

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 15, 2011

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 Gregory Coutcher, Chairperson; Teri Maia-Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Valerie Zuercher, Clerk; Mark Rafanelli (arrived 6:28 p.m.); Paul McFadden, and Claudine Pande. Member Theresa Donovan was absent. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar and Director of Administration Robert V. Ross (arrived 6:22 p.m.) were present.

ORDER – Chair Coutcher called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Clerk Zuercher read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum – None

Recognitions/Achievements – RI Jr. High State 200 & 400 Meter Dash Champion – Nicholas Snow – Superintendent Geismar recognized and congratulated junior high student Nicholas Snow for his achievement of becoming state champion in two track events. Nicholas took first place in the 400-meter run and first place in the

200-meter run at the Jr. High State Track Meet. On behalf of the School Committee, Chair Coutcher offered congratulations and presented Nicholas with a School Committee Recognition Award and gift card.

Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching – Gina Kilday – Superintendent Geismar recognized elementary school teacher Gina Kilday for being selected as a 2010 Rhode Island State Presidential Award Finalist. The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th grade mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. Mrs. Kilday was one of only six teachers to be nominated in the state of Rhode Island. It is a tremendous honor just to be nominated. Dr. Geismar praised Mrs. Kilday for the outstanding teacher that she is. On behalf of the School Committee, Chair Coutcher offered congratulations and presented Mrs. Kilday with a School Committee Apple Recognition Award. Mrs. Kilday expressed heartfelt thanks to the School Committee and administrative team for the support they give all EWG teachers and presented each with a student-made token of appreciation for all that they do.

Vice Chair Cicero made a motion to move up under New Business item C. Approve Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements Coordinator (PBGR) Job Description; seconded by Clerk Zuercher;

and voted 5 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 15, 2011

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 2

NEW BUSINESS - Approve Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements Coordinator (PBGR) Job Description – Clerk Zuercher moved to approve the Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements Coordinator job description; seconded by Vice Chair Cicero; and voted 5 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Vice Chair Cicero made a motion to move up on the agenda item D. Approve .66FTE PBGR Coordinator Position; seconded by Clerk Zuercher; and voted 5 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Approve .66 FTE PBGR Coordinator Position – Vice Chair Cicero voiced her support for the position and asked the School Committee to support the .66 FTE PBGR Coordinator position.

Clerk Zuercher moved to approve the .66FTE PBGR (Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements) Coordinator position; seconded by Member McFadden; and voted 5 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Presentation – Student Member Report – Dr. Geismar acknowledged Student Member Matthew French’s great career as 2010 – 2011 EWG

Student Representative on the School Committee. He said that Matthew represented his class well.

Junior High School Presentation – Principal Mary Smith presented a PowerPoint entitled Junior High School 2010 – 2011. The presentation illustrated various Accomplishments, Activities, Programs, Challenges, Extra Curricular Activities, and Student Work at the junior high.

Director of Administration Robert Ross arrived at this time, (6:22 p.m.).

Assistant Principal Christopher Anthony presented data relating to the junior high school NECAP Assessments Math and Reading scores.

Member Rafanelli arrived at this time, (6:28 p.m.).

Mr. Anthony presented data relating to the NECAP Assessments Writing scores. Principal Smith reported on Technology Literacy Assessment results, the Youth Behavior Risk Survey, NAEP, and Survey Works. Special Education teacher Brian Ackerman gave a brief outline and year-end review on the STAR Program; a first year program for 8th-grade students who had not met any success in the 7th-grade. Mr. Ackerman said the STAR program has been very successful. In closing, Principal Smith shared an anti-bullying video

created by two senior high school students, Eric Bonn and Nick O'Neil, who were very moved by the Rachel's Challenge presentation this past school year.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 15, 2011

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 3

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

Member McFadden moved to accept the consent agenda; seconded by Member Rafanelli; and voted 6 - 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2011; Regular Minutes of May 24, 2011

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Deborah Blake as Acting .5 FTE Reading Supervisor at Wawaloam and Metcalf Schools, Annual Salary \$47,671 effective August 26, 2011, the appointment to become permanent for the 2011 – 2012 school year upon issuance of the Reading Supervisor Certificate

2. Leaves of Absence

a. Letter from Deborah Blake requesting a one-year .5FTE Leave of

Absence from her position as .5 FTE Reading Specialist at Wawaloam School, pending her appointment as Acting .5 FTE Reading Supervisor, effective for the 2011 – 2012 school year

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$324,639.16

D. Home School Approvals

1. KHAN – Grade 4 and Grade 2

2. FERRARO – Grade 11

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence – (1) Summary of June 2, 2011 Honors Night; (2) March 16, 2011 Public Relations Subcommittee Minutes; (3) March 22, 2011 Public Relations Subcommittee Minutes; (4) June 1, 2011 Memorandum to Faculty/Staff from Superintendent Geismar Regarding Primary/Secondary Position Obligation Directive

Monthly Budget Projection 2010 – 2011 – Referencing the 2010 – 2011 Monthly Budget Projection, Director of Administration Robert Ross reported Miscellaneous Revenue has increased as a result of dividends due to the District from the WB

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 15, 2011

Community Health reserve balance. The return on those investments totaling approximately \$53,000 will be taken for the current year.

Budget Update 2011 - 2012 – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that due to the ongoing Uniform Chart of Accounts (UCOA) guidance from the Department of Education (RIDE) and the Auditor General’s office, the budget that was passed at the 2011 all-day referendum that consisted of 982 lines, has since then increased to 1,132 lines. The budgeted amount has not changed however. Mr. Ross said he is expecting that number to grow by an additional 100 to 200 lines before the year ends.

Monthly Status Reports – Superintendent – Members did not voice any questions or concerns regarding the Monthly Status Reports.

Business

Special Education – None

Maintenance – None

Technology

NEW BUSINESS – Adopt New K-6 Reading Program – In support of the K – 6 Reading Pilot committee and Data Consultant Dr. Ellen Hedlund, Dr. Geismar made a recommendation to adopt the new K-6 reading program -- Reading Street. Dr. Geismar gave an overview of the 2010 – 2011 Reading Pilot decision-making process. He

recognized Reading Pilot committee members Mimi Bouchard, Melissa Cohen, and Deborah Blake and commended the wonderful job they did organizing the pilot.

Dr. Geismar also recognized the contributions of Principal Marino, Principal Almonte, and Assistant Principal Fish. Lead committee member Deborah Blake reported that the decision to select the Reading Street series was truly a data driven process. One noteworthy piece of the data analysis showed there was no “implementation dip”, which can typically occur when a new program is being implemented. This is a credit to the execution efforts of the pilot teachers. Mrs. Blake asked the School Committee to consider a continuous development of the ELA/Reading program going forward to regularly meet the ELA needs of the students/district.

Member Pande made a motion to approve the new K-6 Reading Program [Reading Street].

Clerk Zuercher requested to put on record that in the year 2016 the district would reexamine the reading program. She asked if Member Pande’s motion could be modified to include that stipulation.

Member Pande agreed. Member Rafanelli seconded the motion. Voted 6 - 0 in favor. The motion passed.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 15, 2011

Summer Track Program – Sharon Pelsler informed the committee of the summer track program EWG Sports 4 Kids (EWGS4K) would like to host for children ages 14 and younger. The program will be open to all communities. The objective is to spark interest in the track and field sport. The program is free and will run five weeks on Tuesday nights from 5:45 p.m. to dusk on July 12, 19, 26 and August 2 and 9. Member Rafanelli said he supports the program and reminded Mrs. Pelsler to follow district guidelines for volunteer background check requirements and facility use request(s). In response to Vice Chair Cicero’s inquiry, Director of Administration Robert Ross said the significant difference of EWGS4K from other recreational athletic organizations (such as Youth Hoops) is that other groups are more formalized and carry their own certificates of insurance. In this case, considering the financial condition of EWGS4K and the type of insurance they would have to purchase, it would be too costly for them to do so. The district’s property and liability carrier has agreed to cover the summer track program provided the program is run under the district’s auspices and the School Committee has ultimate authority to stop the program if considered necessary. There is no additional cost involved.

Clerk Zuercher moved to approve the [EWGS4K] Summer Track Program; seconded by Vice Chair Cicero; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Consolidated Resource Plan (CRP) Update – Dr. Geismar updated members on the Consolidated Resource Plan (CRP), the district’s application for federal entitlement funds. He reported that Assistant Principal Carol Fish is the District Coordinator for the CRP. There are three Titles. Title 1 - approximately \$80,200 to pay for most of the salary of the reading teacher at Metcalf School and \$1,200 has been allocated for a parent liaison. Title 2 - approximately \$70,800 to pay for most of the salary of a third grade teacher to reduce class size in grade-3. Title 3 - funds are for ELL. Dr. Geismar noted that the IDEA funds are not included in tonight’s report because Mrs. Farrar just updated the committee two weeks ago as part of her Special Education Presentation. Dr. Geismar expressed appreciation to Mrs. Fish and acknowledged the additional work she is required to do managing the CRP.

Metcalf Principal Mary Lou Almonte invited members to attend tomorrow night’s first Metcalf School Awards Program at the Elks Club in West Greenwich from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Capital Project Update – Superintendent Geismar reported that the Capital Project Building Committee met with the contractor regarding Metcalf School’s new water system project. There was a contentious discussion over the work done last December that was then filled back in. The contractor will begin the work at the end of June (June 24 or June 27) and will continue

working on the other issue(s).

Reports/Comments – None

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH June 15, 2011

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 6

Important Dates and Meetings – Wednesday, June 22, 2011 – Jr. High Moving Up Ceremony @ 6PM; Wednesday, June 22, 2011 – Capital Project Building Committee

Meeting; Wednesday, June 29, 2011 – Capital Project Building Committee Meeting; Tuesday, June 28, 2011 – School Committee Meeting – (Facilities Presentation)

Mr. Ross invited School Committee members to attend the Appreciation Barbecue that will take place tomorrow from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the senior high school cafeteria/courtyard to honor Council-94 employees for the work they do. Superintendent Geismar thanked Mr. Ross for organizing the barbecue.

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

Adjournment – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adjourn; seconded by Member McFadden; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK