

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH December 6, 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 Gregory Coutcher, Chairman; Teri Maia-Cicero, Vice-Chairwoman; Valerie Zuercher, Clerk; Mark Rafanelli, Theresa Donovan, Paul McFadden and Claudine Pande. Others present: Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross, Student Member Angela Russo

ORDER – Chair Coutcher 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 – Member McFadden noted that there is an exterior water fountain at Metcalf School that is chained to a picnic table that is not in operation and is to be disassembled.

Director of Administration Robert Ross arrived at this time, (6:05 p.m.).

Mr. Ross advised that the fountain has not been working for years. Member McFadden said that he would prefer to have the fountain repaired. Some members shared their views as to why the fountain

should not be repaired. Dr. Geismar said that he would research repairing the fountain and bring this item back to the next regular meeting agenda for discussion.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Angela Russo reported that opening night of EWG’s Drama Club presentation of Lend Me A Tenor is Thursday, December 8. EWG DECA students are running a gift drive for children around the community that need gifts for the holiday. On Sunday, December 18, the concert band and jazz band are having their holiday concert in the high school auditorium. On December 15, from 8:AM to 2:PM, Clare Schroeder is running a Blood Drive for her senior project in the high school auditorium. The Blood Drive is for Noah, a two-year old child suffering from Leukemia. Noah’s mom is a 1994 EWG alumna. Tomorrow evening, the girls’ soccer team will be honored at the West Greenwich Town Council meeting for their 2011 State Championship win. This Sunday, seven (7) girls from that team will be honored at the All-Division All-State Banquet.

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

Member Donovan made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Member Pande seconded the motion.

Member McFadden requested to pull Haley Call's appointment as head gymnastics coach.

Member Donovan's motion was withdrawn.

Member McFadden moved to approve the consent agenda, minus Haley Call's appointment as gymnastics coach; seconded by Member Donovan; and voted 7 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

**A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of November 22, 2011;
Executive Session Minutes of November 22, 2011**

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

a. Item Pulled

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$249,233.79

D. Home School Approval

End Consent Agenda

Ms. Call responded to Member McFadden's inquiry and gave a brief summary of her gymnastic background/experiences.

Member McFadden moved to approve Ms. Haley Call's appointment as head gymnastics coach; seconded by Clerk Zuercher; and voted 7 – 0 in favor.

The following item was approved:

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments - (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

- a. Haley Call as Sr. High School Head Gymnastics Coach,**
Stipend \$2,891.15, effective for the 2011 – 2012 season

Correspondence – (1) Updated October 1, 2011 Student Enrollment

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MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS – Superintendent – Members did not express any comments or questions regarding the monthly status reports.

Business

Special Education

Maintenance

Technology

NEW BUSINESS – Discussion with Representatives from Neighboring Districts Regarding the 2012 – 2013 School Calendar – Dr. Geismar introduced Chariho Superintendent Barry Ricci, Coventry Superintendent Mike Convery, and Coventry School Committee Member Nancy Sprengelmeyer here to discuss the 2012 – 2013 school calendar. Chair Coutcher explained that last year the EWG School Committee considered moving to a one-week vacation in March school calendar. However; there were concerns that students attending the vocational schools would not follow the same calendar so the committee declined. He asked if Chariho and/or Coventry School Committees are considering a change to the 2012 – 2013 calendar. Superintendent Ricci reported that the Chariho School Committee has directed him to create a 2012 – 2013 school calendar with a one-week vacation in March and the elimination of the April and February vacation weeks. That calendar will go before the School Committee for a vote at next Tuesday’s meeting. If that calendar is adopted for next year, Chariho Schools will start before Labor Day and seniors will graduate on June 7, 2013. Superintendent Convery

and Mrs. Sprengelmeyer conveyed that Coventry School Committee will consider a change and is willing to work with its fellow communities. Mr. Convery said that Coventry would send a parent/teacher survey out next week. An open exchange of ideas and information followed concerning the format of next year's school calendar. Chair Coutcher offered his opinion that to implement a calendar format change; the School Committee would at least need to have Coventry, Chariho, and North Kingstown Schools onboard. The committee reached consensus to have Dr. Geismar bring the 2012 – 2013 calendar to the next regular meeting based on what happens at the Chariho School Committee meeting. Dr. Geismar will send Superintendent Convery a copy of last year's EWG parent/teacher survey.

Vote to Accept School Committee Chairperson's Resignation – Member McFadden moved to accept the resignation of Greg Coutcher from the School Committee; seconded by Member Rafanelli.

Chair Coutcher stated that tomorrow evening the West Greenwich Town Council will vote on his replacement. When that information is received, Dr. Geismar will email the results to the School Committee. The new School Committee member will join the committee at the January 3, 2012 meeting.

Chair Coutcher called for a vote on Member McFadden's motion. Voted 4 – 2 – 1. Vice Chair Cicero and Member Pande voted no. Chair Coutcher abstained. The motion passed.

Chair Coutcher expressed gratitude and said that the EWG school community is a wonderful place. It was a great decision that he and his wife made when they decided to raise their three sons here. He said that it has been a great eight years.

Discuss #9700: School Facilities Use Policy – Dr. Geismar informed the committee that Policy 9700 contains language that is open to interpretation regarding fees for outside organizations that use EWG facilities. For the past two years there have been afterschool programs running at Wawaloam and Metcalf Schools on a fee basis to EWG students. Those programs will be brought under the umbrella of the EWG Task Force for Louise Dias to manage. He said that if the committee wishes, he can invite Mrs. Dias to a future School Committee meeting to describe the function of the EWG Task Force.

Mr. Ross reported that upon review of the afterschool programs, from a risk management perspective, he has asked that all programs discontinue until the liabilities of running these programs could be assessed. Reinstatement of these programs will resume as soon as

the district has prepared a complete packet detailing the responsibilities of all parties involved in these activities. The parties will have to agree to the terms of any policies and procedures in order to operate and participate in the programs. Mr. Ross referenced Policy 9700 where he marked asterisks next to the language he is seeking clarification for. He said that the issue centers on which groups get charged and the rate of the charges.

A discussion ensued and members shared views, thoughts, and concerns regarding whether fees should be charged to groups that are invited in by the district to help run afterschool programs, whether parents think the district provides supervision to student participants, whether to require certificates of insurance from vendors, and district liability. Member McFadden addressed policy language concerning, “Eligible Facility Users - school employees”. He proposed adding a stipulation to the policy that school employees “have access for purposes other than collective bargaining business”.

The committee reached consensus to place this policy on tomorrow’s policy subcommittee meeting agenda. Members may submit policy language recommendations to the policy subcommittee through Dr. Geismar. Fees will not be imposed on outside organizations that are invited in by the district to help run afterschool activities. The level of physical activity could be a deterrent that administration can determine internally. Administration will move forward with

instituting policy and procedures guidelines to disperse to all parties involved in these activities, which must be agreed to in order to operate and participate in the programs. Permission slips will indicate who is

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sponsoring the activities. At the end of the school year, Administration will bring the School Committee a breakdown of the activities that took place.

Member Pande requested Mr. Ross to give Principal Marino and Jen Greene direction regarding whether the current sessions will resume or be canceled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Approve 2012 – 2013 Budget Development Timeline – Clerk Zuercher moved to approve the 2012 – 2013 Budget Development Timeline; seconded by Member Rafanelli; and voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Recognitions/Achievements – School Committee Chairman Gregory Coutcher – Dr. Geismar said that unbeknownst to the Chairman, the next item on the agenda is to honor and recognize Mr. Coutcher for the great job he has done during his tenure on the School Committee.

On behalf of the entire School Committee, Dr. Geismar and Vice

Chair Cicero presented Mr. Coutcher with a recognition certificate and School Committee Apple Recognition Award. Vice Chair Cicero told Chair Coutcher that he has done a great job and that she has enjoyed working with him.

Chair Coutcher said that he would miss being on the School Committee. He has enjoyed his eight years of service to the school district and the town of West Greenwich. He thanked everyone for the recognition.

Each member of the School Committee, the Superintendent, and Mr. Ross individually thanked Chair Coutcher for his service to the school community and expressed best wishes and farewells.

Capital Project Update – None

Reports/Comments – None

Important Dates and Meetings – Tuesday, January 3, 2012-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, January 24, 2012-School Committee Meeting; The following January meeting dates are pending SC approval: Tuesday, January 10, 2012-Budget Workshop; Tuesday, January 17, 2012-Budget Workshop

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

Adjournment – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adjourn; Member Pande seconded the motion; and voted 7 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK