

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH March 23, 2010

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 Metcalf Elementary School cafeteria. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Mary Walsh; Valerie Zuercher; Mark Rafanelli, and Robert Bollengier. Teri Maia-Cicero, Vice-Chairperson was absent. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross, and Student Member Raymond Moore were present. Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar 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 Zuercher read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum – None

Recognitions/Achievements – Community Service Awards Recipient – Principal Brian Butler said he is privileged to present sr. high school student Chelsea Sweetman who recently received the President’s Volunteer Service Award. The award recognizes Americans who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to

serve their communities. Chelsea volunteered 500-plus hours to community service and she was among the top 10 percent of all applicants from Rhode Island this year. Principal Butler offered congratulations to Chelsea for her amazing accomplishment!

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Raymond Moore gave a brief summary of senior high school events that have transpired over the past two-weeks. In addition, Raymond reported that the high school drama club will present, You Can't Take It With You this weekend.

Metcalf School Presentation – Principal Louise Boyce welcomed everyone to Metcalf School and introduced the first event in tonight's presentation, music teacher Stacey Place and the Metcalf School Jazz Band. Upon completion of the Jazz Band performance, Principal Boyce recognized art teacher Sharon Lefrenaye and asked members to take note of the wonderful student artwork hanging in the cafeteria.

She invited everyone to visit Metcalf's new website to view other student artwork. Principal Boyce gave a brief overview of the reading and math NECAP results comparing Metcalf's 2009 scores to the State 2009 scores, which demonstrate an upward trend. She reported on Strategies and Programs in place to improve student learning, and said that Metcalf students' scores rose 17 percent in NECAP Science testing. Assistant Principal Carol Fish listed various programs in place to motivate students and improve student learning. She reviewed the Seven Habits of Highly Effective Leaders, which is used

to motivate and improve behaviors in students. Mrs. Fish said that every Metcalf student has been taught how to mediate, and Grade 6 students talk to the younger students about relationship aggressions.

Principal Boyce explained the Monthly Grade Level

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Enrichment Periods Program in place, which allows teacher teams time to work together once a month, while she and Mrs. Fish talk with those teachers' students about the need to continue to work on problem solving, NECAP released items, and academic rigor. In closing, Principal Boyce gave a quick overview regarding ILP's, Metcalf students' participation with Commissioner Gist's visit, and the Student Council recycling program.

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

Member Rafanelli made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Clerk Coutcher seconded the motion.

In response to Member Bollengier's inquiry, Dr. Geismar reported that for years West Greenwich Police Department served as Truant Officer for the District. Although WGPD will still be involved, they no longer have the resources to continue in that role. By state law, the District has to have a Truant Officer. Mr. Alves is already involved in the

District's Truancy Court process. He has agreed to be the truant officer. Much of the work involved with this role, falls under the normal routine of Mr. Alves' position. Mr. Alves presently goes to truancy court anyway, and if appointed, he will oversee that process.

Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

- A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of March 9, 2010**
 - B. Personnel Items**
 - 1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)**
 - a. Jim Alves as Truancy Officer for the District**
 - 2. Leaves of Absence**
 - 3. Resignations**
 - 4. Grievances**
 - 5. Non-Renewals**
 - 6. Recalls**
 - 7. Sabbaticals**
 - C. Bills – In the amount of \$120,946.88**
 - D. Home School Approvals**
- End Consent Agenda**

Correspondence – (1) March 9, 2010 Memo to School Committee from the Policy Subcommittee Regarding the Policy Manual; (2) March 15, 2010 EWGRSD Discipline Report; (3) March 15, 2010 EWG Jr. High

School Discipline Report;

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(4) March 15, 2010 EWG Sr. High School Discipline Report; (5) March 17, 2010 Letter with attachments to Superintendent Geismar from Glen Zienowicz, High School Drama Program Advisor; (6) March 15, 2010 Letter to Linda Sawicki from Charlotte Diffendale of RI Department of Education Regarding Teacher Assistant Training Program for High School Seniors

Dr. Geismar answered Member Bollengier's clarifying questions regarding the Discipline Reports.

Monthly Budget Projection 2009 – 2010 – Director of Administration Robert Ross answered Member Rafanelli's clarifying questions regarding the March 23, 2010 Budget Projection.

Budget Update – 2010 – 2011 – Dr. Geismar referenced the draft District Financial Meeting announcement flyer enclosed in members' supplemental packets that needs to be mailed to District taxpayers. Chair DeSack asked members to review the flyer so that it can be mailed to all residents in Exeter and West Greenwich within the next few days.

Monthly Subcommittee Report(s) – Policy Subcommittee – Discussion – Dr. Geismar referenced the second list of policy recommendations/combinations/deletions, [Correspondence (1)] enclosed for members to review. Member Bollengier said the School Committee now has a complete list of all policies reviewed by the policy subcommittee. He requested the School Committee review the two lists and submit any recommendations prior to the policy subcommittee beginning its work to rewrite these policies.

NEW BUSINESS – 2010 – 2011 Sr. High School Program of Studies – Approval –

Member Bollengier made a motion to accept the 2010 – 2011 Sr. High School Program of Studies. Member Rafanelli seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Transportation Contract-Consent to Assignment – Director of Administration Robert Ross explained that Salter Transportation, Inc. is seeking to assign the in-district transportation contract to Ocean State Transit, LLC in its entirety. Attorney Gorham has reviewed the Assignment and Assumption Agreement and said he found no issues. Mr. Ross requested that the School Committee approve and Chair DeSack sign the agreement.

Clerk Coutcher made a motion to approve and sign the Transportation Contact. Member Rafanelli seconded the motion.

Member Bollengier said that the School Committee tabled this item last time in order to obtain a legal opinion before voting. Member Bollengier said that for the record, he would have liked to see more than just, “It looks okay” from the attorney.

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Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Chair DeSack signed the transportation contract.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - In\$ite Certification – Member Bollengier reminded members that the reason this item is back on the agenda is because at the last meeting the In\$ite Certification had reporting errors in it. Former District Treasurer Kate LaCroix had acknowledged the errors and said the errors were to be corrected and In\$ite Certification would be resubmitted. Therefore, this item should be tabled until the next School Committee meeting. This item will continue to the next regular meeting agenda.

2009 Audit Report – Member Bollengier made a motion to accept the 2009 Audit Report that was submitted at the last School Committee meeting. Clerk Coutcher seconded the motion. Voted 5 – 0 – 1. Chair DeSack abstained. She said she abstained because she was not present at the last meeting.

Transportation Update – None

Capital Project Update – None

Reports/Comments – None

Important Dates and Meetings – Monday, April 12, 2010 District Financial Meeting; Tuesday, April 13, 2010-School Committee Meeting @ 6PM-(Sr. High Presentation); Tuesday, April 27, 2010-School Committee Meeting-(Jr. High Presentation)

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

Adjournment - Member Walsh moved to adjourn. Member Zuercher seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**ROBIN CERIO
CLERK**