

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 23, 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 Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Valerie Zuercher; Mark Rafanelli, and Mary Walsh. Susan DeSack, Chairperson and Member Robert Bollengier were absent. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; and Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley were present. Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar and Student Member Katherine Matook were absent.

ORDER – Vice Chair Cicero called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Member Rafanelli read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum (15-minute limit) – None

Recognition/Achievements – Teacher of the Year 2009 – Superintendent Geismar recognized Elizabeth Lind as the Exeter-West Greenwich Teacher of the Year 2009. He praised Ms. Lind for her talent and her ability to inspire and teach her students.

Dr. Geismar said that Ms. Lind is a wonderful representative for the

entire faculty. He expressed how proud he is to have her as EWG's teacher of the year. Principal Boulé voiced her opinion that Ms. Lind is amazing in her ability to instruct those students who are fearful and lack confidence in their artwork skills, and her ability to get those students to perform. On behalf of the School Committee Vice Chair Cicero presented Ms. Lind with a School Committee Apple Recognition Award and said that the award is a token of appreciation for her dedication to EWG students.

Curriculum Director Nancy Daley – Superintendent Geismar introduced Curriculum Director Nancy Daley and said that when she told him that she was thinking about retiring, it was as if being told that he was about to lose his right arm. Dr. Geismar said that an incredible number of teachers, especially grades K – 8, rely on Ms. Daley for guidance and support. Her improved level of Professional Development is nothing short of phenomenal. It is an enormous loss that she is leaving. The School Committee does not get to see all the work that she does. He said that he hopes Ms. Daley will come back as a consultant. On behalf of the School Committee, Vice Chair Cicero offered congratulations and best wishes and presented Ms. Daley with a School Committee Apple Recognition Award.

Principal Denise Boulé – Superintendent Geismar recognized Principal Boulé and said that she has brought stability and great leadership and strength to the district. She is tough, but not mean. She constantly advocates for her students and her school. In

addition, she individualizes students if there is a need to. She recognizes that some kids have higher hills to climb. On behalf of the School Committee Vice Chair Cicero

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presented Principal Boulé with and Apple Recognition Award and offered congratulations and wished her well.

Presentation – Student Member Report – None

Google Apps Presentation – Technology teacher Art Searle thanked the committee for inviting him and media teacher Ron Rounds back to talk more about Google Apps. They gave a brief overview of the program and explained some of the problems they have run into when utilizing the free tools that are available. They invited members to partake in an interactive activity/practical demonstration of how the program can serve as a powerful tool for senior project in the classroom and outside of the classroom. Superintendent Geismar recommended to have Mr. Searle and Mr. Rounds continue to move forward in reviewing the program, and to come back next month with a plan to make sure that it is affordable to the District. He stressed that it is important that the district do its due diligence to be compliant with e-mail laws and to ensure that the program runs safely. Dr. Geismar pointed out that if the district uses an internet source outside of the network it uses more bandwidth, which slows

the system down. Mr. Searle explained the filtering options available with the Google Apps program. Consensus of the committee was to follow the Superintendent's recommendation. This item will carry over to the School Committee meeting agenda in July.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA- Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda. Referencing consent agenda item, B. 6. Recalls, Superintendent Geismar asked that the minutes reflect one change to the recall list – Paul deCastro will be recalled to a .84 FTE position and not a .80 FTE.

Clerk Coutcher moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Member Rafanelli. Voted 5 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of June 10, 2009; Executive Session Minutes of June 10, 2009

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

a. Please see attached list

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$453,823.85

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D. Home School Approvals

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence – None

Budget Discussion/Charter Discussion/Workshop – Superintendent Geismar referenced the House Finance Committee’s recommended budget proposal - FY 2010 Education Aid by Community spreadsheet.

He pointed out that the stimulus IDEA funds listed have to be spent in special education. Dr. Geismar said that the district will come in close to where it was with this year’s budget. In addition, he advised that the District is still trying to overcome this year’s cuts, and there is no guarantee that the same cuts will not occur yet again one year from now. After review, the District appears to be on target with the cuts that were made. Director of Administration Robert Ross referenced the House Finance recommended budget and emphasized that the key word is proposed. He expressed that he is very concerned and is taking a conservative approach until after the July legislature vote. The good news is that it now looks like there will be an increase over last year. The district had anticipated deeper cuts.

Mr. Ross said that the results of the two job fairs brought the District numbers inline, and it looks like the District budgeted appropriately. With regard to the current year, Mr. Ross said that he does not anticipate the District treasurer to know how the District will end up until the second meeting in August. Mr. Ross said that he applauds the School Committee. This was one of the most difficult budget seasons. In response to Member Rafanelli's inquiry regarding concessions, Superintendent Geismar said that decisions should be put off until the entire committee can be present in Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS – K-12 Comprehensive School Counseling Program Curriculum – Curriculum Director Nancy Daley highlighted the reasons for bringing this item to the School Committee and gave an overview of the program and the development process.

Member Walsh made a motion to accept the K-12 Comprehensive School Counseling Program Curriculum. Seconded by Member Zuercher. Voted 5 – 0 in favor.

Three-Year Mathematics Plan (Secondary) – Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley referenced packet enclosure, Plan for Mathematics 2009 – 2012 and gave highlights of the plan. Ms. Daley and Superintendent Geismar answered members' clarifying questions. Ms. Daley asked members to be aware, prior to voting, that there is a request for money in the last year of the plan (2011/2012 school year).

Member Walsh made a motion to accept the three-year mathematics plan. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 5 – 0 in favor.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS – High School Principal Selection Committee Appointments and Update – Superintendent Geismar reported that the selection committee has met once and interacted well. The committee will meet again tomorrow to decide whom to interview. Interviews will be scheduled for July 8 and 9. Follow-up interviews will be scheduled for July 13. If a successful candidate is found, it is anticipated that the finalist will come before the School Committee at its regular meeting in July. Vice Chair Cicero suggested that if needed, a finalist could come before the committee at its July 28 workshop meeting. Superintendent Geismar reported there are 13 applicants and many of them are from Rhode Island.

Kindergarten Enrollment – Superintendent Geismar conveyed that the current kindergarten enrollment is getting to the point very shortly where some West Greenwich students will need to attend the morning session next year. [West Greenwich students are slotted for the afternoon session next year.] Dr. Geismar said that he has spoken with Scott Baton of First Student who said that he thinks he can work

with people to facilitate transportation. Dr. Geismar said that he told Principal Marino that following tonight's School Committee meeting, she would have to begin informing West Greenwich parents.

Capital Project Update – Superintendent Geismar reported that the bid for Phase II work was awarded to Gilbane Construction for \$3.8 million. A second construction meeting will take place on Thursday morning at 10:00 to hear Gilbane's work schedule. Gilbane will work around the District personnel/schedule, and all workers will undergo background checks. Director of Administration Robert Ross gave an overview of the Phase II projects that are planned for this summer.

Reports/Comments –

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Tuesday, July 21, 2009-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, July 28, 2009-Sr. Project Workshop; 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 – None

ADJOURNMENT – Member Rafanelli moved to adjourn at 9:07 p.m. Seconded by Member Zuercher. Voted 5 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned 9:07 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK