

**Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District
School Committee**

April 9, 2012

**Minutes
Special Meeting**

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee met in Special Session at 7:30 PM, on Monday, April 9, 2012 in the High School Library. Members present: Teri Cicero, Chairperson; Mark Rafanelli, Vice Chair; Valerie Zuercher, Clerk; Claudine Pande, Teri Donovan, Lee Kissinger, Paul McFadden. Others present: Dr. Tom Geismar, Superintendent; Bob Ross, Director of Administration

Call to Order – Chair Cicero called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

October 1 Enrollment – Mr. Ross presented the data regarding the October 1 count. He reviewed the results of the town review. The results show a decrease in the count of 826 for Exeter and 1010 for West Greenwich. The new apportionment is 44.99%, <\$27,323> Exeter; 55.01% + \$27,333 West Greenwich.

Member Pande voiced her opinion that the committee should go with the corrected numbers. Clerk Zuercher said that she is concerned and that the committee should ask for a legal opinion regarding precedent. Vice Chair Rafanelli and Member McFadden believed that the charter says October 1 and that is what should be used. Member McFadden said, “The legal questions are, can we deviate from October 1? If we believe counted data, should we use that data?” Member Donovan said the solicitor may provide guidance regarding how do we abide by the charter and provide guidance on the motion. Vice Chair Rafanelli asked Exeter Town Council President Arlene Hicks, (audience member) if Exeter could wait 2-weeks. Mrs. Hicks said that Exeter could wait.

The committee agreed to request an opinion from Attorney Henneous regarding amending the student enrollment. The chair said she would seek legal opinion and email the opinion to all School Committee members

Member Donovan made a motion to ask Attorney Andrew Henneous to answer the committee’s questions regarding how to manage the count change; seconded by Member Kissinger; and voted 4 – 3 in favor. The motion passed. Member McFadden, Clerk Zuercher, and Vice Chair Rafanelli voted no.

Mrs. Hicks was recognized by the Chair. Mrs. Hicks questioned where the student count of 826 came from. She said that Exeter had verified 825 and wants to check the count again to verify 826.

Mr. Ross expressed his frustration with this process. Chair Cicero said in defense of Mr. Ross, that he does not do the count. He relies on the schools. This needs to be on the agenda for April 24.

Vice Chair Rafanelli made a motion; seconded by Clerk Zuercher to move Boards of Canvassers on the agenda. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

Exeter and West Greenwich Boards of Canvassers report the April 9, 2012 All Day Referendum Results to the School Committee – The Boards of Canvassers reported the All-Day Referendum results as follows:

Exeter	145 - Yes	16 – No
West Greenwich	<u>113</u> - Yes	<u>15</u> – No
Total(s)	258	31

NESDEC Superintendent Search – Chair Cicero provided packets with information to be read and voted on tomorrow. Member McFadden suggested inviting candidates to attend the meeting tomorrow night. Chair Cicero asked the committee for its opinion. The consensus was to not invite the people who sent letters of intent.

Executive Session – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Motion to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. to Executive Session in accordance with 42-46-5(a) (1) – Personnel by Clerk Zuercher; second by Member Donovan; and voted as follows:

Teri Cicero	Yes
Valerie Zuercher	Yes
Mark Rafanelli	Yes
Theresa Donovan	Yes
Claudine Pande	Yes
Lee Kissinger	Yes
Paul McFadden	Yes

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:52 p.m.

Motion to reconvene to Open Session made by Clerk Zuercher; seconded by Member Donovan; and Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 9:38.

During Executive Session, Vice Chair Rafanelli made a motion and Member Donovan seconded the motion to approve Dr. Geismar's request for enrolling him and his wife in WB for three (3) years. Voted 5 – 2. Members Zuercher, Pande, Donovan, Rafanelli, and Cicero approve. Members Kissinger and McFadden opposed. Motion passed.

Clerk Zuercher moved to adjourn; seconded by Vice Chair Rafanelli; and voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Thomas J. Geismar
Superintendent