

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH April 27, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 6:00 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Maia-Cicero, Vice-Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk (arrived at 6:03 p.m.); Mary Walsh (arrived at 6:02 p.m.); Valerie Zuercher; Mark Rafanelli (arrived at 6:18 p.m.), and Robert Bollengier. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross (arrived at 6:07 p.m.), and Student Member Raymond Moore were present. Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar was absent.

ORDER – Chairperson DeSack called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Vice Chair Cicero read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum – Paul Kaltschnee of West Greenwich reminded members that on February 23, 2010 the School Committee approved recommendations made by the Town Finance/Charter Review Committee for three amendments and by vote of the majority approved those three amendments. According to the Charter, the next step is that the School Committee Clerk shall mail or delivery a

notice in writing to each town council that a proposal to amend has been received, and shall enclose a copy of the amendments. Each town council shall include it in the Warrant at the next annual Financial Town Meeting.

Clerk Coutcher arrived at this time, (6:02 p.m.)

Mr. Kaltschnee asked what the status is of the three approved amendments. Chair DeSack deferred to Clerk Coutcher for an update on the status of the approved amendments. Clerk Coutcher advised that the amendments have to be sent to Attorney Gorham for review/adaption. Chair DeSack directed Superintendent Geismar to contact Attorney Gorham tomorrow so that notice may be mailed to the town councils by next week. Next, Mr. Kaltschnee requested a final copy of amended Policy 3201 that was approved at the last School Committee meeting. Chair DeSack requested that Mrs. Cerio or Dr. Geismar contact Bill Clay [policy subcommittee member] for a final copy of Policy 3201 as amended. Once received, the policy shall then be posted on the district website and a copy shall be sent to Mr. Kaltschnee. West Greenwich Town Council President Bob Butler requested that the three approved amendments to the charter reach the Exeter and West Greenwich town councils by the end of this week. He said that West Greenwich Town Council is meeting next week and would like to add this item to its meeting agenda. Chair DeSack agreed to fulfill the request.

Presentation – Student Member Report – Student Member Raymond Moore said seniors are looking forward to end-of-the-year activities, as are all underclassmen. Student Council is holding its second blood drive next Thursday and is encouraging

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everyone to participate since there is a shortage of blood. The drive will run from 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Thursday.

Jr. High School Presentation – Principal Mark Thompson explained that NECAP now provides data that makes it easier to analyze assessment scores and track individual students.

Director of Administration Robert Ross arrived at this time, (6:07 p.m.).

Principal Thompson and Assistant Principal Christopher Anthony gave a PowerPoint Presentation, which included an analysis of the 2009 NECAP Assessment Results, AYP Results, Plans for Improvement, Ongoing and New Strategies, Suspension Data, the University of Rhode Island Mentor/Tutor Internship Program, and Student/Staff Achievements. In response to Chair DeSack's inquiry whether those students in the eighth grade who score below proficient in reading and math are retained, Principal Thompson said the junior high does not typically socially promote students.

However, he presented an example of one reason a below proficient student might move on to grade nine. In response to Chair DeSack's inquiry, Principal Thompson gave examples of strategies and programs used in an attempt to motivate some students. He acknowledged that it is still puzzling however to figure out what to do with certain students that are not motivated. Chair DeSack proposed to bring the following topic to a future agenda for discussion/review -- What is the district's obligation if a student does not want to perform? Superintendent Geismar advised that the district would need to look at alternative education plans for those students. Chair DeSack requested Principal Thompson continue with the presentation, she said however, she will ask the Superintendent that the School Committee hear more about this piece in the future. A brief discussion ensued regarding the effect on NECAP scores due to the lack of accountability on students when taking the NECAP assessment.

Member Rafanelli arrived at this time, (6:18 p.m.).

Principal Thompson and Vice Principal Anthony concluded the presentation and answered Member Walsh's questions regarding nonfiction books purchased by the school library in an effort to get students, particularly male students, to read.

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

Member Bollengier explained that he had not yet received a response to questions he submitted to the District Treasurer concerning the Bills. He said he would like an explanation for the questions he asked. Chair DeSack told Member Bollengier the answers are forthcoming. The District Treasurer had been working on items pertaining to last night's budget meeting.

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Vice Chair Cicero made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Clerk Coutcher seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of April 13, 2010

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$393,436.19

D. Home School Approvals

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence – (1) April 2010 Metcalf School Feinstein Good Deeds Program Volume 2 Newsletter; (2) RI Association of School Committees' Annual Meeting Notice; (3) High School 2010 Important Dates; (4) EWG Resolution mailed to Commissioner Gist Regarding RIDE Proposed Funding Formula

Members did not express any comments or concerns regarding Correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS – Fundraising Opportunity – Superintendent Geismar introduced community member Joe Harrington to present a fundraising opportunity for the district. Mr. Harrington gave an overview of Merchant Card Service's Project Give Back program. He explained that by establishing a partnership with Merchant Card Services, (MCS) the district can receive 25% of MCS's third-party payment processor service fee profits on a monthly, recurring basis for all the local business patrons that elect to participate in Project Give Back. Each dollar earned from the program helps to keep merchants' taxes down and helps the school district in its fundraising efforts at no extra cost to the merchants and at no cost to the school district. If the School Committee decides it is interested in participating, MCS will work with the school district to build a sales/marketing plan to launch the program. Mr. Harrington answered members' clarifying questions. He said he cannot tell the

School Committee how much return can be raised; however, he can say that on average, every one million dollars will generate between \$850 to \$1,300. The district is under no obligation and can opt out at anytime. Chair DeSack advised that the committee would need to see the contract and have the district's attorney review it prior to voting. In response to Dr. Geismar's inquiry, Chair DeSack confirmed that the School Committee is interested in proceeding to that level.

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Sr. Project Modifications for Approval – A lengthy discussion took place regarding the formation, responsibilities, purpose, and charge of the Sr. Project Steering Committee. Chair DeSack raised concern whether a 2:00 p.m. meeting time is prohibiting working parents from attending meeting. She emphasized the importance of ensuring that the Steering Committees' membership is equally weighted and that all meetings are posted and conducted appropriately. Chair DeSack said that she is unavailable to attend the Steering Committees' meeting on Friday, April 30 at 2:00 p.m. However, Vice Chair Cicero will be sent in her place to constitute the committee and to act as chairperson until the Steering Committee elects its chairperson. Chair DeSack said that she will locate the School Committee meeting minutes containing record of the creation of the Steering Committee to send to Vice Chair Cicero prior to Friday's meeting to aid in constituting the committee. She encouraged the Steering Committee to end with

equal representation from each voting body. Chair DeSack expressed appreciation to Principal Butler and members of the Steering Committee for the hard work they have done. This item will continue to a future agenda.

Revised Final Budget 2010-2011 – Adoption – Chair DeSack said the School Committee met last night and a copy of the final budget that came out of that meeting is enclosed in members’ supplemental packets. Administration put forth a 3.0 increase.

Member Bollengier made a motion to approve the revised final budget for 2010 – 2011. Member Rafanelli seconded the motion.

In response to Clerk Coutcher’s inquiry, Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that just under \$110,000 was taken out of the previous budget.

Voted 6 – 1 in favor. Clerk Coutcher voted no. The motion carried.

Vote to Call A Special District Financial Meeting – Member Bollengier made a motion for a calling of a Special District Financial Meeting for May 17, 2010. Member Rafanelli seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion carried.

Consider, Discuss and Vote to Support a Similar Resolution to that of the Smithfield School Committee or Middletown School Committee

for EWG – Clerk Coutcher made a motion to send out both the binding arbitration resolution and contract continuation resolution. Member Zuercher seconded the motion.

Member Bollengier pointed out there are actually three resolutions.

Clerk Coutcher withdrew his motion.

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Clerk Coutcher made a motion to send all three resolutions, which include School Funding Formula, Contract Continuation, and Binding Arbitration. Member Bollengier seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policy 6201: English Language Learners Staffing Policy – 2nd Reading – Members did not express any comments or concerns regarding policy 6201. This policy will continue to the next regular meeting agenda for adoption.

Transportation Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that he is still waiting for RIDE to send him next year's out-of-district transportation final figures. This item will remain on

the agenda until the information is received.

Capital Project Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross confirmed for Member Bollengier that there is a Capital Project Building Committee meeting scheduled for tomorrow afternoon.

Chair DeSack added that there is also a meeting tomorrow with Council 94 at 3:30 p.m.

Flood Update – Superintendent Geismar reported there was water intrusion at Wawaloam School one week after the flood. During the break, carpet was replaced by tile at a cost of \$6,700. This was an emergency health safety issue. The capital funds are eligible for housing aid reimbursement. The district is also pursuing reimbursement through public assistance administered by FEMA/RIEMA.

Reports/Comments – None

Important Dates and Meetings – Wednesday, April 28, 2010-Capital Project Building Committee Meeting; Tuesday, May 11, 2010-School Committee Meeting-(Lineham/Wawaloam Presentation @ Wawaloam); Tuesday, May 25, 2010-School Committee Meeting-(Special Education Presentation)

Chair DeSack reminded members of the negotiation team of the meeting tomorrow with Council 94 and the meeting on Monday with the Teachers' Association.

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

Adjournment – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adjourn. Member Zuercher seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK