

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH October 14, 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; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Frank Maher; Mary Walsh; William Munroe; and Robert Bollengier. 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 left the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

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

OPEN FORUM – None

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Matook gave an overview of Spirit Week and student activities at the senior high school. On behalf of the student body, Ms. Matook thanked those responsible for bringing the “great cafeteria food” to EWG. Also, she brought one complaint to the committee relating to the poor

condition of the girls' locker room bathroom stalls.

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

Student Matook left the meeting at this time, (7:09 p.m.).

In response to Member Munroe's clarifying question regarding consent agenda item, B. 1. Appointments, Director of Administration Robert Ross confirmed that tonight's appointment recommendation is to fill a vacancy and is not to fill a new position. Member Munroe asked clarifying questions regarding consent agenda item, C. Bills. Mr. Ross said he will seek clarification and bring to the next meeting details regarding an expenditure of \$505 for SONIC WALL.

Member Bollengier moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of September 23, 2008

B. Personnel Items

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

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a. Timothy Kuncio as 1.0 FTE 2nd Shift Custodian at Metcalf School, Step 1, Grade 1, Annual Salary \$24,312; effective on or about September 15, 2008

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

5. Recalls

6. Non-Renewals

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$199,740.08; 2007/08 Accruals in the amount of \$4,710.00

D. Home School Approvals

1. SEPE – Andrea and Dominique

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence – (1) October 6, 2008 Memorandum from Superintendent Geismar to School Committee Regarding an Article he received from Member Bollengier; (2) September 23, 2008 Student Member Matook's Written Report to School Committee; (3) October 14, 2008 Memorandum from Superintendent Geismar to School Committee Regarding SORICO Workshop

Monthly Status Reports- Superintendent –

Business – In response to Member Walsh’s inquiry for clarification regarding The School Transportation Initiative section of his report, Mr. Ross advised that escape clause language in the district’s contract with First Student says that the district will remain with First Student for out-of-district transportation until the state takeover in September 2010. In response to Member Bollengier’s inquiry as to whether it is a possibility that when the state takes over out-of-district transportation the cost will increase, Mr. Ross said the objective is to have the cost decrease. The state will come forward with a per pupil fee and it is expected to be in the \$3 to \$4 range.

Member Maher requested to review The Food Service Management section of Mr. Ross’ report and asked if the district will opt to sign on to the state contract. He expressed his concern that the state food service contractor does not get a good grade for food quality and questioned if it is worth it to save costs in return for poor quality food. Member Maher said that he has a lot of questions concerning this matter. Mr. Ross said that the district has a great relationship with Sodexo and Sodexo has made many improvements to its program. The state is asking districts to sign on in order to achieve buying power and to become more cost effective. The state has chosen a vendor that EWG does not use. Mr. Ross said that he is listening to what other business managers have to say and he is trying to get a read on the situation. The Sodexo contract expires June 30, 2009 and the district needs to bid this spring. He gave an overview of the bidding process if the district does not go with the state vendor.

Vice Chair Cicero noted that the district has worked hard with Sodexo. Chair DeSack advised Mr. Ross to bring this item to future meeting agendas as information becomes available.

Curriculum

Special Education

Maintenance – Member Bollengier requested to bring to the next meeting agenda the Maintenance Status Report that will address the concerns Student Member Matook brought to tonight’s meeting regarding the girls’ locker room.

Technology

Monthly Subcommittee Report(s) – Transportation Subcommittee Report – None

Chair DeSack requested an update on the status of the Kindergarten [early start] Subcommittee. Member Munroe said that at the last meeting the Committee discussed that there is one too many School Committee members sitting on the subcommittee and the subcommittee is waiting to see which members will remain on the

subcommittee. Member Maher agreed to withdraw his seat on the Kindergarten Subcommittee. Chair DeSack requested that the meeting minutes that indicate the outline of who will sit on the Kindergarten Subcommittee be emailed to Members Munroe, Walsh, and Clerk Coutcher so that they may begin to meet.

NEW BUSINESS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – High School New Graduation Requirements – Letter to RIDE – Chair DeSack noted that the letter that was sent to the Rhode Island Department of Education is enclosed in members' packets. To date, RIDE has not responded to the letter.

Town of Exeter-Request for Reimbursement – Chair DeSack reported that she followed up on Exeter's request for reimbursement. She found that the \$4,000 cost was not for the installation of the emergency generator at Metcalf School. It was for replacement of a box that the generator hooks up to. The box is equipment belonging to the district. When installation began, it was discovered that the existing box was too old and no longer functional. She requested that Administration seek clarifying information from Maintenance Director Bill Plumley regarding the box so that the School Committee can make an informed decision. This item will continue to the next meeting agenda. Chair DeSack noted that the Town has not yet submitted the installation bill to the district.

Capital Project Update – Superintendent Geismar reported that Metcalf’s gymnasium floor required new repairs due to the contractor’s use of pressure treated wood, (which contains moister in it) which caused the new floor to begin to cave. He said that Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley noticed the issue and reported it to Building Committee Chairperson Jim Woloohojian. Architect Luis Torrado contacted the contractor to redo the floor. Dr. Geismar said that one more coat of polyurethane is needed, the bleacher will be installed next week, and Chair Woloohojian is satisfied with the repair. The gymnasium should be good to go in the beginning of November. The repair did not add cost to the project and the Building Committee will not authorize payment until it is 100% certain that the floor is done acceptably.

Member Bollengier said that he recently addressed a concern he has with Administration that he is surprised that the gymnasium floor is nearly complete but none of the entranceways have been addressed yet. The gymnasium will open and in bad weather debris will be tracked in. Superintendent Geismar said that he brought Member Bollengier’s concern to Luis Torrado. Mr. Torrado has indicated that he does not think it will take a long time to complete. However, it will not be done before the floor is complete. Chair DeSack advised that

the back doors need to be outfitted correctly so people can enter the gymnasium. Dr. Geismar agreed and said that Mr. Torrado indicated it is under control, in process, and will be accomplished. Measures will be taken to ensure that the floor is okay. Member Bollengier said that during his visit to Metcalf the custodial staff indicated that they are not aware of directives regarding traffic flow in the gymnasium. He pointed out that the custodial staff is not aware, and the gymnasium floor is done. Chair DeSack advised that the district needs to communicate not to use those doors and suggested to put alarms on the doors in the meantime. In response to Member Maher's inquiry, Superintendent Geismar said that he believes the project will be completed the beginning of November. He is unsure if both the doors and the floor or just the floor will be ready then.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – Chair DeSack informed members that the Committee will be looking at the Council-94 CBA for ratification at the next meeting. She said that the district attorney will be in attendance at that meeting to answer questions.

Chair DeSack asked members to take note of the Wednesday School Committee meeting coming up on November 12th.

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Wednesday, October 22, 2008-Building Committee Meeting; Tuesday, October 28, 2008-School Committee Meeting; WEDNESDAY, November 12, 2008-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, November 25, 2008-School Committee

Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 AND RIGL 42-46-5 – None

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ADJOURNMENT – Member ~~Maier~~ Maher moved to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned 7:45 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK