

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH February 10, 2009

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; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Mark Rafanelli, Robert Bollengier and Mary Walsh. Member Valerie Zuercher arrived at 7:03 p.m. 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 Bollengier read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM – None

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – None

Facilities Presentation – Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley gave a general overview of the conditions of District facilities. He answered

members' clarifying questions relating to the reapplication process of the finish on Metcalf's gymnasium floor.

Mr. Plumley expressed his concern that there is only one boiler at Wawaloam School, therefore, a malfunction would result in the cancellation of classes. However, this issue will be addressed by the Capital Bond Building Committee.

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

Member Bollengier made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero.

Superintendent Geismar and Director of Special Education Carmella Farrar answered Members Rafanelli's and Bollengier's clarifying questions regarding consent agenda item, Bills.

Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of January 27, 2009; Special Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2009; Budget Workshop minutes of January 20, 2009; Budget Workshop Minutes of February 3, 2009; Executive Session Minutes of February 3, 2009

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

5. Recalls

6. Non-Renewals

a. Please see attached list

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$176,886.21

D. Home School Approvals

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence – (1) January 2009 Metcalf Elementary School Good Deeds Program Newsletter; (2) February 10, 2009 Memorandum from District Treasurer Kate LaCroix to Superintendent Geismar Regarding 2007-2008 Audited Financial Statements

In response to Chair DeSacks' inquiry regarding Correspondence (1),

Superintendent Geismar advised that the auditor will present the 2008 Audit Report at the March 10, 2009 Regular School Committee meeting.

Monthly Budget Projection 2008 – 2009 – In response to Member Bollengier’s request for direction, Chair DeSack requested that Member Bollengier submit his questions regarding 40 accounts to Director of Administration Robert Ross. Member Bollengier’s questions and Mr. Ross’ responses shall be copied to all members.

Budget 2009 – 2010 – Superintendent Geismar reported that presently the Federal Stimulus Package is between the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Senate took out some of the education portion. The big concern to the District is the IDEA funds which are used for Special Education. The amount is uncertain at this time. This is something to keep up to date with. Dr. Geismar said that he has spoken with teachers and staff. They understand the state that the District is in.

Chair DeSack advised that a ruling was obtained from Attorney Brad Gorham that the School Committee does not need Town Council approval to go forward with a proposal

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to amend the District Charter. Mr. Gorham recommended an all-day referendum and he has provided language pertaining to a 50/50 split. Chair DeSack advised that in order to appropriately post the meeting so that the Committee can vote, the meeting to address the proposal to amend the Charter will take place next Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. She said that prior to that meeting, she will provide members with documents of how the language will read. Vice Chair Cicero expressed that she will not be in attendance at the February 17th meeting. She said for the record that she supports attempting to change the Charter to a 50/50 split. Mr. Ross gave information to explain the proposed 50/50 split.

MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS – Superintendent – Members did not comment on the Superintendent’s Monthly Status Report.

Business – Mr. Ross answered Chair DeSack’s inquiry regarding the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) section of his Status Report. Superintendent Geismar requested Chair DeSack’s input when the policy subcommittee meets to discuss the FMLA policy.

Curriculum – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding the Curriculum Monthly Status Report.

Special Services – In response to Member Bollengier’s inquiry regarding increased special education enrollment at Lineham and Wawaloam Schools, Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar said

that she anticipates continued growth due to referrals for speech and language services to intervene and remediate at an early age. Another factor is an increase in DCYF out-of-state referrals being redirected back in-state, due to economic issues.

Technology – In response to Member Bollengier’s question regarding the Technology Report’s storage space chart indicating that there is very little storage space, Directory of Administration Robert Ross said that he does not foresee having to invest an additional \$40,000 to avoid an overload to the District network.

NEW BUSINESS – 2009 – 2010 Calendar – Superintendent Geismar presented the 2009/2010 academic calendar for School Committee approval.

Member Bollengier moved to accept the 2009 – 2010 calendar. Seconded by Member Walsh.

Member Rafanelli recognized that this year’s graduation day was changed from a Saturday to a Friday due to a conflict with the Ryan Center. He questioned if going forward graduation day has been changed to a Friday since the 2009 – 2010 calendar reflects that graduation day 2010 is on a Friday.

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Chair DeSack said that this item will continue to the next regular meeting agenda to allow Superintendent Geismar to seek clarification regarding Member Rafanelli's inquiry.

Member Bollengier moved to withdraw advancing the motion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Capital Project Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross confirmed that at the next Building Committee meeting the Metcalf gymnasium floor finish will be addressed with Luis Torrado.

Clerk Coutcher said that he heard the additional work, “wish list” that the School Committee voted to submit for consideration under the federal stimulus package has not been submitted yet. Dr. Geismar said that he will check with Luis Torrado. Chair DeSack requested Dr. Geismar e-mail members Mr. Torrado's response.

REPORTS/COMMENTS –

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS –Wednesday, February 11 2009-Building Committee Meeting; Tuesday, February 17, 2009-Special Meeting; Wednesday, February 18, 2009-Building Committee Meeting; Friday, February 20, 2009-Notice to Canvasser; Tuesday, February 24, 2009-School Committee Meeting; Wednesday, February 25, 2009-Building Committee Meeting; Tuesday, March 3,

2009-Joint Meeting; Wednesday, March 4, 2009-Budget Workshop; Wednesday, March 4, 2009-Building Committee Meeting; Tuesday, March 10, 2009-School Committee Meeting (Budget Adoption); Wednesday, March 11, 2009-Building Committee Meeting; Wednesday, March 18, 2009-Building Committee Meeting; Monday, March 23, 2009-Public Hearing; Tuesday, March 24, 2009-School Committee Meeting (Metcalf Presentation - @ Metcalf School); Wednesday, March 25, 2009-Building Committee Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Vice Chair Cicero moved to go into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (a)(9) – Collective Bargaining Agreement – Grievance(s), and 42-46-5 (2) – Collective Bargaining Agreement – Negotiation Discussion, and 42-46-5 (2) Collective Bargaining Agreement – Pending Litigation. Seconded Member Rafanelli. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

Member Bollengier moved to reconvene to Open Session. Seconded by Member Walsh.

Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 8:40 p.m.

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A 7 – 0 vote was taken during Executive Session to reinstate the previous negotiation team and charge them to seek the reopening of the teachers' contract and Council 94's contract.

ADJOURNMENT – Member Walsh moved to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Seconded by Member Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned 8:40 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK