

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH November 9, 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 Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Maia-Cicero, Vice-Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Mary Walsh; Valerie Zuercher, (left early at 7:35 p.m.); Mark Rafanelli, and Robert Bollengier. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross, and Student Member Matthew French were present. Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar was absent.

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

Open Forum – Student Member Matthew French arrived at this time, (6:01 p.m.).

Chair DeSack said that if it acceptable to members, the School Committee reserves the right to move the next agenda item, Recognitions/Achievements – Why RI? Video Contest Finalist – Kayvon Shakoori) up until Kayvon’s family member(s) arrive to the

meeting.

Presentation – Student Member Report – Student Member Matthew French reported that the Student Council has organized a food drive next week to help local families. He defined the Blackout Dance, which the junior class will sponsor as a dance with less lighting and that requires attendees to wear black clothing. Lastly, Matthew noted that the girls’ soccer team and other sports teams are doing very well.

Project Giveback Presentation – Chair DeSack advised that Mr. Harrington was not available to attend this evening’s meeting. Therefore, this item will carry over to the next regular meeting agenda.

Chair DeSack reverted to agenda item, IV. A. Recognitions/Achievements – Why RI? Video Contest Finalist – Kayvon Shakoori – Superintendent Geismar recognized Kayvon Shakoori for his outstanding achievement in placing second out of four finalist in the Why RI? Video Contest. Dr. Geismar said that Kayvon competed against professional videographers who themselves could not believe that Kayvon was a high school student. On behalf of the School Committee, Chair DeSack presented Kayvon with a School Committee Recognition Award and gift card. She requested that he show his video at the next School Committee meeting. Kayvon briefly described his video and said that he is very

proud of the final product.

SmartBus Live Presentation – Dan Angeli gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the SmartBus Live product, a school bus safety program available at no cost to the school district which is an effective deterrent to “stop arm” violations, while also providing an

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opportunity to generate revenue for the district. Mr. Angeli answered members’ clarifying questions.

Member Rafanelli made a motion to work with SmartBus Live to install monitor devices inside and outside of buses at their discretion.

Member Zuercher seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA- Chair DeSack advised that items, B. 1. b., c., and d. would be removed from the consent agenda.

Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Vice Chair Cicero made a motion to accept the consent agenda with items B. 1. b., c., and d. removed. Clerk Coutcher seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of October 26, 2010

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

a. Scott Burns as Girls' Assistant Softball Coach, Stipend \$2,696.91,

effective for the 2010/11 season

b. Pulled

c. Pulled

d. Pulled

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$276,632.55

D. Home School Approval

End Consent Agenda

Chair DeSack referenced Correspondence (1) and requested that this item be brought forward at the December 7 School Committee meeting.

Correspondence – (1) DRAFT 2011 School Committee Meeting Dates

Budget Projection 2010 – 2011 – Director of Administration Robert Ross referenced the November 9, 2010 Budget Projection enclosed in members' packets and reported that the

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current 2010/11 Operations and Unaudited July 1, 2010 General Fund cumulative balance is just under \$400,000. He cautioned however, that it is still early in the fiscal year. Mr. Ross told members that the auditors are 80% of the way through the 2009/10 audit and he feels that the numbers are favorable.

Monthly Status Reports – Superintendent –

Business

Special Education – Vice Chair Cicero requested that copies of the November 9, 2010 Special Education Monthly Status Report be given to the three new School Committee members for review.

Maintenance -

Technology

NEW BUSINESS – Hockey Co-Op Agreement with West Warwick Schools – Mr. Peter Ethier, spokesperson for Friends of Exeter-West Greenwich – West Warwick Hockey put forth a proposal to the committee to form a two-year cooperative agreement, with no

financial obligation to the district, whereby senior high students from EWG and West Warwick School Departments participate on a common hockey team. A lengthy discussion ensued and some School Committee members voiced concerns and/or requested clarification regarding fundraising responsibilities, liability risks, and the short notice timeframe for presenting this proposal to the committee. Consensus of the School Committee was to request that the superintendents, principals, and legal counsels coordinate a written agreement [reflecting no fiscal responsibility to EWG School District], present that agreement to the committee for consideration, and schedule a Special School Committee Meeting to further consider this matter. Furthermore, the committee agreed that it could not prevent the organization from moving forward with fundraising activities. Chair DeSack emphasized that the committee would need to see the written plan before it would consider constituting a team. This item will continue to a Special Meeting on Thursday, November 18, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school library.

Draft 2011 – 2012 Budget Development Timeline – Chair DeSack advised that the 2011/12 Budget Development Timeline should continue to the December 7, 2010 meeting agenda.

Storage Building Electric Quote – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that as per the committees' request a quote was obtained for the cost to wire the new maintenance storage shed for electricity. Airhart Electric presented a quote of \$21,160.00. Mr. Ross

advised that this project is not budgeted and offered his view that he does not see a need to wire the shed at this time.

Anti-Bullying Summit Report – Jr. High School Principal Mary Smith reported on the state sponsored Anti-Bullying Summit that she and a ten-member team representing EWG attended on October 26, 2010.

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Member Zuercher left the meeting at this time, (7:35 p.m.).

Principal Smith briefly described EWG's action plan going forward to campaign for anti-bullying awareness, prevention, and to educate students.

Unfinished Business – Approved Charter Amendments Discussion – Chair DeSack advised that legal counsel has still not responded to the committees' request for new language. This item will continue to the November 23 meeting agenda.

Student Information System (SIS) Report – Continued – Director of Administration Robert Ross told the School Committee that he would meet with student information system (SIS) provider ASPEN X2 tomorrow. The current contract [with Harris SchoolMax] has been given to Attorney Gorham for review to determine if the district can terminate the contract for non-performance by the vendor. Mr. Ross

advised that there are three conditions on which the district has grounds to exit the contract with Harris.

Strategic Plan - Update – Dr. Geismar reported that the District Improvement Team has been working to develop a new Strategic Plan for the district. Last week the team held the last of four meetings. The finalized plan will be brought to the School Committee for approval presumably in January.

Race to the Top (RTTT) Update – Dr. Geismar reported that the Scope of Work (SOW) for Race to the Top was submitted to and reviewed by RIDE. One area of the SOW requires minor revisions. He said that the SOW would be resubmitted to RIDE next week. RIDE will then submit a state SOW to the federal government for approval.

Capital Project Update – Dr. Geismar reported that the Building Committee has approved a settlement with the contractor regarding credits and change orders. The next phase is to get the security systems installed at the schools. The building committee has engaged a contractor to do the work. The architect is working with the contractor on a timeline to complete the projects.

Chair DeSack requested that Mrs. Cerio add the position(s) of Building Committee to the School Committee Organization list to be determined upon at the December 7, 2010 School Committee meeting.

Policies – Review/Adoption – 8402: Enrolling Foreign Students – Adoption –

1101: The School Committee and Its Responsibilities and Duties – Adoption –

1102: Superintendent’s Duties and Responsibilities – Adoption –

1401: School Committee’s Public Interactions – Adoption –

1501: Policy Manual – Adoption –

8401: Admission of Students – Adoption –

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8509/8510: Managing Controlled Substances in the School Setting – Adoption –

Member Bollengier made a motion to adopt all the policies set out on the agenda as has

been presented in the past to the School Committee. Vice Chair Cicero seconded the

motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Reports/Comments – None

Important Dates and Meetings – Tuesday, October 26, 2010-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, November 9, 2010-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, November 23, 2010-School Committee Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Vice Chair

Cicero moved to go into Executive Session at 7:47 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (a) (9) – CBA – Grievance(s); 42-46-5 (2) – CBA – (C-94/TA)-Negotiation Discussion and/or Pending Litigation; 52-46-5(a)(1) Personnel. Member Bollengier seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 7:47 p.m.

Member Rafanelli moved to reconvene to Open Session. Member Bollengier seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 8:25 p.m.

A vote was taken during Executive Session to approve a 1-day suspension of an employee, with a 2-year probation period. If no further instances occur in the 2-year period, the 1-day suspension will be expunged. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Adjournment - Member Rafanelli moved to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. Vice Chair Cicero seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK