

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH    December 9, 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 Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Valerie Zuercher; Mark Rafanelli, and Robert Bollengier. Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; and Member Mary Walsh were 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 Member Rafanelli read the District Mission Statement.**

**OPEN FORUM – None**

**WELCOMING – New School Committee Members – Superintendent Geismar and Chair DeSack recognized and welcomed new School Committee Members Zuercher and Rafanelli. Dr. Geismar said that Members Zuercher and Rafanelli each bring special talents with them from the business, educational, and parent world. Chair DeSack and**

**Vice Chair Cicero said that they are looking forward to working with them both.**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION – Elections of School Committee Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk, RIASC Delegate, and SORICO – Chair DeSack advised that due to the absences of Member Walsh and Clerk Coutcher this item and the next two items will be postponed to the next regular meeting agenda in January. The bylaws state that the Chair, Vice Chair, and Clerk will be elected by majority vote of the full School Committee. She asked members to review the important dates and assignments and to think about what assignments they might be interested in.**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER ASSIGNMENTS – Postponed**

**REVIEW IMPORTANT DATES – Postponed**

**PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – None**

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

**Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 5 – 0 in favor.**

**The following items were approved:**

**A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of November 25, 2008**

**B. Personnel Items**

**1. Appointments**

**2. Leaves of Absence**

**3. Resignations**

**4. Grievances**

**5. Recalls**

**6. Non-Renewals**

**7. Sabbaticals**

**C. Bills – In the amount of \$105,912.57**

**D. Home School Approvals**

**1. CARPENTER – Kristen and Leah**

**End Consent Agenda**

**Chair DeSack referenced Correspondence (1) and advised that this item will be on the December 16, 2008 Special Meeting agenda. The Special Meeting will take place immediately following the Joint Meeting on that same date. This document was received in the central office today and it requires a vote by the Committee prior to January 1, 2009. She asked members to prepare to discuss the document at that time. If after reviewing the document members have questions,**

**they may be e-mailed to the District Treasurer and Ms. LaCroix shall then e-mail her response(s) to the entire School Committee.**

**Correspondence – (1) December 9, 2008 Memorandum from District Treasurer LaCroix and Documents Regarding Certification of Adoption of 403(b) Plan; (2) Copy of 12/8/2008 E-mail to Superintendent Geismar from Judy Spremulli Regarding School Consolidation**

**MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS – Superintendent – Superintendent Geismar requested to add to his Report that the high school football team won the Super Bowl for the first time in school history. He said that he attended the game which was very exciting. Dr. Geismar said that the team did a wonderful job. Chair DeSack requested to invite the entire football team to the next regular meeting in January for recognition and cake.**

**In response to Member Bollengier’s comment, Chair DeSack advised that the ratification of Council-94’s Collective Bargaining Agreement shall be distinguished at the January 27, 2009 School Committee meeting.**

**Business –**

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**Curriculum – Vice Chair Cicero referenced the Curriculum Status Report, Section 3. Writing, and commented that the Framing Your Thoughts workshop is a great program and was attended, approximately four to five years ago, by some EWG faculty members.**

**In response to Member Bollengier’s inquiry regarding NECAP testing results data, Superintendent Geismar said that a presentation will take place during the second regular School Committee meeting in January.**

**Special Services –**

**Maintenance –**

**Technology –**

**MONTHLY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT – Kindergarten Subcommittee Report – Vice Chair Cicero said that upon review of the kindergarten subcommittees’ proposals regarding, Policy 8303: Eligibility for Kindergarten and First Grade, the policy subcommittee is recommending seeking a first grade teacher’s input on this matter. Policy subcommittee members Cicero and Bollengier also voiced concern that the 1st grade eligibility date is not consistent with Rhode Island law. Chair DeSack advised policy subcommittee members to bring their concerns to Member Walsh. Superintendent Geismar said that Member Walsh is presently out of the country for one month and he will speak to her concerning this matter when she**

returns. Chair DeSack reminded members that the charge of the kindergarten subcommittee is to research and bring the School Committee its criteria regarding kindergarten eligibility. Once the School Committee makes its decision regarding eligibility and if modifications are needed, the policy subcommittee will use the information to plug into policy 8303.

**Policy Subcommittee Report – Chair DeSack asked the Committee to consider if it wants an attorney to review the District’s policy manual. She acknowledged that at present, the task of writing/reviewing policies requires a lot of work and time. Member Bollengier clarified that Mr. Clay indicated he will not take any new policy writing assignments once finished with the nine policies that are currently being reviewed. Chair DeSack recognized that Mr. Clay has been doing a lot of policy manual work for the District.**

**Budget Update 2008/09 – 2009/10 – Chair DeSack made reference to the December 16, 2008 Town Council/School Committee joint meeting and informed members that she and Director of Administration Robert Ross have worked to create data that will demonstrate to the two Councils the forecasted budgetary challenges the District faces. Chair DeSack and Mr. Ross gave an overview of the various spreadsheet projections and an explanation of how figures were calculated. Members discussed budgetary affects such as student enrollment, the Charter, RI Law 3050, Town contributions, and state aid cuts. Following a debate regarding the interpretation of Town**

**contributions in the Charter, Chair DeSack directed Mr. Ross to seek clarification from the District attorney. She requested that each**

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**member be sent a copy of the Charter via fax and/or e-mail tomorrow morning. Upon completion of Chair DeSack's and Mr. Ross' overview of the Equalized Apportionment proposal section of their presentation; which requires a change to the Charter and demonstrates equal contributions from each Town, Chair DeSack questioned whether some of the figures presented were correct. She requested that Mr. Ross double check his figures for accuracy before presenting to the Councils on December 16th.**

**NEW BUSINESS – Policies-Review and Adoption - #6202: Special Education Staffing Policy – 1st Reading – Director of Special Education Carmella Farrar expressed her opinion that policy 6202 looks fine. For the benefit of new Members Zuercher and Rafanelli, Ms. Farrar gave an overview of why the district was recently charged by the State with establishing a staffing plan policy and she explained what the policy needs to say. This item will continue to the next regular meeting agenda for a 2nd Reading.**

**Policies-Review and Adoption - #6313: Hiring Non-Certified Employees – 2nd Reading – #6310: Recruiting, Selecting, and Appointing Teaching Staff – 2nd Reading – Member Bollengier**

brought members' attention to drafting issues with policies 6313 and 6310. The corrections will be made and both policies will continue to the next regular meeting agenda for adoption.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Draft 2009/10 Budget Development Timeline –** Chair DeSack referenced the budget workshop dates and requested that on those dates, Superintendent Geismar and Mr. Ross bring the Committee the most feasible budget of what the District needs to operate in 2009/10. She said that it is Dr. Geismar's and Mr. Ross' responsibility to weed out issues with administrators. The January 20, 2009 and February 3, 2009 workshop dates will begin at 6:00 p.m. In response to Mr. Ross' request to move the 1st draft budget date to the 16th to allow more time for pre-work, Chair DeSack requested the 1st draft on the 13th.

**Capital Project Update –** Superintendent Geismar reported that the Metcalf gymnasium doors have been installed. Chair DeSack voiced her opinion that the Building Committee Chair Jim Woloohojian is extremely on task and holds everyone accountable. She voiced her opinion that he does a great job and is very knowledgeable.

**REPORTS/COMMENTS –**

**IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS –** Tuesday, December 16, 2008-Joint Meeting; Tuesday, December 16, 2008-Special School Committee Meeting (immediately following the Joint Meeting);

**Wednesday, December 17, 2008-Capial Bond Building Committee Meeting; Wednesday, January 7, 2009-Capital Bond Building Committee Meeting; Tuesday, January 13, 2009-School Committee Meeting; Wednesday, January 14, 2009-Capital Bond Building Committee Meeting; Wednesday, January 21, 2009-Capital Bond Building Committee Meeting; Tuesday,**

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**January 27, 2009-School Committee Meeting; Wednesday, January 28, 2009-Capital Bond Building Committee Meeting**

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

**ADJOURNMENT – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 5 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m.**

**ROBIN CERIO**

**CLERK**