

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH July 21, 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; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Mark Rafanelli, and Robert Bollengier. Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Valerie Zuercher; 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 7:22 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Member Rafanelli read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum (15-minute limit) – None

Member Bollengier moved to move agenda item, VI. B. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, (PBIS) for Wawaloam and Lineham up on the agenda for consideration at this time. Member Rafanelli seconded the motion. Voted 4 – 0 in favor.

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports, (PBIS) for Wawaloam &

Lineham Superintendent Geismar and Principal Marino gave an overview of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, (PBIS) program that will begin at Lineham and Wawaloam next school year and they answered members' clarifying questions. Dr. Geismar told members that a mid-year report would be brought back to the committee at some point next school year.

Presentation – Food Service Management Contract – Director of Administration Robert Ross told members that he is in receipt of two food service bids that need to be reviewed. He said that Vice Chair Cicero and parent Kim Bolton will assist him with the review process and he will bring his recommendation to the school committee at the first meeting in August.

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

Member Bollengier made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Member Rafanelli seconded the motion. Voted 4 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of June 23, 2009

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations – (As Recommended by the Superintendent, with Regret) – (ENCLOSED)

a. Letter of Resignation from Karen Robinson from her position as 1.0 FTE Sr. High School Science (Chemistry) Teacher, effective July 1, 2009

b. Letter of Resignation from Gwenn Spence from her position as Assistant Director of Special Education, effective July 21, 2009

c. Letter of Resignation from Judy Hummel from her position as Assistant Girls' Soccer Coach, effective June 22, 2009

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls – (As Recommended by the Superintendent) – (ENCLOSED)

a. Please see attached list

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$483,670.01

D. Home School Approvals

1. FRIEL – Nathan

2. GREENE – Kelsey, Nicolette, Courtney, Hannah, Mason, Noah, Chloe

End Consent Agenda

Members did not express any comments, questions or concerns regarding Correspondence.

Correspondence – (1) RI Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Basic Education Program Regulations Final Draft for Promulgation Version 2.1 June 1, 2009; (2) July 20, 2009 RIDE Memorandum Regarding Scheduling Visits to Districts and Schools

Monthly Budget Projection 2008 - 2009 – Director of Administration Robert Ross told members that he will have good projection figures to report in August.

Budget Discussion/Charter Discussion/Workshop – Superintendent Geismar referenced the budget update enclosed in members' packets and said that he is requesting to restore half a team to the junior high school to be in compliance with the CBA, and he is also requesting to restore funding for athletics. The district needs \$155,000 to fully fund athletics with concessions from the EWG Teachers' Association. Dr. Geismar said he is recommending allocating \$130,000 at this time. He has met with Athletic Director

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Steven McGrane and Sports for Kids representative Sharon Pelsler regarding fundraising and cost avoidance. Dr. Geismar and Principal Thompson answered members' various questions and a lengthy discussion ensued regarding restoring half a team to the junior high school, class size, projected enrollment figures, the cost to fund overages, and complying with the CBA. Chair DeSack advised that Dr. Geismar's request to restore half a team to the junior high school is an item on tonight's agenda and the committee will further discuss and then vote on this issue at that time.

Monthly Status Reports – Superintendent – Member did not express any questions, comments or concerns regarding the monthly status reports.

Business

Special Education

Maintenance

Technology

New Business – Appointment of Senior High School Principal Update – Dr. Geismar told members that the principal selection committee recommended two senior high school principal candidates to him for a final interview. He will bring his recommendation to appoint finalist Brian Butler to the school committee for a meet and greet and a vote on appointment next week. He added that Mr. Butler is currently

working as assistant principal at Johnston High School.

Capital Asset Protection Plan – Director of Administration Robert Ross updated members regarding the Capital Asset Protection Plan. He referenced materials enclosed in members’ packets detailing the projects that have been approved by the Rhode Island Department of Education, (RIDE) and completed as of June 30, 2009. He advised that the remaining balance in approved projects on file at RIDE is there for the District’s use, but it is under no obligation to spend the money. In 2006 and in the interim many of these items have been incorporated into the bond. Mr. Ross briefly explained the annual Capital Asset Protection Plan process and gave an overview of the 5-year Capital Asset Protection Plan Update materials enclosed in members’ packets. Mr. Ross made the following recommendations to the School Committee for consideration.

- Approve the \$68,000 admin balance to be used for improvements to the administration building parking, as well as the access road to the lower track parking lot, and the lower level in the rear of the admin building**
- Approve \$40,000 of the Jr. – Sr. High School balance to construct a grounds and maintenance storage building thusly moving the grounds department out of the concession stand and restoring that building to its intended use**

Mr. Ross told members that he will be asking RIDE to approve these projects for reimbursement, and reiterated that the District is not obligated to do the work. He noted

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two additional impending projects - (1) Concession stand renovations and (2) New track entrance renovations. He noted that a request for approval to take action would come to the School Committee before starting any of these projects. Next, Mr. Ross told members about the need for a new storage building to house maintenance and track equipment. Mr. Ross said he is seeking approval for state reimbursement for the new building and if it were denied, would then go to the Capital Project Building Committee for its approval. In any case, the school committee must first vote to approve to erect a building on school property. He pointed out that EWG Sports for Kids representatives Sharon Pelser and Rob Corriea are here this evening to speak about this matter. In response to Member Bollengier's inquiry, Mr. Ross gave the following breakdown of the total renovation costs he spoke about this evening.

- \$ 40,000 – new storage building**
- \$ 30,000 – concession renovations**
- \$ 36,000 – entrance renovations**
- \$ 68,000 – parking renovations**

EWG Sports for Kids – New Building Approval – Rob Corriea of EWG Sports for Kids reported that Phase I of the new track project is just about finished. His group has been talking with the Capital Project Building Committee regarding the need for a maintenance and track equipment storage building. Mr. Corriea referenced documents enclosed in members’ supplemental packets and told the school committee that Northland Steel Buildings’ bid of \$180,000 for a steel building is the best price found for this product. Local community members will volunteer services such as wiring for electricity and heating. In response to Chair DeSack’s inquiry, Mr. Corriea and Mrs. Pelser confirmed that EWG Sports for Kids is seeking the committees’ permission to place the building on school property and to approve \$40,000 of the District’s Capital Asset Funds for the project. Member Bollengier said that he is aware that Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley had expressed concerns regarding this project. Member Bollengier said he supports this project but would like to see a design of the building and would like to know that Mr. Plumley agrees and is onboard with this project. Mr. Ross said that Mr. Plumley’s concerns were with the lighting, electricity, and heating and Mr. Plumley agrees with the project now. Mr. Corriea confirmed that those issues will be in place. Member Bollengier reiterated that he would like to know Mr. Plumley’s position. Chair DeSack said that Mr. Ross has communicated that Mr. Plumley supports the project and she trusts that Mr. Plumley’s concerns have been addressed.

Member Rafanelli moved that the school committee allocate \$40,000

of the Capital Fund balance and for the building to be placed on school property as shown on the diagram. The motion was seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 4 – 0 in favor.

Approve Adding .5 Team at the Junior High School – Superintendent Geismar stated that he would not have made this request if he did not think it was the right thing to do

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and he reminded members that the District has contract obligations. The \$130,000 cost includes salaries and benefits.

Clerk Coutcher made a motion to reinstate a .5 team at the Junior High School. Member Rafanelli seconded the motion. Voted 2 – 2. Chair DeSack and Member Bollengier voted no. Motion failed.

Member Bollengier clarified that he would like this item to go to at least one more meeting in order to hear more details. Chair DeSack said this item has to be carried on to the next agenda because it did not pass. Superintendent Geismar requested if the item could continue to next week's Special Meeting agenda. Chair DeSack said that she is adamantly against adding a .5 team at the junior high. She expressed her opinion that a class overage of three students per classroom is ridiculous. She said that she would rather sit with the bargaining unit to see what can be done. Chair DeSack requested

this item carry over to next week's Special Meeting agenda.

Approve Grant Writer Job Description – Clerk Coutcher moved to approve the job description for a Grant Writer. Member Bollengier seconded the motion. Voted 4 – 0 in favor.

Approve Plan for Assistant Special Services Position and Curriculum Support Position – Dr. Geismar put forth his recommendation to staff the central office with a .5 FTE Curriculum Support person to be contracted with SORICO and a .5 FTE or .6 FTE Assistant Special Services Director. He said that in order to run the District effectively, support is still needed in both areas. However, due to challenges in the current budget situation, support cannot be provided in the traditional method. The funds for these two recommended positions are budgeted for.

Member Bollengier made a motion to approve staffing the Assistant Special Services Director position and Support for Curriculum Instruction and Assessment as per the superintendent's recommendation. Clerk Coutcher seconded the motion.

Dr. Geismar answered members' clarifying questions and a lengthy discussion ensued. Chair DeSack voiced her concern that the Superintendent is requesting to staff the Special Service Department with two full time administrators to service 300 students.

Superintendent Geismar pointed out that his request is to hire a .5

FTE or a .6 FTE not 1.0 FTE. Member Bollengier and Chair DeSack both expressed concern regarding filling the 1.0 FTE Curriculum Director vacancy with a .5 FTE support person. Clerk Coutcher expressed his opinion that he is fine with the superintendent's recommendation. Superintendent Geismar asked the committee to approve the .5 FTE - .6 FTE Assistant Special Services Director position at this time. He said that he will invite the new director of SORICO to come to the next regular school committee meeting to address members' questions and concerns regarding the Curriculum Support person.

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Member Bollengier requested permission to withdraw his motion. Clerk Coutcher withdrew his second of the motion.

Member Bollengier made a motion for the approval of the plan for staffing the Assistant Special Services Director position as a .5 FTE to a .6 FTE. Member Rafanelli seconded the motion. Voted 3 – 1 in favor. Chair DeSack voted no.

The Curriculum Support Position will be carried over to the regular meeting agenda in August.

Policies – Review and Adoption - #8607: Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities, Including Athletics – Revision – Member

Bollengier requested to table this policy until the next regular meeting in August.

#6203: Family, Maternity, Parental and Medical Leave Policy – 1st Reading – Member Bollengier asked to withdraw this policy at this time since it was never brought to policy subcommittee for discussion. The policy subcommittee will advise when this policy is ready to be brought to a future agenda.

Unfinished Business – Policies – Review and Adoption - #8517: Cell Phones and other Personal Electronic Devices—Permitted and prohibited Possession and Use – Adoption – Clerk Coutcher moved to adopt policy 8517: (Cell Phones and other Personal Electronic Devices—Permitted and Prohibited Possession and Use). Member Rafanelli seconded the motion.

Member Rafanelli reference section III. Definitions of Use and questioned if the word “recording” should be added.

Clerk Coutcher withdrew his motion.

Member Rafanelli moved to adopt policy 8517, with the recommended edit to the definition of use. Clerk Coutcher seconded the motion. Voted 4 – 0 in favor.

Collaborative Application Follow-up – Director of Administration

Robert Ross told members that he met with senior high school teachers Ron Rounds and Art Searle. He said that together they will build a matrix. Mr. Ross said he will continue to update the school committee and he anticipates bringing the committee additional information hopefully by the second meeting in August.

Kindergarten Enrollment Update – Dr. Geismar said there are no changes to report at this time. Principal Marino, Karen Briggs; Building Secretary, and the bus company are working to notify parents about the fall bus/sections schedule.

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Capital Project Update – Superintendent Geismar told members that contractor meetings are held every Friday to update administrators. Gilbane Construction is confident that all projects will be done in time for the opening of school.

Reports/Comments – None

**Important Dates and Meetings Important Dates and Meetings
–Wednesday, July 22, 2009-Building Committee Meeting; Tuesday,
July 28, 2009;Special Meeting; Tuesday, July 28, 2009-Sr. Project
Workshop; Wednesday, July 29, 2009-Building Committee Meeting;
Tuesday, August 11, 2009-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday,**

August 25, 2009-School Committee Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Clerk Coutcher moved to go into Executive Session at 9:25 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (a)(9) – CBA – Grievance(s), and 42-46-5 (2) – CBA – (C-94/TA)-Negotiation Discussion and/or Pending Litigation, and 42-46-5 (a)(1) - Personnel. Member Bollengier seconded the motion. Voted 4 – 0 in favor.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 9:25 p.m.

Member Rafanelli moved to reconvene to Open Session. Member Bollengier seconded the motion. Voted 4 – 0 in favor.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 9:25 p.m.

A vote to accept the concessions from the EWG Teachers' Association was taken during Executive Session. Voted 4 – 0 in favor.

Adjournment - Member Bollengier moved to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. The motion was seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 4 – 0 in favor.

Meeting adjourned 9:35 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK