

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 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; Mark Rafanelli, and Robert Bollengier. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross (arrived at 6:10 p.m.), Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar, and Student Member Raymond Moore were present.

ORDER – Chairperson DeSack called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Raymond Moore gave an overview of the end of the year activities at the senior high. He said that several students and teachers asked him to state his views on the Senior Project to the School Committee. He expressed his opinion that Senior Project was a well-intended project

but has become a burden on seniors as a whole. The assignments come during one of the most important years for high school seniors, and during the busy time of scholarship and college applications and SATS and ACTS assessments. Raymond said that he thinks the creation of the Steering Committee was a good decision and a good step toward fixing the problem. He asked that if the Steering Committee finds changes, go with those changes and make this a better project for the students of the future. Chair DeSack requested that Raymond submit his thoughts and concerns in writing to the Steering Committee. Vice Chair Cicero asked Raymond to submit his correspondence in time for the Steering Committee to have for review at its next meeting on Friday at 2:00 p.m. On behalf of the School Committee, Vice Chair Cicero thanked Raymond for serving as Student Representative this past school year and presented him with a gift card. Raymond accepted an invitation to attend the next School Committee meeting for further recognition.

EWG Sports 4 Kids – Update – Track Building Committee Chairman Rob Corriea reported that EWG Sports 4 Kids has an opportunity to get the rubberized track surface installed through a Champlain Foundation grant (\$75,000) and a RI DEM grant (\$150,000). The Champlain grant must be spent by September 2010, and the DEM grant must be spent by December 2010. EWG Sports 4 Kids needs the help of the school district to bridge the gap for the additional \$35,000 needed to complete the project. Dr. Geismar advised that he and Mr. Ross met with Mr. Corriea and Mrs. Pelser recently and the

funds are available out of the Capital Improvement Fund. Member Bollengier said that he commends the efforts of EWG Sports 4 Kids; however, he would be remiss if he did not make the School Committee aware that Capital Project Building Committee

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 9, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 2

Chairperson Jim Woloohojian is projecting it will cost the district \$100,000 to address the issue with Metcalf School's water system. If the Capital Project Bond fund money cannot cover all of its obligations, the Metcalf School water system will have to come out of the district funds. Chair DeSack disagreed and said a request for additional funding would have to go to the towns for a vote. Mr. Corriea said the rubberized surface project will take two-weeks to complete and will be completed by late July.

Director of Administration Robert Ross arrived at this time, (6:10 p.m.).

Mr. Corriea and Mrs. Pelsler answered members' clarifying questions. Principal Butler recognized the work done by Mike Sullivan and expressed his opinion that Mr. Sullivan is doing a great job.

Member Rafanelli made a motion to allocate \$35,000 from the Capital Fund for the rubberized surface for July 1, 2010 for fiscal year 2010 – 2011. Member Zuercher seconded the motion.

Member Bollengier asked that the minutes reflect that his concern is that Mr. Ross be fully cognizant of the discussion that took place at last week's Capital Project Building Committee meeting that he did not attend. Member Bollengier said he has a concern right now about voting for the \$35,000. Chair DeSack interjected and told Member Bollengier, "Then vote no." Member Bollengier said that he would vote no.

Mr. Ross estimated that beginning fiscal year July 1, there will be approximately \$150,000 in the Capital Fund. He said he will meet with RIDE tomorrow to verify anticipated reimbursements.

Voted 6 – 1 in favor. The motion passed. Member Bollengier voted no. He said that he voted no only for the reason stated. He is not opposed to the project.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda. Referencing the resignations of Principal Boyce and Principal Thompson, Dr. Geismar said they both have given wonderful service to the district. With the committees' permission, he would like to invite them both to the next regular meeting to be properly recognized.

Member Bollengier made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Vice Chair Cicero seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. The

motion passed.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 9, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 3

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of May 25, 2010; Executive Session Minutes of May 25, 2010

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments - (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Melissa Marino as 1.0 FTE Lineham/Wawaloam School(s) Principal – Reappoint to a new 3-Year Contract/July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2013

b. Carmella Farrar as 1.0 FTE Director of Special Education – Reappoint to a new 3-Year Contract/July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2013

c. Jim Alves as Sr. High School Head Football Coach, Stipend \$4,239.61; effective for the 2010 – 2011 season

2. Leaves of Absence

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

- a. **Letter of Resignation from Louise Boyce Resigning from her position as Principal of Metcalf Elementary School, effective July 1, 2010**
- b. **Letter of Resignation from Mark Thompson Resigning from his position as Jr. High School Principal, effective June 30, 2010**

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$493,982.42

D. Home School Approvals

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence – (1) May 3, 2010 Letter from RI Department of Health to Superintendent Geismar regarding two Student Immunization Programs: (2) Town of North Kingstown Resolution Opposing Mandatory Binding Arbitration passed on April 26, 2010

Monthly Budget Projection 2009 – 2010 – Director of Administration Robert Ross referenced the updated budget projection enclosed in members' supplemental packets and reviewed the projected 09/10 operations, un-audited July 1, 2009 general fund, and projected July 1, 2010 general fund balances, based on the governor's state aid revisions. Mr. Ross said adjustments for pension reform have not yet been calculated, as the state has not yet released the new percent of

pension the employer will be liable for.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 9, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 4

Budget Update 2010-2011 – Director of Administration Robert Ross said this discussion will come later when agenda item, Approve Proposed Budget Cuts 2010 – 2011 is addressed.

Monthly Status Reports – Superintendent – Members did not express and comments or concerns regarding the monthly status reports.

Business

Special Education – None

Maintenance – None

Technology

NEW BUSINESS –Youth-to-Youth Fieldtrip Approval – Member Bollengier made a motion to approve the Youth-to-Youth fieldtrip request. Vice Chair Cicero seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Bid Awards – Life Insurance – Director of Administration Robert Ross requested the School Committee award the Life Insurance bid to GBG Consulting/ING.

Member Bollengier made a motion to approve the life insurance bid

award to GBG Consulting/ING. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Property and Liability – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that although the district has used Starkweather & Shepley for the past three years and has enjoyed very stable property and liability rate increases, it is bittersweet that he requests the School Committee award the property and liability insurance bid to low bidder, The Trust. The Trust has submitted a strong proposal and it is in the district’s favor to go with The Trust. Over the next three years, the savings could be as high as \$63,357; or \$43,329 net after paying the exit fee if EWG changed carriers at the end of the contract.

Member Rafanelli made a motion to approve the property and liability insurance bid award to The Trust. Clerk Coutcher seconded the motion.

In response to Member Bollengier’s inquiry, Mr. Ross gave a brief background of The Trust.

Voted 6 – 0 – 1. Member Bollengier abstained.

Approval of Wawaloam Floor Replacement – In response to Chair DeSack inquiry, Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that the district is pursuing a claim through the property and liability

insurer and with FEMA for the removal and replacement of classroom floors that received water damage from the storm related

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 9, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 5

flooding in April. He requested the School Committee approve the invoice of \$5,750.00 for Ruggieri Brothers, Inc.

Vice Chair Cicero left the meeting at this time, (6:35 p.m.).

Member Bollengier made a motion to approve \$5,750.00 for the invoice from Ruggieri Brothers, Inc. for removal of water damaged rugs and replacement with VCT in rooms 7 and 8 at Wawaloam School. Clerk Coutcher seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Approve Proposed Budget Cuts 2010 – 2011 – Superintendent Geismar referenced the Proposed Budget Cuts 2010-2011 worksheet enclosed in members' packets. He pointed out that tonight's supplemental packet contains two additional proposed cuts for the two teaching positions that were working under the World of Work grant this year. Dr. Geismar reported that The World of Work grant is running out so the program is ending at the end of this school year.

Vice Chair Cicero returned at this time, (6:36 p.m.)

Dr. Geismar gave a very brief overview of the proposed budget cuts enclosure and said that he will continue to report to the School Committee on a regular basis. Dr. Geismar answered members' various clarifying questions pertaining to the Student Services Substance Abuse Counselor program, Chariho tuition, Bradley tuition, and Special Education transportation projections, and the one non-certified position cut, which Dr. Geismar said refers to the custodian that was lost last week.

Chair DeSack said that this agenda items says to approve the proposed cuts; however, the proposed cuts are not for a vote. This is a procedural operation of the district budget. If the School Committee approves this today and in two weeks, it changes again, the committee will have to rescind and vote again. She suggested changing the agenda item to say discussion or information instead. Vice Chair Cicero said that perhaps that is what the Chair would like to do; however, the committee has voted in the past on what to cut. Member Bollengier questioned if these are proposed or actual cuts. If they are proposed, then they are recommendations only and do not require a vote. He said that he does not think that Dr Geismar is saying that this is what he is definitely going to cut. Therefore, he does not think the committee should be voting on these cuts. Dr. Geismar said that actually, he is saying that. That is why he submitted the cuts to the committee. To make sure the committee is informed and to get input from the committee. Dr. Geismar said he is

planning to bring recalls at the next meeting and the Job Fair is scheduled for two-weeks from today.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 9, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 6

Member Bollengier said that he puts a motion in front of the committee to table this for at least one school committee meeting. He does not see the urgency of having to vote on this tonight.

Member Walsh asked the Superintendent if the postponement would interfere with the Job Fair. Dr. Geismar said one thing he might have to ask the committee to do is to have a special meeting following the Job Fair and prior to July 1, to recall those employees who are not recalled. Member Zuercher expressed her concern that employees will learn their recall status just two days before the school year ends.

Members discussed scheduling a second special meeting to notify employees sooner of their recall status, and the related cost. Dr. Geismar suggested that he could send letters to those employees he is certain will be recalled, to inform them that he will be recommending them for recall pending School Committee approval on June 22. Member Zuercher was acceptable of that course of action and withdrew her concern.

Member Bollengier withdrew his motion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Fundraising Opportunity – Approval – Director of Administration Robert Ross said he is presently working with the auditors on the language to delineate where fundraising funds will be earmarked. Consensus of the committee was to approve the contract tonight and to consider the forthcoming language when it is presented.

Member Bollengier made a motion to accept only the contract with no language as to how to hold and spend the money until the next school committee meeting. Member Zuercher seconded the motion.

Member Bollengier modified his motion to say by accepting the contract it authorizes directive to the Chairperson to sign the contract. Member Zuercher seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion carried.

Sr. Project Steering Committee – Principal Butler distributed the June 2 Steering Committee meeting minutes and gave a brief overview of what the committee has been working on. He said that the next meeting is Friday June 11 at 2:00 p.m. At that meeting, the committee will discuss minimizing the research paper. People are vested and the conversation is spirited. All meeting agendas and minutes will be posted on the district website.

Transportation Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported he is meeting with Ocean State Transit on Friday to review private school bus routes for next year. If the outcome of that meeting shows a cost savings to EWG if those routes are brought back into district, the next step will be to meet with RIDE. Member Walsh referenced the letter she drafted regarding public school districts' funding private and parochial school

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 9, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page7

busing. She pointed out a discrepancy in what was reported at the previous school committee meeting. The district's end of the year private school transportation projection is actually \$295,000 and not \$519,000. That is an average of 77 [parochial] students at approximately \$3,800 per student. Member Walsh said that if the committee agrees, she will send the letter to all school districts, Superintendents, Representatives, Senators, NEARI, Unions, and Dr. Gist. Chair DeSack gave her opinion that the effort will be better weighted if it goes to the state after receiving feedback from other districts. She suggested that when sending the letter to other districts; ask them to calculate their numbers and compose a similar letter to send all at once. Member Rafanelli suggested sending the letter to Mr. Duffy as well. Member Bollengier suggested adding the date and location of the first initial informational meeting to avoid having to re-contact groups. Mr. Ross recommended two small edits to paragraph two. Mr. Ross advised that the forthcoming state

funding formula might factor in a busing component. Member Walsh said, “That is nice; however, it is still wrong whether the funds come from income or property tax.” Member Walsh said that she would pursue this charge.

Capital Project Update – Dr. Geismar said the main concern now is the water system at Metcalf School. The plans need to be approved by RI Department of Health and then will go to bid. The Capital Project Building Committee, (CPBC) is meeting tonight to determine how to proceed. Member Bollengier reported that the design has been agreed upon, and he gave a description of the location and structure of the new system. He said the estimated cost to complete this project is \$78,000 to \$85,000. However, CPBC Chairperson Jim Woloohojian is holding onto a figure of \$100,000. Timing is critical in completing the installation and having it tested before the beginning of the next school year. Dr. Geismar said the project is scheduled to begin by July 1.

Reports/Comments –

Important Dates and Meetings – Friday, June 11, 2010-Last Day Seniors; Saturday, June 12, 2010-Graduation, 7:p.m., Ryan Center; Tuesday, June 22, 2010-School Committee Meeting-(Facilities presentation);Thursday, June 24, 2010-Moving Up Ceremony; Friday, June 25, 2010-Last Day of School

Member Walsh and Vice Chair Cicero said they will attend graduation. Member Bollengier said he might attend; however, he has a previous commitment. Member Rafanelli said he has to renege.

Member Bollengier said that if members can arrive 15 to 30 minutes early to the next meeting, he will provide dinner for everyone. He requested members to let him know if they will not be available.

At the request of Sr. High School Guidance Counselor Tim McArdle, Principal Butler distributed copies of a listing of the awards that were issued at Honors Night.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 9, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 8

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Vice Chair Cicero moved to go into Executive Session at 7:26 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (a) (1) – Personnel. Member Rafanelli seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion carried.

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 7:26 p.m.

Member Bollengier moved to reconvene to Open Session. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 8:16 p.m.

No votes were taken during Executive Session.

Adjournment - Member Walsh moved to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. Vice Chair Cicero seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK