

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH November 22, 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 Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Teri Maia-Cicero, Vice-Chairwoman; Valerie Zuercher, Clerk; Mark Rafanelli, Theresa Donovan, Paul McFadden and Claudine Pande. Chairman Gregory Coutcher was absent. Others present: Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross, and Attorney Brad Gorham (left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.)

ORDER – Vice Chair Cicero called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Clerk Zuercher read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum – State Representative Lisa Tomasso introduced herself and gave a detailed oral presentation illustrating how the RI Retirement Security Act of 2011, as enacted by the General Assembly last Thursday, would affect EWG teachers and the school district. A formal document was not available for public dissemination at this time. However, Representative Tomasso reported that based on numbers given to state representatives by the house fiscal staff, EWGRSD should see a reduction in their contribution of \$106,000 for

FY 2013. Representative Tomasso agreed to email documentation to Dr. Geismar for dissemination to the School Committee and teachers.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Angela Russo reported that great things are going on at the senior high school. The girls’ volleyball team and the girls’ soccer team both finished the season undefeated and won their respective state championships. The boys’ soccer team finished the regular season undefeated and made it to the state finals. However, they were unsuccessful in winning the title. Girls and boys basketball season begins shortly. The first formal senior high band concert went well. The EWG Drama Club is preparing for its production of Lend Me A Tenor, which will run December 8 – 11. Student Council recently held a food drive and collected 680 cans that were donated to a local food pantry. Members of the FFA are making holiday wreaths to be sold at the upcoming Holiday Bazaar and at the Harley Davidson Store in Exeter. Lastly, Angela reported that seniors are working on their senior projects. The process seems to be going better this year than last. She said that Mr. Quindazzi is doing a good job monitoring students and keeping them on track.

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

Member Pande moved to accept the consent agenda; Clerk Zuercher seconded the motion; and voted 6 – 0 in favor.

A. Personnel Items

1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

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a. William Petit as Assistant Sr. High Boys' Soccer Coach,

Stipend \$2,618.36, effective for the 2011 – 2012 season

2. Leaves of Absence

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

a. Letter of Resignation from Gerald Boucher from his position as Co-Head Coach of the EWG Girls' Tennis Team, effective October 31, 2011

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

7. Sabbaticals

B. Bills – In the amount of \$253,704.83

C. Home School Approval

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence - (1) Barrington Public Schools School Committee

RESOLUTION (Pension Reform) Passed on November 3, 2011

NEW BUSINESS – Approve DECA Orlando, FL Trip Proposal – Dr. Geismar informed the School Committee that the proposed DECA trip has been canceled due to a lack of participation.

Resignation of School Committee Chairperson and Discussion Regarding Succession – Attorney Brad Gorham told the School Committee that the District Charter puts forth that the succession to office in the event of a resignation by the chairperson or vice chairperson is selected at the biennial meeting in December. The chairperson and vice chairperson are the only committee officers who have a fixed term. However, in the School Committee Bylaws there is a provision that if the chairperson or vice chairperson resigns as a member of the School Committee, the election of a new chairperson or vice chairperson will take place after the School Committee has formally accepted the resignation.

A brief discussion ensued and the committee reached a consensus to formally accept Chairperson Coutcher’s letter of resignation, with an effective date of December 7, at the December 6 School Committee meeting. Vice Chair Cicero will take on the role of acting chairperson in the interim to procedurally electing a new chairperson at the January 3, 2012 School Committee meeting. Vice Chair Cicero will request written correspondence

from the West Greenwich Town Council documenting who will be appointed as the interim School Committee member representing

West Greenwich.

Attorney Gorham left the meeting at this time, (6:25 p.m.).

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Approve Bid Advertisement for Track Equipment – Dr. Geismar requested School Committee approval to advertise a bid for track equipment to support the track program and to allow the district to host track meets, with a stipulation of paying for half the equipment this year and half next year. He said that Mr. Bob Rothenberg has put together a list of items needed to host track meets with an estimated cost of approximately \$35,000 for equipment. Member McFadden proposed that the School Committee procure the track equipment in its entirety using this year’s reserve fund as a direct expense, which will benefit the community. He said that the district does not have any rich athletic programs. School is the only way kids have to participate. It will be money well spent. Mr. Rothenberg said that the list of equipment totaling approximately \$35,000 includes the basic equipment to have a home meet. Members asked clarifying questions. Mr. Rothenberg said that the RI Director of Track and Field has seen EWGs facility and wants meets held there. Ideally, EWG will need to give notice by January if it can host track meets.

Member Donovan moved to authorize advertising a bid for track equipment.

Mr. Ross raised concern that procedurally the estimate of \$35,000 may not be sufficient. He asked the committee to consider setting a range or to increase the amount by approximately 10%. Member Donovan pointed out that it does not help with the bidding process to expose the amount. Member McFadden stressed the need for a stronger motion tonight to authorize procurement of equipment not to exceed \$35,000 to expedite this and for the convenience of administration.

Vice Chair called for a second on Member Donovan's motion to authorize advertising a bid for track equipment. Clerk Zuercher seconded the motion; and voted 6 - 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Member Donovan moved to authorize the superintendent to enter into agreement with the lowest qualified bidder for up to \$38,500 for track equipment; seconded by Member Rafanelli; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Approve Deletion of Policy 3206: District Financial Meeting – Member Pande moved to approve the deletion of Policy 3206: District Financial Meeting; seconded by Member Donovan; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Approve 2012 – 2013 Budget Development Timeline –

Dr. Geismar recalled that last year the School Committee called a special meeting following the April 2011 All Day Referendum, (ADR) to receive polling results from the Board of Canvassers. He recommended following the same procedure for the April 2012 ADR and adding that meeting to the 2012 – 2013 Timeline. Members briefly discussed and Member Pande recited charter language pertaining to the deadline for motions to

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change the budget by more than \$10,000. The committee agreed that the special meeting

would be added and the Timeline would be brought back to the next meeting agenda for final review/approval.

Capital Project Update – None

Reports/Comments – None

Important Dates and Meetings – Wednesday, November 23, 2011-Building Committee Meeting; Wednesday, November 30, 2011-Building Committee Meeting; Tuesday, December 6, 2011-School Committee Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Clerk Zuercher moved to go into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (2) – CBA – (C94/Teachers’ Association) – Negotiation Discussion and/or Pending Litigation; seconded Member Donovan; and voted as follows:

Teri Cicero Yes

Valerie Zuercher Yes

Mark Rafanelli Yes

Theresa Donovan Yes

Paul McFadden Yes

Claudine Pande Yes

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

Clerk Zuercher moved to reconvene to Open Session; seconded by Member Rafanelli; and voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 8:45 p.m.

There were no votes taken during Executive Session.

Adjournment – Member Donovan moved to adjourn; Clerk Zuercher seconded the motion; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK