

**January 22, 2009**

**Exeter-West Greenwich**

**Regional School District**

## **Minutes**

### **Joint Meeting of the EWG School Committee**

### **and the West Greenwich and Exeter Town Councils**

**The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District, the West Greenwich Town Council, and the Exeter Town Council met at 6:00PM on Thursday, January 22, 2009 in the High School Library. School Committee Members present: Greg Coutcher, Clerk; Bob Bollengier; Mark Rafanelli; Valerie Zuercher; Mary Walsh. West Greenwich Town Council Members present: Thaylen Waltonen, Susan Woloohojian; Robert Butler; Kelly Stewart; Mark Tourgee. Exeter Town Council Members present: Arlene Hicks. Others present: Tom Geismar, Superintendent; Robert Ross, Director of Administration; Kevin Breene.**

#### **A. JOINT SESSION 6:15 PM**

- 1. Clerk Coutcher presented the budget worksheet.**
- 2. Superintendent Geismar presented proposed cuts across the board totaling \$1.1 to \$1.2 million.**

**3. Clerk Coutcher explained the concept of allocating the state aid by Town.**

**4. Mr. Breene requested obtaining a legal opinion regarding state aid going to the Towns instead of the district.**

**5. Clerk Coutcher said it appears that the School Committee would like to pursue the new formula.**

**6. Mr. Breene said that the Towns are looking to open contracts with the unions.**

**7. Dr. Geismar said that the District needs both short-term and long-term solutions.**

**8. Mr.. Breen and Council Members Waltonen and Tourgee suggested re-opening the labor contracts.**

**9. Member Bollengier advised that the District has a majority of teachers that are below step 25. He said that opening the Council 94 contract would not yield cost savings because the new contract brought them to the 21st century. Member Bollengier voiced his opinion that the Charter needs to change. He said that he is not in favor of cutting programs.**

**No votes were taken**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.**

**Thomas Geismar, Superintendent**