

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH August 12, 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; Frank Maher; Mary Walsh; William Munroe; and Robert Bollengier. Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson arrived at 7:11 p.m. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; and Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar; were present. Director of Administration Robert V. Ross was absent.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Clerk Coutcher read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM – None

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

Member Bollengier requested to pull consent agenda item, IV. B. 1. C., to be consistent with what the committee did at its last meeting

regarding Mr. Stetson's appointment, to vote conditional upon the candidate's attendance at the next School Committee meeting.

Member Bollengier moved to accept the consent agenda with the condition that Amy Biagioni's appointment is held until she attends the next SC meeting. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher.

Superintendent Geismar answered Member Munroe's clarifying questions.

Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of July 15, 2008

B. Personnel Items

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

a. Jessica Wolke as 0.5 FTE District-wide Social Worker, Step 9, M, Salary \$30,744; effective August 25, 2008

b. Joseph Renzi as 1.0 FTE Special Education ALP Teacher at the Sr. High School, Step 1, B, Salary \$36,649; effective August 25, 2008, contingent upon receipt of a non-disqualifying Criminal Background Check

c. Amy Biagioni as 1.0 FTE Science Teacher at the Senior High School, Step 5, M, Salary \$47,952; effective June 25, 2008, with the condition that her appointment is held until she attends the next

School Committee meeting

d. Caitlin Letourneau as 0.5 FTE Elementary Special Education Teacher at Lineham/Wawaloam Schools, Step 1, B, Salary \$18,325; effective June 25, 2008

e. Caroline Scheff as .8 FTE Elementary Music Teacher at Metcalf School, effective for the 2008/09 School Year

f. Lee Stetson as 1.0 FTE Senior High Spanish Teacher, Step 1, B, Salary \$36,673; effective June 25, 2008

2. Leaves of Absence

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

a. Letter of Resignation from Lorraine Riley from her position as 1.0 FTE Teacher Assistant at Wawaloam School, effective June 25, 2008

4. Grievances

5. Recalls

6. Non-Renewals

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – 2008/09 Bills the amount of \$231,644.24 and 2007/08 Accruals in the amount of \$11,149.08

D. Home School Approvals

1. NEGRI – Rachel and Alexander

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence – (1) Grades K – 3 PALS 2007/08 Results

Monthly Status Reports- Superintendent – Members did not express concerns or questions regarding Status Reports.

Business

Curriculum

Special Education

Maintenance

Technology

Monthly Subcommittee Report(s) – Transportation Subcommittee Report – Member Maher informed the committee that his meeting with Member Bollengier and Superintendent Geismar to discuss the route consolidation parent questionnaire mailing had to be rescheduled to August 14, 2008. He requested this item be carried over to the next meeting agenda.

NEW BUSINESS – Policies – Review and Adoption - #6312 – Filling Administration Vacancies – Amendment – Superintendent Geismar said that policies 6312, 6405, and 6410 relate back to counsel from the district’s labor attorney regarding the legality to ask for pre-placement physical examinations.

Vice Chair Cicero arrived at this time, (7:11 p.m.).

Dr. Geismar advised that Policy 8607- Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities, Including Athletics has been amended to correct an error regarding eligibility at the junior high. Dr. Geismar answered members’ clarifying questions.

Member Bollengier moved to accept the amendments to Policy 6312 – Filling Administration Vacancies. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

#6405 – Screening Potential Employees and School Volunteers – 2nd Amendment Reading – Member Bollengier moved to accept policy 6405 – Screening Potential Employees and School Volunteers as amended. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

#8607 – Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities, Including Athletics – Amendment – Member Bollengier moved to accept Policy 8607 – Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities, Including Athletics as amended. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 6 – 1 in favor. Member Munroe voted no.

#6410 – Pre-Placement Physical Examination – Deletion – Member Bollengier moved to delete Policy 6410 – Pre-Placement Physical Examination as per legal counsel. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

Approve 1.0 FTE Clerical Position – Superintendent Geismar referenced his written request to the School Committee to authorize the hiring of a 1.0 FTE clerical person to support the Director of Administration in carrying out his responsibilities in the areas of budget preparation, bid processing, and for support for the human resource function of the district office. Dr Geismar advised that this

is not an additional FTE. It will replace a budgeted position for a teacher assistant who is no longer needed. Chair DeSack pointed out that this clerical position would be a permanent position and that a teacher assistant position is a temporary position which potentially may need to be reinstated which would add to the district headcount. In response to Member Bollengier's inquiry, Dr. Geismar clarified that presently the Director of Administration is supported by a .25 secretary who also supports the Director of Curriculum .25 and purchasing .50. The new position will also allow support to the Director of Curriculum to increase to .50.

Member Walsh moved to authorize the hiring of a 1.0 FTE clerical person. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher.

Member Walsh expressed her reasons for supporting the new position. Superintendent Geismar asked members if they would consider hiring a 1.0 FTE clerical position for one year and to evaluate the position at the end of the year. Member Bollengier supported Dr. Geismar's suggestion. Clerk Coutcher said that although he agrees the need is there, with the present financial climate he cannot support the request. He suggested waiting to see if the need is still there after the new HR program has been implemented. Chair DeSack suggested hiring a temporary person for the position. Dr. Geismar said that he will present his request again at the next meeting.

Chair DeSack repeated the motion on the floor.

Voted 0 – 6 – 1. Chair DeSack, Vice Chair Cicero, Clerk Coutcher, Members Munroe, Maher, and Bollengier voted no. Member Walsh abstained. Motion denied.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Capital Project Update – Chair DeSack reported that the roofing project is just about complete and the plan is to have Metcalf’s gymnasium floor repair project completed prior to the start of school. Member Munroe voiced his concerns and expressed his opinion that the floor experts should provide a written guarantee for the gymnasium floor repair project. In response to Member Munroe’s concerns about the School Committees’ lack of ability to challenge the Building Committees’ decisions, Chair DeSack reminded him that she had previously provided School Committee members with a legal opinion confirming that the School Committee does not have jurisdiction over the Building Committee and that the Charter of the two towns and the School Committee are being followed. She also reminded Member Munroe that there are two School Committee representatives on the Building Committee. In response to Vice Chair Cicero’s inquiry, Dr. Geismar said that the duct work schedule will be provided at the next meeting. Dr. Geismar reported that the Bond closing is complete.

REPORTS/COMMENTS –

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Wednesday, August 13, 2008-Capital Bond Building Committee Meeting; Wednesday, August 20, 2008-Capital Bond Building Committee Meeting; Friday, August 22, 2008-New Staff Training; Monday, August 25, 2008-Teacher Orientation Day; Tuesday, August 26, 2008-Professional Development Day; Tuesday, August 26, 2008-School Committee Meeting; Wednesday, August 27, 2008 – First Day of School Students; Wednesday, August 27, 2008-Capital Bond Building Committee Meeting

Chair DeSack reported that negotiations will take place this upcoming Sunday.

ADJOURNMENT – Member Bollengier moved to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 7 - 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned 7:40 p.m.

**ROBIN CERIO
CLERK**