

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH September 27, 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; Theresa Donovan, and Claudine Pande. Members Mark Rafanelli and Paul McFadden were absent. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar and Director of Administration Robert V. Ross were present.

ORDER – Chair Coutcher 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 – None

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

Vice Chair Cicero made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Member Donovan seconded the motion. Voted 5:0 in favor

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of September 13, 2011

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Claudia Massa as .6 FTE School Nurse Teacher (First Semester LOA); Step 1, Bachelors, Annual Salary \$22,008, effective date retroactive to September 2, 2011

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$341,992.17

D. Home School Approvals

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence – (1) Advisory from RI Interlocal Trust regarding school districts making voluntary payments on personal injury losses; (2) September 22, 2011 Memo from the Superintendent to the School Committee Regarding School Based Coordinator and Drama Positions

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Senior high school principal Brian Butler handed out a document that detailed the upcoming proposed FFA trip. No action needed to be taken at this time but will need to be approved at the next School Committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – Sr. High Universal Studios, Orlando Trip Proposal – Item A was delayed as the presenters had informed Superintendent Geismar they would be arriving late.

New Reading Program Three-Year Implementation Plan – Reading Supervisor Deborah Blake reviewed the new reading program using the document titled Reading Street Three Year Implementation Plan. Highlights included the program organization, content, tier instruction, and technology. She reinforced the idea that the implementation plan is a working document. Mrs. Blake pointed out the program included a preschool element called OWL that would be looked at during the 2012-13 school year.

Member Donovan inquired what the acronym OWL stood for. Mrs. Blake did not know but said that she would find out. She did offer that the OWL is a comprehensive element.

NECAP Science Scores – Preliminary Report – Superintendent Geismar presented the preliminary NECAP science scores. He stated that all stakeholders should be proud of the scores. Further analysis will be needed to understand the results and a full report will be

forthcoming.

Common Core State Standards Math Curriculum Update – Superintendent Geismar reviewed the Common Core State Standards Math Curriculum and the ongoing training and PD that is taking place in the district around this standard. The Southern RI districts are working collaboratively to develop this math curriculum standard. EWG teachers Jo Millard, Susan Viveiros, Gina Kilday, Leslie Sawicki, and Erica Killian are representing EWG at these curriculum meetings. Substitutes for these teachers are being funded through the Race to the Top grant.

[ITEM A] - Sr. High Universal Studios, Orlando Trip Proposal – Fine Arts teachers Elizabeth Lind and Ronald Runner arrived and presented the proposed Fine Arts Department senior high trip to Universal Studios in Orlando Florida. Mrs. Lind gave an overview of the growing film industry in RI. The Fine Arts Department strives to demonstrate to students the relationship between school and career and this trip would present an opportunity for EWG students to see how art and music is used in the film industry.

Students are very interested in the Harry Potter stories and Universal has a park themed around Harry Potter. Students will be taking a behind the scenes tour to view firsthand the link between art and music and the film industry.

Mr. Runner informed the committee the students would be performing a choral arrangement at the park as part of the STARS program at Universal Parks. The chorus will be comprised of both art and music students. This merging of fine arts students provides opportunities for students to experience performing music in a professional setting while broadening their understanding of the arts. He also referenced the state standards for the arts, which align quite well with this trip.

Both teachers spoke about the fundraising activities that will be taking place during the school year to pay for the trip. They assured the committee the travel agent is a reputable low cost provider with a proven record of accomplishment for booking student trips. The trip would require students to miss one day of school.

Member Zuercher inquired how students would be made aware of this trip. Mrs. Lind responded through flyers, email and mostly word of mouth. Member Zuercher suggested they might want to consider using the morning announcement as a way of getting the word out.

Member Donovan voiced her opinion that the trip had awesome educational value and said that she liked the integration of art and music students into the trip.

MOTION: Approve authorization of senior high Fine Arts Department trip to Universal Studios in Orlando Florida. Donovan: Zuercher, unanimous.

Approve BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative – Mr. Ross presented the BuyBoard National Purchasing Cooperative as a means for the District to access low cost purchase of goods without having to go through the bidding process thereby saving time and money. By authorizing the agreement, the District would be able to participate in the cooperative. Mr. Ross informed the School Committee this came to his attention via Tim Duffy the Executive Director of RI Association of School Committees (RIASC).

Member Pande inquired if the vendors are local. Mr. Ross responded that typically, suppliers are national companies with a local presence and the district tries to use local vendors.

Member Cicero noted that the District needs to keep their enrollment in the RIASC.

Motion: Approve authorization to participate in the BuyBoard National Purchasing Cooperative. Donovan: Zuercher unanimous.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Student Information System Update – Superintendent Geismar shared the GPA calculation is slated to be

completed at the end of the week. Login ID's necessary for parents to log into the parent portal would be mailed on Monday.

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Chairman Coutcher asked if teachers were putting grades into the system. Superintendent Geismar stated they were, however, the ability for teachers to enter comments on the grades was not yet available but should be forthcoming in late October. He also informed the committee that the Metcalf School class schedules should be loaded into Aspen during the month of October.

Capital Project Update – Superintendent Geismar informed the committee that the Metcalf School permanent water system should be completed and approved within the next few days.

Reports/Comments – Member Donovan returned to the correspondence regarding the Trust advisory on making voluntary payment for personal injury losses, seeking clarification if this was for personal injury and property damage or just personal injury. Mr. Ross stated it was just for personal injury as this type of voluntary payment crossed into the area of Medicare services and the regulations that would go with making such a payment.

Important Dates and Meetings – Wednesday, September 28, 2011-Building Committee Meeting; Wednesday, October 5,

**2011-Building Committee Meeting; Tuesday, October 11, 2011-School
Committee Meeting; Wednesday, October 12, 2011-Building
Committee Meeting; Wednesday, October 19, 2011-Building
Committee Meeting; Tuesday, October 25, 2011-School Committee
Meeting; Wednesday, October 26, 2011-Building Committee Meeting**

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

**Adjournment – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adjourn. Member Pande
seconded the motion. Voted 5:0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:05
p.m.**

ROBERT V. ROSS

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION