

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 24, 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; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Mary Walsh; William Munroe; and Robert Bollengier. Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson and Member Frank Maher were absent. 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 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Chair DeSack read the District Mission Statement.**

**OPEN FORUM – None**

**Member Bollengier made a motion to move up agenda item, PRESENTATION – Student Member Report. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 5 – 0 in favor.**

**PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Matook gave an end of the year report. On behalf of the School Committee, Chair DeSack thanked Katherine for her services as Student Member and presented her with a gift card.**

**Teacher of the Year 2008 – Superintendent Geismar recognized Carin Corcoran as EWG 2008 Teacher of the Year and explained that she will be honored tonight by the School Committee and the public and again in August at Teacher Orientation Day 2008/09 in front of her fellow teachers. He thanked Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley for her work as lead selection committee member. Dr. Geismar said that six teachers were nominated as Teacher of the Year by their colleagues. The nominees are Elizabeth Lind; Ron Runner; Linda Cornell; Susan Wieboldt; Joy Souza, and Carin Corcoran. He said that each of these nominees is an outstanding educator. The Superintendent gave a brief overview of Mrs. Corcoran's involvements in the district. He thanked Mrs. Corcoran for her work and offered her his congratulations. On behalf of the School Committee, Chair DeSack thanked Mrs. Corcoran and presented her with a School Committee Recognition Apple Award.**

**Mrs. Corcoran offered thanks and said that she invited the people who mean a lot to her to come this evening. She recognized her parents who she said, "Made me who I am today".**

**Sodexo Presentation – Director of Administration Robert Ross said**

he invited Sodexo to come this evening to give an end of the year report. This is the final year of Sodexo's contract with the district. He praised them for the good work they do. General Managers

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 24, 2008**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 2**

Mark Roy and Rick Giuntoli and Food Service Manager Brenda Forgue introduced themselves. They reported a breakeven projection for the 07/08 financial year end in spite of a 12% increase in food costs and other economic difficulties; proposed an 08/09 base meal price increase of \$ .25 – [elementary increase from \$1.75 to \$2.00 and secondary increase from \$2.00 to \$2.25]; and gave an overview of their proposed 08/09 School Year Vision – a new menu plan to be introduced in August 2008: Phase I – Made 4 Deli/Panini Grill Station and Pizza/Calzone Station; and in January 2009: Phase II – Made 4 You Grill. Sodexo representatives explained tiered lunch pricing. They presented that the pricing structure and menu changes will increase participation and revenues. Sodexo representatives heard concerns and positive comments and answered questions from School Committee members and audience members regarding the lunch program. In response to one parent audience member's concerns, Mr. Roy and Mr. Giuntoli agreed to look at the lunch offerings and lunch delivery at Wawaloam School.

Member Walsh made a motion to accept the proposed prices of \$2.00 and \$2.25 for next year. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher.

**In response to Member Bollengier's inquiry, Chair DeSack advised that regardless of whether or not the new lunch program takes affect, the base prices are set to breakeven so that at the end of the school year the district does not end with a deficit. Mr. Ross said that the Sodexo contract is renewable every year and the district has not experienced a price increase in two years. Upon completion of a discussion surrounding the new equipment necessary to implement the new proposed 08/09 school lunch program vision, consensus of the Committee was to vote to accept the proposed base price increase and to have Sodexo bring back to the July 15, 2008 School Committee meeting its proposal for the new program detailing whether or not it will result in any additional cost to the district.**

**Vote 5 – 0 in favor.**

**Facilities Presentation –Superintendent Geismar introduced Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley. Mr. Plumley referenced his Maintenance Presentation enclosure and brought members' attention to Item 1. The Lineham Basement. He explained what is being done to alleviate a teacher's allergic reaction to working in that space.**

**Superintendent Geismar left the meeting at this time, (7:47 p.m.).**

**Mr. Plumley updated members with new information concerning, Item 3. Carpet replacement at Wawaloam. He said that after contacting the**

**carpet vendor he learned that the replacement will cost approximately \$8,000 to \$9,000. Chair DeSack reminded members that at its last meeting, it set aside \$7,200 for Wawa loam's carpet replacement.**

**Superintendent Geismar returned to the meeting at this time, (7:50 p.m.).**

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 24, 2008**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 3**

**Members briefly discussed the function of Lineham's basement.**

**Member Bollengier made an observation that he said has been ongoing for years. He expressed his opinion that the Jr. – Sr. High School athletic fields' grass is cut too short. Mr. Plumley assured Member Bollengier that going forward the deck on the mower will be raised so that the grass will not be cut too short.**

**ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Geismar reviewed the consent agenda. He referenced the retirement notice from Ella Leone and thanked her for her dedicated service to the district. He expressed his opinion that she will be hard to replace.**

**In response to Member Bollengier's clarifying question regarding BILLS – Expenditures page 2 of 8: a check written to EWG Sr. High Principal's Account, Superintendent Geismar said that this is one of those issues that he needs to clarify with staff in order to answer. He**



**a. See Memorandum – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)**

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 24, 2008**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 4**

**8. Sabbaticals**

**C. Bills – In the amount of \$361,091.25**

**D. Home School Approvals**

**End Consent Agenda**

**Chair DeSack referenced Correspondence (4) and gave a brief explanation as to why she had it enclosed in members' packets.**

**Correspondence – (1) June 15, 2008 EWGRSD Discipline Report 2007 – 2008; (2) June 15, 2008 EWG Sr. High School Discipline Report; (3) June 18, 2008 Memorandum from Nancy Daley to School Committee regarding US History Textbooks; (4) Email Correspondence from Parent; (5) June 24, 2008 Memorandum from Superintendent Geismar to School Committee**

**NEW BUSINESS – Kindergarten Schedule – Superintendent Geismar said he brings this item to members' attention for discussion or for a vote. He advised that as a result of the bidding at the Job Fair, the district will have four teachers available for the afternoon kindergarten and three available for the morning. The reason for that is that the fourth teacher is teaching .5 Kindergarten and .5 Reading**

**Recovery. Reading Recovery must be taught in the morning. Also, the teacher who bid on this position is a Reading Recovery trained teacher which saves the district the expense of training a new person, (\$10,000). The current enrollment in Kindergarten would require four teachers for the West Greenwich session and three for the Exeter session. The current enrollment and staffing would require West Greenwich to attend in the afternoon again next year. This year, West Greenwich has attended in the afternoon. Typically the towns alternate each year. Dr. Geismar advised that this schedule is the best fit both financially and academically.**

**[With regards to the 08/09 Kindergarten schedule]**

**Member Munroe made a motion to remain with Exeter in the morning and West Greenwich in the afternoon. Seconded by Member Walsh.**

**Member Bollengier said that he supports the Superintendent's recommendation. Clerk Coutcher said that he knows West Greenwich parents are expecting their children to go in the morning session next year and a change may not be well received by all. He suggested that if West Greenwich's enrollment continues to be higher than Exeter's, perhaps the process of flip flopping should end and a lottery system should be implemented. Member Walsh pointed out that busing issues play a role in the current structure. Chair DeSack advised that the other option is to add to the headcount of the district for a .5 FTE. Superintendent Geismar brought members' attention to the memorandum he enclosed in the supplemental packets regarding**

reallocation of resources. He said that at the July 15, 2008 School Committee meeting a request to hire a .5 reading specialist to provide additional support at Wawaloam School will come forth.

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 24, 2008**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 5**

Potentially the end result of the new posting could cancel out the Kindergarten schedule issue. Although there are concerns regarding late notification to parents, Chair DeSack advised it would be foolish to send a message to parents that may potentially change. She recommended that Member Munroe table his motion to the next meeting at which time the committee can make an informed decision.

Member Munroe asked that his motion be tabled to the July 15, 2008 meeting.

**Dell Lease Purchase Agreement – Member Bollengier made a motion to have Clerk Coutcher sign the Dell Lease Purchase Agreement contract. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 5 – 0 in favor.**

**Security Monitoring Bid Award – Director of Administration Robert Ross recommended the committee award the district security monitoring to Electronic Alarms Systems, Inc.**

Member Bollengier moved based on the recommendation of the Director of Administration to approve the Security Monitoring bid

**award to Electronic Alarms Systems, Inc. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 5 – 0 in favor.**

**Life Insurance Renewal – Clerk Coutcher moved to accept the life insurance renewal. Seconded by Member Bollengier.**

**In response to Member Bollengier’s inquiry if this item went out to bid, Mr. Ross said the renewal was through RIASBO.**

**Voted 5 – 0 in favor.**

**For the Record: (The life insurance renewal is with Standard Life Insurance)**

**Pending Legislation – Chair DeSack referenced pending legislation items she had enclosed in member’s packets and explained it is a request for the School Committee to pass a resolution supporting legislative amendments to protect RI’s cities and towns and their public officials/employees. Member Munroe pointed out that this legislation is still pending. Member Bollengier said that he read the legislation and he suggested seeking a legal opinion if the School Committee should endorse this legislation. Member Munroe agreed and recommended seeking the legal opinion from the district’s labor attorney. Chair DeSack asked if it was of the opinion of the committee to seek a legal opinion. Member Bollengier replied, “I would so move.” Chair DeSack asked for clarification if it is of the**

**legal attorney's opinion to support, can she then send the letter of support? Member Bollengier clarified his motion is just to obtain an opinion of counsel if the School Committee as a group should support. He said that if the opinion is yes, further add - do submit draft language by consent of EWG School Committee. Chair DeSack**  
**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 24, 2008**  
**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 6**

**clarified the motion made by Member Bollengier is: to seek council opinion from our labor attorney whether it is advisable for the School Committee to support the legislation. If the labor attorney feels it is okay, Chair DeSack will draft, sign, and send the letter. Seconded by Member Walsh.**

**Member Munroe requested that the legal opinion is in writing.**

**Voted 5 – 0 in favor.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policies – Review and Adoption - #8701 – Administering Student Medication – 2nd Reading – Chair DeSack advised members to contact policy subcommittee members with any questions or concerns they may have pertaining to this policy. This item will be brought to the next meeting agenda for adoption.**

**Jr. High School SALT Visit Team Report – Chair DeSack pointed out**

that this item was listed on the last three agendas. She said that Principal Thompson is here to answer any questions members may have. Member Walsh expressed her opinion that this is a really good report. Principal Thompson said that the visiting team indicated it was the best report they have written all year. In response to Chair DeSack's inquiry about the visiting teams' recommendation regarding common planning time, Principal Thompson said plans are already in place to address the visiting teams' recommendations and gave examples of what is in place. He said that this report identifies what needs to be addressed and that Professional Development is ongoing. Chair DeSack read a positive statement in the report and suggested it should be mailed home to parents. Principal Thompson said he will now be able to share the report with Providence Journal reporter Lisa Sparks and he plans to put it on the district website. Principal Thompson answered Member Munroe's questions regarding math support for struggling students. He reported plans for summertime professional development and remedial math instruction during repeat period next school year. Chair DeSack requested that Principal Thompson bring the results of these implemented programs to the School Committee midyear of next school year.

Capital Project Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that the architect, building committee chairperson, Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley, and Gorman Roofing representative were in district on Friday to review the different roofs and will meet again tomorrow. Equipment starts to arrive tomorrow and work

**begins on the Jr. – Sr. High School roof project this week. Metcalf School's gymnasium floor replacement project will be reviewed with Tower Construction on Friday.**

**Health Care Discussion – Director of Administration Robert Ross advised that the bid proposal from United Health meets the district's current healthcare costs and does not**

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 24, 2008**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 7**

**take into account the current healthcare deficit, (\$400,000) resulting from the district's claims experience. Chair DeSack said that going forward; this item will be removed from the School Committee meeting agenda.**

**REPORTS/COMMENTS –**

**IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Tuesday, July 15, 2008-School Committee Meeting-(Optional or Eliminate); Tuesday, August 12, 2008-School Committee Meeting**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 –  
None**

**ADJOURNMENT – Member Bollengier moved to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 5 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned**

**8:42 p.m.**

**ROBIN CERIO  
CLERK**