

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH August 11, 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; Valerie Zuercher; Mark Rafanelli, and Robert Bollengier. Gregory Coutcher, Clerk and

Mary Walsh were absent. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross, and Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar were present.

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

Open Forum (15-minute limit) – None

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

Member Bollengier referenced Regular Minutes of July 21, 2009, page 4 and asked for clarification regarding EWG Sports for Kids

representative Rob Corriea's mention of "Northland Steel Buildings' bid of \$180,000 for a steel building". Chair DeSack said that she recalls a discussion about comparison pricing and the minutes do reflect that the cost of the new storage building is \$40,000, but clarification can be obtained for the next meeting.

Chair DeSack referenced the July 28, 2009 Sr. Project Workshop minutes and asked if the twelve-page MS PowerPoint Presentation mentioned was given to the School Committee ahead of time. Superintendent Geismar said that he and Principal Boulé saw a letter ahead of time. He said that he will get a copy of the PowerPoint Presentation from that meeting to Chair DeSack.

Member Bollengier made a motion to accept the consent agenda with clarification on that one issue. Member Rafanelli seconded the motion. Voted 5 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of July 21, 2009; Special Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2009; Sr. Project Workshop Minutes of July 28, 2009

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments - (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Leslie Round as 1.0 FTE District-wide ELL Teacher – Grades K-12 – (1-year LOA position), Step 5, M+15, Salary \$50,613;

effective August 31, 2009

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH August 11, 2009

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 2

- b. Robin Corsi as a .6 FTE School Psychologist District-wide position, (job owns .4 FTE and is a .2 FTE job share), (1-year LOA position), Step 5, M. Salary \$30,501; effective August 31, 2009**

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

- a. See attached list**

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$48,149.88

D. Home School Approvals

1. HATHAWAY – Peter, Aidan, Lillian, Grace, Georgia, Harold, Amanda Rae, Prudence

2. PARENTEAU - Tyler

3. BUCKLEY – Taylor, Nicholas, Alexandra, Zachary

4. BUCKLEY – John, Christina

5. BURGESS – Patrick, Morgan

6. SEPE – Andrea, Dominique

7. FONTAINE – Noah Henry

8. NEGRI – Rachel, Alexander, Olivia

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence – (1) August 11, 2009 Memorandum from Superintendent Geismar to School Committee regarding Personnel Update

Member Bollengier asked the Director of Administration Robert Ross whether Administration is meeting with Council-94. Mr. Ross said that Council-94 will contact its business agent. He is meeting with Council-94 leadership this Thursday concerning a different issue. A conference call may be made at that time to make the business manager aware that a meeting is needed.

Member Bollengier referenced the Maintenance Status Report and asked Mr. Ross to provide information concerning the new maintenance equipment that will be used on the new athletic field complex. Mr. Ross said that the new equipment has arrived and is in use.

Monthly Budget Projection 2008 – 2009 – Director of Administration Robert Ross explained to the committee that he and District Treasurer Kate LaCroix will begin to meet with the auditors on Wednesday and Thursday of this week to look for guidance on how to make opening entries in three areas.

- change to pension reform**
- stimulus money**

- reduction in state aid

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH August 11, 2009

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 3

Mr. Ross said that he anticipates reporting projections to the School Committee at its next regular meeting.

Monthly Status Reports – Superintendent - Chair DeSack pointed out that this agenda item was taken out of order and the Maintenance Report was discussed previously.

Business

Special Education

Maintenance

Technology

New Business –Appoint School Committee Member to Steering Committee – Superintendent Geismar advised that a School Committee member is needed to serve as a member of the high school Diploma System/Senior Project steering committee. Both Vice Chair Cicero and Member Rafanelli expressed interest in serving. Chair DeSack said that Member Rafanelli and Vice Chair Cicero will both serve on the steering committee. Member Bollengier referenced a handout that was given to School Committee members at the Sr. Project Workshop of July 28, 2009. The handout indicated there are two Senior Project committees that require a School Committee member to serve. Superintendent Geismar confirmed that a School

Committee member is needed to serve on the Sr. Project Advisory Board as well. Member Bollengier said that his understanding is that the two committees shall not overlap. Chair DeSack requested the following information at the next regular meeting:

- A description of the three Senior Project Committees and a list of who is appointed to each - including tonight's appointments of Member Rafanelli and Vice Chair Cicero**
- Committee meeting schedules**

Member Bollengier expressed his interest in serving on the Advisory Board representing the School Committee.

Food Service Contract Bid Award – Director of Administration Robert Ross advised that this is a bid year for the food service contract. The food service review committee met to evaluate the bid responses from Sodexo, Inc. and Aramark, Inc. The committee selected the incumbent Sodexo as the Food Service Management Company (FSMC). Mr. Ross put forth his recommendation to the School Committee to award the 2009/10 FSMC contract to Sodexo, Inc. Audience members Mark Roy, Regional General Manager of Sodexo and Brenda Forge, Onsite Food Service Manager of Sodexo introduced themselves to the committee. Chair DeSack said that she has heard good things about the food service program.

Member Bollengier made a motion to approve the Food Service Contract to Sodexo as per the Director of Administration's recommendation. Vice Chair Cicero seconded the motion. Voted 5 –

0 in favor.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH August 11, 2009

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 4

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Policies – Review and Adoption - #8607: Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities, Including Athletics – Revision – Vice Chair Cicero made a motion to approve Policy 8607. Member Bollengier seconded the motion.

Members and administrators briefly discussed what drove the changes to language on page 4 of the policy.

Voted 5 – 0 in favor.

Approve Contracting with SORICO for Curriculum Support Services – Superintendent Geismar introduced SORICO Executive Director Mike McKee and gave a brief description of his background. Dr. Geismar began to explain what services a shared curriculum support planner contracted through SORICO could bring to the Exeter-West Greenwich and Narragansett School districts. Chair DeSack intervened and stressed that this request does not provide the committee with an outline of the program and does not explain what this request for \$45,000 is going towards. Mr. McKee provided members with a copy of a job description SORICO developed for the

suggested position, and gave an overview of the services and programs this position can provide to the district. He said that this is a trend across the United States and it is now more acceptable to share personnel. This type of service provides both cost savings and added resources. Chair DeSack listed multiple concerns she has and said she has many questions and there are many specifics to work out concerning this proposal. Member Bollengier said that he concurs with Chair DeSack. He expressed concern and questioned if the district eliminates a fulltime Curriculum director position, can it still get the same amount of work done with a halftime director? In response to Dr. Geismar's inquiry, consensus of the committee is to have the Superintendent move forward with researching this option and to bring back more details to the committee within one-month concerning this matter.

Kindergarten Enrollment – Superintendent Geismar reported that there are eight places still open in Kindergarten classrooms. There are a couple of parents who need to be contacted to switch from the afternoon to morning session.

Capital Project Update - Contingency Plan – Superintendent Geismar reported that contractors are making good progress. The plan is to be all ready by August 26, 2009. There is a possibility that Lineham will not be ready for the September 1 opening, therefore, there are two short-term alternatives that are being considered. One is to delay the opening for approximately one to four days. The other, if more time is

needed, is to set up classrooms at Metcalf. Dr. Geismar gave a brief overview of the progress to date and commended the Building Committee for the fine job they are doing. Chair DeSack suggested members arrive at 6:00 p.m. to the next regular meeting to walk the building(s) to view the progress. Member Bollengier reported that the Building Committee has hired a Clerk of the Works who is knowledgeable and has a good working relationship with subcontractors. In addition, he is very optimistic that schools will open on time. Any spillover work to be done outside can be finished up after the opening of school.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH August 11, 2009

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 5

Approve Collaborative Application – Director of Administration
Robert Ross updated members regarding the use and funding of a collaborative tool for the district. He reported that he meets regularly with Technology Administrator David Wright and teachers Ron Rounds and Art Searle to discuss the tools to be used to manage senior project at the high school and to address the needs of the district. Mr. Ross referenced packet enclosures and pointed out that there is no such thing as free technology and there will be an expenditure of money to get a collaborative tool ready for implementation. This item will be brought back to the School Committee at a later date.

Reports/Comments – None

Important Dates and Meetings Important Dates and Meetings – Wednesday, August 12, 2009-Building Committee Meeting; Thursday, August 13, 2009-Town Finance Review Committee Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday, August 19, 2009-Building Committee Meeting; Tuesday, August 25, 2009-School Committee Meeting; Wednesday, August 26, 2009-Building Committee Meeting; Wednesday, August 26, 2009-Wawaloam Back to School Picnic (4-6pm), Rain Date – August 28, 2009; Friday, August 28, 2009-New Staff Training; Monday, August 31, 2009-Teacher Orientation; Monday, August 31, 2009-Jr. High Open House (4-7pm)

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

Adjournment – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Member Bollengier seconded the motion. Voted 5 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned 7:50 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK