

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, Chair; Mark Rafanelli, Vice-Chair; Valerie Zuercher, Clerk; Theresa Donovan, Paul McFadden, Lee Kissinger, (arrived 6:05 p.m.), and Claudine Pande. Others present: Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar and Director of Administration Robert V. Ross. Student Member Angela Russo was absent.

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

Open Forum – None

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – None

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

Member Kissinger arrived at this time, (6:05 p.m.).

Member Pande requested to pull consent agenda item, Bills.

Vice Chair Rafanelli made a motion to accept the consent agenda with the exception of the Bills. Clerk Zuercher seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

- A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of January 24, 2012; Executive Session Minutes of January 24, 2012; Budget Workshop Minutes of January 31, 2012; Executive Session Minutes of January 31, 2012; Joint Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2012**
- B. Personnel Items**
 - 1. Appointments**
 - a. Donna Botieri as .57 FTE One-on-One Instructional Teacher Assistant for a Kindergarten Student, Step 1, Pay Grade 3, Annual Salary \$9,885.00, effective on or about February 15, 2012**
 - b. Claudette Murley as .57 FTE Recess Assistant, Step 1, Pay Grade 3, Annual Salary \$9,885.00, effective on or about April 2, 2012**
 - c. Brian Butler as 1.0 FTE Sr. High School Principal – reappointment to a new 3-Year Contract/July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015**
 - 2. Leaves of Absence**

- 3. Resignations (As Recommended by the Superintendent, with Regret)**
 - a. Letter of Resignation from Steven Hoard resigning his position as Junior High School Softball Coach, effective February 2, 2012**
- 4. Grievances**
- 5. Non-Renewals**
 - a. Please see attached *Initial List 2/14/2012***
- 6. Recalls**
- 7. Sabbaticals**
- C. Bills – *Item Pulled***
- D. Home School Approval**
- End Consent Agenda**

Correspondence – (1) February 12, 2012 Letter of thanks from Cassandra Jones and her parents

2011 – 2012 Monthly Budget Projection – Members did not comment regarding this item.

2012 – 2013 Budget – Member McFadden said that the levy amount assigned to both towns as noted on the handout disseminated by Mr. Ross at the joint meeting on February 9 showed a change from a previous document provided to the School Committee. There was a \$23,000 differential. He requested Mr. Ross send him an email clarifying the levy amount assigned to both towns so he could understand exactly what number is in dispute and how it related to the difference in the levy. Specifically, how did Exeter lose \$20,000? Chair Cicero requested Mr. Ross copy the entire School Committee on his response to Member McFadden. Member Pande noted that she found a miscalculation on the joint meeting handout, which resulted in the percentage amount being incorrect.

At the recommendation of Dr. Geismar and as advised by Attorney Brad Gorham, the School Committee reviewed the 2012-2013 timeline for budget approval, posting, and advertising and determined that the budget needs to be approved on February 28, 2012. Consequently, the March 6, 2012 Joint Town Council/School Committee meeting will be canceled. The School Committee agreed to have Dr. Geismar reach out to the two town councils to notify them that the joint meeting is cancelled and that if council members have questions, Chair Cicero, Dr. Geismar, and Mr. Ross are available to meet with town council presidents and/or designees prior to the February 28 School Committee meeting if so desired.

MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS – Superintendent – No questions/comments

Business – No questions/comments

Special Education – No questions/comments

Maintenance – Member McFadden asked Mr. Ross for an update on the emergency generator mentioned in Mr. Plumley’s maintenance report. Mr. Ross reported that the district is in receipt of one quote estimate so far that is said to be \$75,000. Quotes from other vendors are forthcoming to determine approximation of cost. The district will then request a bid from the results of the quotes received.

Mr. Ross answered Member Pande’s clarifying questions regarding the aging John Deere tractor regularly mentioned in Mr. Plumley’s monthly reports. The School Committee expressed a desire to have Mr. Plumley price a new utility tractor in order to project what the district will face when the tractor needs to be replaced.

Technology– No questions/comments

NEW BUSINESS – Accept 2011 Audit Report – Chair Cicero said that she postponed this item to the March 13 meeting agenda to allow more time for members to review the report.

NECAP Test Results – Dr. Geismar reported that the NECAP test results were released last Friday. Tonight’s supplemental packet holds a full report that gives a composite of district scores in reading, math, and writing. In reading and math for the last five years from 2007 to 2011, EWG showed statically significant increases in the percentage of students’ scoring proficient. Also, EWG writing scores show positive and EWG shows an excellent graduation rate. The results are a tribute to EWG teachers, administrators, parents, and especially students that work hard and strive to do well. The district will continue to strive to improve. Further detailed information is forthcoming at each of the school presentations.

Data Center Emergency Generator – Member Kissinger expressed his view that the school district needs to investigate purchasing an emergency generator. Dr. Geismar confirmed that a new generator purchase is presently being explored to cover the data center. Mr. Ross reported that one quote of \$75,000 has been received so far. Two additional quotes are expected. The district needs to decide the size coverage needed. The quote of \$75,000 is for coverage of the entire [data center] building. Member Kissinger said his concern is that the generator should not only cover the data center but the high school as well. He voiced concern about the repercussions that could occur if there was an extended power outage at the high school. Member McFadden agreed and said that the district should explore purchasing as big a generator as it can afford. Member Donovan noted that Metcalf School is the emergency shelter for Exeter. She questioned if the high school is an emergency shelter for West Greenwich. If so, she proposed that the purchase would be an ideal joint venture between the town of West Greenwich and the school district. The generator could be a shared expense similar to what Exeter did with Metcalf. Member Kissinger agreed the district could work collectively with the town of West Greenwich; however, he said that it is the duty of the School Committee to protect

the facility investment. Chair Cicero said that the high school is not the emergency shelter for West Greenwich and that she would research the matter with the town. She said she would like to see a breakdown. Member McFadden proposed that the contractors may have to come back to reassess.

Review of Purchasing Policies – Member McFadden said that he requested this item be put on tonight’s agenda. Although he does not have any specific concerns about purchasing, he wants to ensure that solicitation is done objectively so that no one particular contractor is successfully awarded a sole source contract year after year, and that bids specs for big ticket items are executed properly. He questioned if there is potential to improve the policies that are in place? Mr. Ross responded that one element not addressed in purchasing policy 3802 is e-commerce, [refers to the buying and selling of products/services online]. He gave a brief overview of the purchasing procedures at EWG and reviewed policy language. He defined sole source contractor and clarified that the district solicits competitive bids and has contractors of record, which is different from a sole source contractor. Members reached consensus that e-commerce should be added to the policy and, as proposed by Member Donovan, that bid specs should be put on the district website. Members agreed to bring these ideas to the policy subcommittee for review of policy 3802.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policies Review/Adoption – 6260: Professional Responsibilities and Workplace Ethic – Adoption 6311: Educator Evaluation – Adoption–6310: Recruiting and managing the Human Capital – Adoption – Member Pande moved to approve policies 6260, 6310, and 6311; seconded by Vice Chair Rafanelli; and voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Approve Truck Purchase Bid – Mr. Ross reported that there was a public opening of the pickup truck bid on February 4, 2012 and he recommended that the School Committee award bid #11-12-03 to Paul Masse Buick GMS South as the low cost most qualified bidder.

Clerk Zuercher moved to approve [bid #11-12-03]; seconded by Member Kissinger.

Vice Chair Rafanelli requested specifics on the vehicle. Mr. Ross reported that the vehicle is a 2012, four-wheel drive, 2500 series, GMC pickup truck, with plow package and tow hitch.

Voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

SORICO Update – Dr. Geismar reported that the SORICO building has sold and SORICO has dissolved. EWG should receive a one-eighth share of the proceeds, which is approximately \$20,000. EWG incurred minimal legal expenses concerning SORICO. Retention of records was a major discussion topic at the latest SORICO meeting.

Capital Project Update – This matter was covered in Mr. Ross’ Monthly Status Report.

Reports/Comments – Chair Cicero asked members to bring their copies of the 2011 Audit Report with them to the March 13 meeting. She said that meanwhile, any questions members might have about the report may be emailed to the Superintendent.

Member Pande questioned if the policy subcommittee should wait to discuss the purchasing policy until after the audit report is accepted. Dr. Geismar said there is no need to wait.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Chair Cicero reverted to the *Bills*, which Member Pande pulled from the consent agenda. Member Pande referenced page (1) Apple – Technology Budget – I Pads and asked where they are going. Mr. Ross responded that they were purchased by Special Education with IDEA grant monies to put I Pads in the hands of specialists so they can use Apps for writing and speech for K – 12.

Clerk Zuercher requested that the policy subcommittee also address phones and I Pads use by students. Dr. Geismar said that is on the policy subcommittee’s agenda for the next meeting.

Vice Chair Rafanelli moved to accept the Bills as provided; seconded by Member Pande and voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

The following item was approved:

C. Bills – (ENCLOSED) – Bills in the amount of \$462,098.92

Important Dates and Meetings – Tuesday, February 28, 2012-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, March 6, 2012-Joint Meeting; Wednesday, March 7, 2012-Special School Committee Meeting (*Adopt Budget and Grievance Hearing*); Tuesday, March 13, 2012-School Committee Meeting; Monday, March 26, 2012-Public Hearing; Tuesday, March 27, 2012-School Committee Meeting (*at METCALF SCHOOL*)

School Committee Chair Cicero requested that an updated budget timeline be emailed to the entire committee.

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

Adjournment – Clerk Zuercher moved to adjourn; Member Donovan seconded the motion; and voted 7 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO
CLERK