

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH November 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 Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Frank Maher; Mary Walsh; William Munroe; and Robert Bollengier. Susan DeSack, Chairperson; and Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson were absent. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; and Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; were present. Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar; and Student Member Katherine Matook were absent.**

**Due to the absence of Chairperson DeSack, Clerk Coutcher assumed the position of Acting Chairperson for this evening's meeting.**

**ORDER – Chair Coutcher called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Member Bollengier read the District Mission Statement.**

**OPEN FORUM – None**

**PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – None**

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

**Member Bollengier requested to pull consent agenda item, Budget Summary – Month Ending September 30, 2008 and to place this item on the second meeting agenda of November. Member Bollengier explained that he has serious concerns and needs time to sit with Director of Administration Robert Ross to discuss them. He said that this item shall be placed on the agenda if after discussing his concerns with Mr. Ross, it still needs to be reviewed.**

**Member Bollengier moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 5 - 0 in favor.**

**The following items were approved:**

**A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of October 28, 2008; Executive Session Minutes of October 28, 2008**

**B. Personnel Items**

**1. Appointments**

**2. Leaves of Absence**

**3. Resignations**

**4. Grievances**

**5. Recalls**

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**6. Non-Renewals**

**7. Sabbaticals**

**C. Bills – In the amount of \$79,083.92**

**D. Home School Approvals**

**End Consent Agenda**

**Chair Coutcher reviewed the Correspondence.**

**Correspondence – (1) DRAFT 2009 School Committee Meeting Dates;  
(2) EWGHS Profile 2008-2009**

**Monthly Status Reports- Superintendent –**

**Business –**

**Curriculum**

**Special Education**

**Maintenance – Member Bollengier referenced the Maintenance Status Report and requested that at the next meeting further clarifying information be brought to the Committee relating to projects that need to be done and how the work will be done before the end of the year. Chair Coutcher restated Member Bollengier’s request to have Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley provide the Committee with his program schedule at the next meeting.**

**Technology**

**Monthly Subcommittee Report(s) – Kindergarten Subcommittee Report – Member Walsh reported the kindergarten subcommittee will meet tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m. in the administration building conference room. Kindergarten teachers Joy Souza and Christine Petrarca will sit on the subcommittee. Presently the subcommittee does not have a psychology representative, but may have a speech specialist replacement instead. Member Munroe said that since he will no longer be a member of the School Committee that he will withdraw his seat on the kindergarten subcommittee. Consensus of the School Committee was to have two members (Member Walsh and Chair Coutcher) sit on the subcommittee instead of three.**

**NEW BUSINESS – Draft 2009 – 2010 Budget Development Timeline – Member Bollengier asked if the School Committee will hold to having multiple budget workshop dates. He said that last year the Committee consolidated and held fewer, lengthier workshops which was well received by members. Superintendent Geismar agreed to consolidate budget workshop dates. Chair Coutcher requested the consolidated timeline be brought to the December 9, 2008 meeting at which time the two newly elected School Committee members will assume their positions.**

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**Policies-Review and Adoption - #8513: Bullying, Dating Violence, Sexual Violence and Hazing-Prohibited – Amendment – Superintendent Geismar advised that the amendment to this policy is required by the Lindsay Anne Burke law and is to be enacted by December 1, 2008.**

**Member Bollengier made a motion to amend Policy #8513: Bullying, Dating Violence, Sexual Violence and Hazing-Prohibited. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 5 – 0 in favor.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policies-Review and Adoption - #6313: Hiring Non-Certified Employees – 2nd Reading and #6310: Recruiting, Selecting, and Appointing Teaching Staff – 2nd Reading – Superintendent Geismar expressed his concerns with language in both policies 6313 and 6310, Dr. Geismar said that language referring to the superintendent requesting the School Committee to authorize posting a vacant position will delay the hiring process which from an operational standpoint is not a good practice. He said that he would appreciate the ability to fill a budgeted vacancy according to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Next, Dr. Geismar pointed out that language in the Interview sections is out of sync with the CBA.**

**Member Bollengier moved for the purpose of tonight’s meeting, to withdraw the second readings of Policy 6313: Hiring Non-Certified Employees and Policy 6310: Recruiting, Selecting, and Appointing Teaching Staff so that both can be sent back to the policy**

**subcommittee for a second review. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 5 – 0 in favor.**

**High School New Graduation Requirements – Letter to RIDE – Superintendent Geismar referenced the response letter received from the Rhode Island Department of Education and said that the new graduation requirement changes will take place.**

**Dr. Geismar reported that the mandatory notification to students and their families of the amended regulations has been made. Member Walsh commented that the letter from RIDE does not address the letter sent by the district. Dr. Geismar said that the district is doing what it must to prepare students to be proficient. Ultimately, EWG will look at report card assessments aligning with the standards. He said that report cards should show if students are proficient. Principal Thompson told members that the middle school is already in compliance with the regulations as passed. He said that EWG will not incur more, budgetary-wise, since the middle school is already in compliance.**

**Town of Exeter-Request for Reimbursement – Director of Administration Robert Ross referenced information provided from National Grid through Scott Kettelle’s office and a letter from the Exeter Town Clerk relating to the work that was done, totaling \$1,030.71, to hook-up the emergency generator at Metcalf School. Mr. Ross reported, for the record, that he received a bill today for \$14,999.00. He reminded members that bill was discussed at the last**

meeting and the Committee agreed to pay half. Mr. Ross clarified that the \$1,030.71 invoice is an additional unanticipated invoice. Member Munroe

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voiced his opinion that since the new hookup equipment was needed, the cost should be shared as well.

Member Walsh moved to approve the payment of \$1,030.71 for the installation of the new primary conductor and equipment at the transformer and riser pole 2-8 – the connection to the generator. Seconded by Member Maher.

Chair Coutcher said that he agrees with Member Munroe that the district should pay half for this unforeseen new cost. Member Bollengier reminded members that he had objected to sharing generator installation costs when the issue first came to the School Committee because he saw this as a municipal function and because the generator is not the district's equipment.

**Vote 0 – 5. Motion failed.**

Member Walsh made a motion to pay half of the cost; approximately \$515.36.

**Member Walsh stated her reason for making the motion. She expressed that the district did not pay for the generator. It was part of a grant. The generator benefits the school and the Town of Exeter. She gave her opinion that it is foolish to let a \$15,000 generator go because of a \$515.00 cost.**

**Chair Coutcher seconded the motion.**

**Chair Coutcher said that he agrees with Member Walsh to pay half. He suggested to qualify the motion that no further expense can be added. Member Munroe explained why he voted against sharing generator installation costs when the issue first came to the School Committee. However, he said that he agrees to pay half with the stipulation that there will be no more added cost.**

**Member Walsh amended her motion to pay half of the cost, approximately \$515.36. This is the final payment on the generator installation. Seconded by Chair Coutcher.**

**Member Bollengier restated his opinion that the generator is not a school function. He questioned why should the school district absorb the cost for the generator installation. Member Maher said that he agrees with Member Bollengier to a point. Member Maher expressed his opinion that it is worth paying half because the district may need to use the generator for students during the school day. Chair Coutcher advised that the district has experienced a day where the**

loss of power has resulted in sending students home early. He said that the emergency generator does provide some benefit to the school district. That is why everyone who voted in favor did so.

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Member Walsh's amended motion - seconded by Chair Coutcher, was read back by the recording secretary. Vote 3 – 2 in favor. Members Bollengier and Munroe voted no.

Capital Project Update – Superintendent Geismar reported that students started using Metcalf's gymnasium for physical education classes on November 5, 2008. He said that he and Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley recently met with Youth Hoops representatives to explain that the gymnasium is not yet equipped for recreational use. Due to entranceway construction, November 15th is the first day Youth Hoops may begin using the gymnasium. Dr. Geismar gave details relating to the entranceway construction, traffic patterns, the matting system, and signage. He reported that Youth Hoops has offered to purchase a runner mat for in front of the bleachers. The mat will be picked up and stored after each use. Member Bollengier referenced an email by building committee member Bob Butler that raised serious questions concerning the grating system. He asked if the Director of Administration has seen

the email. Mr. Ross explained that there was a bit of confusion regarding the type of mating being used. The installer has resolved the issue of concern. Member Bollengier said that Mr. Butler questioned if the pits will be in compliance once the project is complete. Member Bollengier said that Mr. Butler indicated the district is not getting what it paid for. Mr. Ross said that the architect and installer addressed the concern and he is confident that they will complete the project correctly.

**REPORTS/COMMENTS – None**

**IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Wednesday, November 19, 2008-Building Committee Meeting; Tuesday, November 25, 2008-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, December 9, 2008-School Committee Meeting**

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

**ADJOURNMENT – Member Bollengier moved to adjourn at 7:53 p.m. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 5 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned 7:53 p.m.**

**ROBIN CERIO**

**CLERK**