.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to reconvene to Open Session. Seconded by Bollengier. Voted 5 – 0 in favor.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 8:32 p.m.

A 5 – 0 vote was taken during Executive Session to terminate probationary Council-94 employee John Doe, with modification to the letter written by Bob Ross.

ADJOURNMENT – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 5 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned 8:33 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK