

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH December 8, 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; Mark Rafanelli, Robert Bollengier, and Mary Walsh. Susan DeSack, Chairperson and Valerie Zuercher were absent. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross, Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar, and Student Representative Raymond Moore were present.

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

Open Forum – None

Presentation – Student Member Report – Student Member Moore told members there were two significant events that took place at the senior high over the past two weeks that boosted student moral. The talent show on December 4 and the football team’s Super Bowl win this past Sunday. In addition, Raymond reported that the annual December Blood Drive took place yesterday and today, the H1N1

clinic took place. He said that overall, the student body is doing well and continues to show support at senior high events, which contributes to making EWG Senior High a better place.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA - Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda. He referenced Kathleen LaCroix’s resignation and said that after many, many years of devoted service to the district, Kate has decided it is time for her to retire. Dr. Geismar expressed appreciation for all the hard work that Kate does. He said that the process will begin right away to find Kate’s replacement, and the job opening will come to the School Committee agenda in January.

Clerk Coutcher requested to pull consent agenda item, V. B. 1. Appointments, Joshua Procaccianti as Sr. High School Assistant Wrestling Coach, Stipend \$947.85; Contingent upon Receipt of a Non-Disqualifying National Background Check, Effective for the 2009/10 Season until the applicant is able to come before the School Committee, or to vote his appointment contingent upon coming to the next meeting and to serve as a volunteer until then.

Principal Butler told the School Committee that it has become more difficult for applicants to be fingerprinted at their local police departments. In many cases, police departments say that they no longer do fingerprinting. Principal Butler suggested that the policy subcommittee might need to review School Committee policy

because it has become more difficult to get fingerprints taken. Member Bollengier pointed out that Clerk Coutcher pulled this appointment from the consent agenda because the applicant is

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not present at tonight's meeting as is required by district policy. Member Bollengier said that he would however; take the fingerprinting matter up at the next policy subcommittee meeting.

Member Bollengier made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of item, V. B. 1. c.. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Voted 5 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of November 24, 2009

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Lindsay Diamond as Sr. High School Gymnastic Coach, Stipend \$1,016.11; effective for the 2009 – 2010 season

b. Victoria Hillary as Jr. High School Cheerleading Coach, Stipend \$473.92; Contingent Upon Receipt of a Non-Disqualifying National Background Check, Effective for the 2009/10 School Year

c. Pulled

2. Leaves of Absence

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

a. Letter of Resignation from Kathleen LaCroix, for the purpose of Retirement, from her position as District Treasurer, effective March 26, 2010

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$445,682.72

D. Home School Approvals

End Consent Agenda

Member Bollengier raised a point of order that the additional Correspondence handed out by the Superintendent tonight is for information only and cannot be voted on tonight. It will have to wait until the next regular meeting agenda. Vice Chair Cicero agreed and explained that she wanted this information provided to the School Committee tonight rather than members learning about the fieldtrip request just two-days prior to the next meeting.

Correspondence – (1) 2010-2011 Budget Development Timeline (final copy); (2) November 15, 2009 EWGRSD Discipline Report; (3) November 15, 2009 EWG Sr. High School Discipline Report; (4) October 1, 2009 Sr. High School SIT Minutes;

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(5) November 5, 2009 Sr. High School SIT Minutes; (5) December 8, 2009 (Handout) Memorandum from Superintendent Geismar to School Committee Regarding FYI – Fieldtrip Request

Monthly Status Reports – Superintendent – Members did not comment regarding the Monthly Status Reports.

Business

Special Education

Maintenance

Technology

Monthly Subcommittee Report(s) – Town Finance/Charter Review Subcommittee – Member Rafanelli said he has nothing new to report at this time. The Town Finance/Charter Review subcommittee has not met since the last report was given.

Monthly Budget Projection – 2009-2010 – Director of Administration Robert Ross referenced the Budget Projection – December 8, 2009 enclosed in members' packets and gave a detailed breakdown of the Revenue and Expenses Totals, Projected 2009/10 Operations Balance, Un-audited July 1, 2009 General Fund Balance, and Projected July 1, 2010 General Fund Balance. Mr. Ross reported a netted revenue reduction of approximately \$149,000 in state aid. He said that miscellaneous income is up \$100,000 due to the WB reserve

leftover from last year. The reserve was used to offset the reduction in state aid. Thus, leaving a projected revenue total balance of (\$49,120) based on budget. In summary, Mr. Ross reported a projected 2009/10 Operations Balance of \$161,000 and an Un-audited July 1, 2009 General Fund Balance of \$42,500. Combined balances will result in a yearend balance of approximately \$200,000. Mr. Ross answered members' clarifying questions regarding vocational tuitions, technology, and copy paper.

Budget Update – 2010-2011 – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported the budget process is underway and he has been meeting with principals and directors. He said that although the District level funded last year, the Superintendent will be asking for some sufficiencies this year. In addition to the sufficiencies, the basic purchase and services contracts and salaries will increase as is customary. Mr. Ross referenced packet enclosure item # 0003 and gave scenarios of town burden based upon School Committees' interpretation for determining town appropriations based on apportionment of enrollment, and the 3050 tax cap. Mr. Ross said the full budget summary page will be available at the budget workshop(s). Member Bollengier referenced the 2010 – 2011 Budget Development Timeline and asked if it would be possible to get the budget books to School Committee members earlier than January 8 to allow ample time for review before the first budget workshop on January 13. Mr. Ross said that although he did not wish to commit, he is sensitive to that concern and will make every effort to do so. He

said he would prefer to have the budget presented with a good flow rather than as a rush

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job. He suggested that worst-case scenario; the School Committee could back the dates up and go with lengthier sessions on budget workshop nights.

NEW BUSINESS – Student Enrollment – Director of Administration Robert Ross reviewed the October 1, 2009 student enrollment numbers. He said there was very little movement from last year in either town. The District lost 21 students since last year. Exeter’s enrollment went down .2% and West Greenwich’s enrollment increased a tad.

Formally Approve J/S High School Main Electrical Switch Emergency Repair – Director of Administration Robert Ross reminded members of the recent emergency repair performed on the main electrical switch at the Jr. – Sr. High School totaling \$11,850. For auditing purposes, Mr. Ross requested the School Committee formally approve funds for the repair under district policy 3802 Sole Source and Emergency Procurement, B and C.

Clerk Coutcher made a motion to accept the payment of \$11,850 for

the repair to the Pringle Switch mechanism at the Senior High School.

Member Rafanelli seconded the motion. Voted 5 – 0 in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Washington County Regional Planning Council Support Letter Approval – Dr. Geismar recommended the School Committee approve signing the Washington Regional Planning Council, (WCRPC) energy initiative support letter. Doing this will allow the District to be part of the WCRPC energy initiative. Member Bollengier said that he was under the impression from comments made at the last School Committee meeting that WCRPC Director Mr. Broadhead would be coming back to the committee with more detailed information. He requested the minutes show that there is absolutely no obligation on the part of the District should it decide not to participate. In response to Member Rafanelli's inquiry, Dr. Geismar confirmed that Mr. Broadhead had said that if an audit is performed and there are items found that the District can do and then the District declines to do them, the District is accountable for the cost of the audit. However, there was part of a grant that Mr. Broadhead thought would cover the audit anyway, but he could not say what the cost of the audit would be. Member Bollengier said he needed to modify his last statement then because he was under the impression that the cost of an audit was going to be buried and would not be charged to the District. Dr. Geismar said that Mr. Broadhead did say that but he did not say that was absolutely certain. Dr. Geismar advised that the WCRPC is presently working on grant applications and waiting until January 12 to approve the support

letter could run a risk of potentially missing out. Member Bollengier said there were already energy audits done at EWG and he does not want to see duplications. Consensus of the committee was to hold off submitting the letter of support and to ask Director Broadhead for a letter or a personal visit to get the School Committees' questions answered.

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Transportation Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross gave an overview of his Transportation Update enclosure. He said he will be meeting with state transportation representatives on Thursday to discuss the projected statewide out of district transportation deficit that the district is facing and how it will be resolved. Mr. Ross said that he felt it was prudent to bring this information to the School Committee as an ongoing agenda items because this area [and the tuition area] are two areas that the District is very limited in its response to. Therefore, this item will continue to be brought forward.

Mr. Ross answered members' clarifying questions and gave his view as to why the out of district projections are so far off the mark and the invoice facts continue to change. He advised the School Committee of the various out of district transportation issues the District is facing. Member Bollengier asked what the plan is when the District reaches a point where invoices equal EWG's transportation budget. Dr. Geismar said that the District will negotiate with RIDE now so that

does not occur. Mr. Ross said that he will ask RIDE that question on Thursday and he will bring that information back to the School Committee. Vice Chair Cicero agreed to Member Bollengier's request to carry this item to the next regular meeting agenda to revisit his question at that time.

Storage Building Payment – Superintendent Geismar gave a recap of the request made by Member Bollengier concerning this item at the last meeting. He said that EWG Sports 4 Kids representative Rob Corriea assured him that there will be heat and electric in the storage building. In response to Member Bollengier's inquiry, Dr. Geismar said he would ask Mr. Plumley if lack of water in the storage building is going to be an issue for the maintenance staff.

Capital Project Update – Dr. Geismar reported on various capital projects that continue throughout the district. He said that the water pipes at Metcalf School have been wrapped and a shed will be built to prevent pipes from freezing. The work continues on design for a permanent solution. However, the permanent solution will not be ready for implementation until the spring or summer. The work will most likely be done in the summertime since school will not be in session at that time. Dr. Geismar listed various punch list items that are being addressed and answered members' questions regarding Lineham School's exterior and the new security system and how it will coordinate with facility use. In response to Vice Chair Cicero's inquiry, Dr. Geismar said he will find out what happened to Lineham

School's damaged sign.

Reports/Comments – Vice Chair Cicero reverted to consent agenda item, V. B. 1.c. Appointments - Joshua Procaccianti as Sr. High School Assistant Wrestling Coach, Stipend \$947.85; Contingent upon Receipt of a Non-Disqualifying National Background Check, Effective for the 2009/10 Season which had been pulled by Clerk Coutcher.

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Clerk Coutcher made a motion to approve the appointment of the new senior high school wrestling coach, contingent upon him coming before the committee on January 12, 2010 at the next School Committee meeting.

Member Bollengier said he thought about what would happen in January if Joshua cannot come to the School Committee meeting again. He said that under policy, Joshua could be a volunteer until he is hired. At the time of hire, the School Committee can elect to recognize Joshua's appointment retroactively to the beginning of the season.

Clerk Coutcher withdrew his motion.

Member Walsh made a motion to table this appointment to the next

meeting. Member Rafanelli seconded the motion. Voted 5 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Procaccianti will serve as a volunteer until he is appointed.

Important Dates and Meetings – Thursday, December 10, 2009-Wawaloam H1N1 Vaccine Clinic; Thursday, December 10, 2009-National Honor Society Induction Ceremony; Friday, December 11, 2009-Administrative Draft Budget to Director of Administration; Friday, January 8, 2010-First Draft of Superintendent's Budget available for School Committee Members; Tuesday, January 12, 2009-School Committee Meeting; Wednesday, January 13, 2010-Budget Workshop- (SPED, Districtwide/Facilities/Athletics; Elementary); Tuesday, January 19, 2009-Budget Workshop (Jr. High, Sr. High); Tuesday, January 26, 2010-School Committee Meeting

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

Adjournment - Member Bollengier moved to adjourn. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Voted 5 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned 8:15 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK