

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 24, 2012

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, Chairperson; Valerie Zuercher, Clerk; Theresa Donovan, Paul McFadden, and Lee Kissinger. Member Claudine Pande arrived during Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. Vice Chairman Mark Rafanelli was absent. Others present: Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross, Student Member Angela Russo

ORDER – Chair Cicero called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Member Donovan read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum – Member McFadden asked Mr. Ross for a brief update on the status of potentially putting a generator in the Data Center. Mr. Ross said that Eastland Electric has made recommendations regarding the type of generator needed and where to locate it. He has requested quotes from various vendors to obtain a ballpark figure prior to going out to bid. Chair Cicero cautioned that this item could not be discussed further because it is not listed on tonight’s agenda. This item will be added to the next regular meeting agenda for discussion.

RECOGNITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS – RI Cyber Foundations Challenge Competition – Adam S. – First Place Winner – Superintendent Geismar said that he is pleased to recognize high school student Adam Sowden for his outstanding achievement of placing 1st in the Rhode Island Cyber Foundations Competition. Additionally, Adam placed 37th out of 1,500 contestants nationwide. Adam was congratulated and presented with a School Committee Recognition Award and a gift card. Dr. Geismar then recognized Arthur Searle as, “one of EWG’s phenomenal technology teachers who keeps his students on the cutting-edge”. He thanked Mr. Searle for his work and Chair Cicero presented him with a School Committee Apple Recognition Award. Adam gave a brief overview of the competition that he had two weeks to prepare for. He said that he is interested in pursuing a career in Cyber Security and is considering attending New England Tech in the fall. NE Tech has offered him a \$2,000 scholarship.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Angela Russo reported that it is exam week at the senior high. The jazz band will hold its first concert on January 31 in the high school auditorium at 6:p.m. Last Friday a talent show took place to benefit the Fine Arts Department trip to Orlando, which raised approximately \$1,000. Today there was a math meet at West Warwick High School. EWG’s math team, consisting of just four students, placed third. The National Honor Society (NHS) recently inducted juniors. NHS will

meet for the first time on February 1 to plan community service projects. Girls' Varsity Soccer Coach Kevin Fraser won National Small School Soccer Coach of the Year. Everyone is very proud of him!

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 24, 2012

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Member McFadden 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 January 3, 2012; Executive Session Minutes of January 3, 2012; Budget Workshop Minutes of January 10, 2012; Executive Session Minutes of January 10, 2012; Budget Workshop Minutes of January 17, 2012; Executive Session Minutes of January 17, 2012

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

2. Leaves of Absence

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

a. Letter of Resignation from Joseph Abarr resigning his position as Sr. High School Head Varsity Softball Coach, effective

January 5, 2012

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$528,687.40

D. Home School Approval

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence – (1) January 10, 2012 Letter from Senator Francis Maher to the School Committee; (2) February 9, 2012 Joint Meeting Invitation; (3) Correspondence to EWG Art Teacher Sharon LaFrenaye from Jeanine Chartier, Executive Director of VSA Rhode Island regarding Access the Arts Project Grant Award; (4) January 20, 2012 Letter to the Superintendent from Jeff Broadhead, Washington County Regional Planning Council

NEW BUSINESS – Approve .165 FTE for the Senior High School – Superintendent Geismar advised that since this item was put on the agenda, the senior high schedule was refined and the FTE request is no longer needed.

Approve Plan to Assist with Implementation of the Common Core State Standards – Superintendent Geismar referenced the information enclosed to members regarding the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and his and Principals Almonte and Marino’s

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 24, 2012

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 3

recommendation to use math teacher leader Gina Kilday to serve one day per week for 15

weeks to provide training to K – 6 teachers to support the implementation of the CCSS. Dr. Geismar said that Mrs. Kilday is closely involved and Principal Smith could help across the board with backup support. Member McFadden voiced opposition with formalizing the absence of a teacher and removing her from the classroom as in his opinion there is no proper substitute teacher for her students. The Superintendent proposed another possibility would be to look for an outside consultant through the East Bay Collaborative. He said that he would be confident doing that if the School Committee wants to. He advised that if training is done after school, teachers would have to be paid. Chair Cicero agreed that Member McFadden made a valid point. Member McFadden presumed that the district has at least three options. (1) Take a teacher out of the classroom one day per week; (2) Hold training sessions after school and pay stipends; (3) Pay an outside consultant to come into the district. Clerk Zuercher agreed with Member McFadden but said

that the committee needs to see a cost comparison. The committee decided to have Dr. Geismar bring alternate comprehensive proposals and cost analysis to the next regular meeting for consideration.

Approve School Committee Recommendation for the All Day Referendum – Dr. Geismar reminded members that last year the School Committee recommended that the All Day Referendum (ADR) be held at two separate polling places, one in Exeter and one in West Greenwich. He asked for the committees' recommendation for conducting this year's ADR to take to the Board of Canvassers. Member McFadden said that he was pleased with last year's arrangement and would like to see it maintained. West Greenwich Canvasser Holly Howard informed the School Committee that last year voters asked many questions. Voters expressed confusion and some individuals found the ballot difficult to understand. Canvasser Howard said she is hopeful that this year voters would realize that attending the Public Hearing affords them the opportunity to ask questions about the budget. Chair Cicero reviewed the budget timeline to ensure there would be adequate time to print the ballots and then for the BOC to physically receive the ballots. It was determined that the timeline provided adequate time so that the ballots could be in hand three weeks prior to the ADR.

Member McFadden moved to approve the proposed memorandum of understanding that came from the superintendent regarding polling

place availability.

Dr. Geismar said that he thought it should be more his verbal recommendation.

Member McFadden said he would amend his motion then and said he would place a motion for adoption that two polling places, one in each town of Exeter and West Greenwich, be provided for the All Day Referendum of the budget; seconded by Clerk Zuercher and voted 5 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 24, 2012

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 4

The School Committee and the BOC exchanged and discussed ideas to help voters better understand the ballot that included: Post the ballot and information throughout the district in strategic places and on the district and towns' websites. Post the ballot and information at the polls. Have ballot language scripted so that voters can easily understand what they are voting for. Dr. Geismar said that he would contact the BOC to schedule a meeting to plan for a smooth voting process. Chair Cicero said that she would attend that meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policies Review/Adoption – 6260: Professional Responsibilities and Workplace Ethic – 2nd Reading –

6311: Educator Evaluation – 2nd Reading – 6310: Recruiting and Managing the Human Capital – 2nd Reading – Members did not comment on any of the three policies. The policies will continue to the next regular meeting agenda for adoption.

2012 – 2013 School Calendar – Follow-up – Dr. Geismar informed the committee that the request submitted to the Commissioner regarding kindergarten was denied. Therefore, kindergarten students will start on the first day of school and the traditional process for kindergarten screening will be followed. Dr. Geismar said that he received additional input from the union regarding next year's calendar; however, since the calendar was already approved, that input will wait until the 2013 – 2014 calendar.

Capital Project Update – Mr. Ross reported that Torrado Architects received notice that general contractor, Gilbane, Inc. wants to settle up on closing out the capital bond project. Three outstanding items remain. (1) The card swipe access security system is complete and operational at all schools. A Kari Security System representative who is a software expert on card access and security in buildings has offered to meet with the administrative team [and the School Committee liaison] to advise what needs to be considered for implementing the system. Mr. Ross stressed that one key component that must be examined and discussed carefully is procedures for building access. Under the new security system, building access will become limited, which will be a significant change for school

community members. Mr. Ross assured members that building access procedure proposals would be brought before the entire School Committee for final review and approval. (2) A retainer of \$30,000 is due to Gilbane. Gilbane is ready to sign off on the project if Torrado Architect is ready to sign off. There is one outstanding component that has to do with the air makeup in the IT basement. Today, Mr. Torrado communicated that if he can get a dollar value to do that work, and if Gilbane would then reduce its retainer in that amount, the district could do the work. The air makeup is a ventilation issue. Basically, two architectural engineers feel that the design that is in place right now is adequate and the State Agency does not concur. (3) When that air makeup is complete, the district will accept all of the close out documents and then close out and finish the Capital Project.

Member McFadden left the meeting at this time, (6:59 p.m.).

Member McFadden returned to the meeting at this time, (7:02 p.m.).

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 24, 2012

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 5

In response to Member Kissinger's request, Mr. Ross gave him an abbreviated overview on the recently completed water system project at the Metcalf School.

Reports/Comments – Member Donovan questioned whether the 2012 – 2013 school calendar is actually Revised as specified. Dr. Geismar

answered in the affirmative.

Important Dates and Meetings – Tuesday, January 31, 2012-Budget Workshop/Discussion; Tuesday, February 7, 2012-Budget Workshop/Discussion; Tuesday, January 31, 2012-Budget Workshop/Discussion; Tuesday, February 7, 2012-Budget Workshop/Discussion; Thursday, February 9, 2012-Joint Meeting; Tuesday, February 14, 2012-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, February 28, 2012-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, March 6 2012-Joint Meeting; Wednesday, March 7, 2012-Special School Committee meeting (Adopt Budget); Tuesday, March 13, 2012-School Committee Meeting; Monday, march 26, 2012-Public Hearing; Tuesday, March 27, 2012-School Committee meeting (at METCAL SCHOOL)-Budget Workshop; Tuesday, January 17, 2012-Budget Workshop

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Clerk Zuercher moved to go into Executive Session at 7:08 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (2) – CBA – (C94/Teachers’ Association) – Negotiation Discussion and/or Pending Litigation and 42-46-5 (a)(9) – CBA – Grievance(s); seconded by Member Kissinger; and voted as follows:

Teri Cicero Yes

Valerie Zuercher Yes

Theresa Donovan Yes

Paul McFadden Yes

Lee Kissinger Yes

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 7:15 p.m.

Member Pande arrived to the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Member Kissinger moved to reconvene to Open Session. Member Donovan seconded the motion. Voted 6 - 0 in favor.

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

There were no votes taken during Executive Session.

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

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK