

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; Mark Rafanelli, Vice-Chairperson; Valerie Zuercher, Clerk; Theresa Donovan, Paul McFadden, Lee Kissinger (arrived at 6:28 p.m.) and Claudine Pande. Others present: Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross

ORDER – Chair Cicero called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Clerk Zuercher read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum – Teachers’ Association President Maura Skahan said that she felt compelled to address the minutes of June 26 that read, *EWG Teachers’ Association President Maura Skahan and NEARI Uniserv Representative Jay Walsh voiced their views and concerns and asked the committee to reconsider its position of not having a teacher representative on the Superintendent Search Committee.* She asked for a point of clarification that the concerns expressed were that the contract language that was added after the 2008 – 2011 Collective Bargaining Agreement, which states that the superintendent or designee will make a request for volunteers from the teaching staff and will select from volunteers a teacher or teachers to serve on the search committee, was not followed.

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

Clerk Zuercher made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Member Donovan seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

- A. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2012; Executive Session Minutes of June 11, 2012; Regular Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2012; Executive Session Minutes of June 13, 2012; Special Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2012; Executive Session Minutes of June 15, 2012**
- B. Personnel Items**
 - 1. Appointments**
 - 2. Leaves of Absence**
 - 3. Resignations – (As Recommended by the Superintendent, with Regret)**
 - a. Letter of Resignation from Marc Hamlin resigning his position as Sr. High School Boys’ Track Coach, effective June 12, 2012**

4. **Grievances**
 5. **Non-Renewals**
 6. **Recalls – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)**
 - a. **Please see attached *Additional List – June 26, 2012***
 7. **Sabbaticals**
 - C. **Bills – In the amount of \$355,882.37**
 - D. **Home School Approval**
 1. **One Student Grade 5**
 2. **One Student Grade 3**
 3. **One Student Grade 5**
 4. **One Student Grade 3**
- End Consent Agenda**

Correspondence – (1) Certificate of Congratulations to EWG High School from Secretary of State Ralph Mollis; (2) June 22, 2012 Memo from Dr. Geismar to School Committee Regarding School Classifications; (3) June 26, 2012 EWG Facilities Presentation to School Committee; (4) June 18, 2012 EWG NEA Job Fair Results; (5) June 18, 2012 Letter to the School Committee from Patricia Boucher, CPA; (6) School Discipline Comparison Reports May 31, 2012

Member Pande requested to pull Correspondence (2) and questioned how districts get to the classification of *commended*. Dr. Geismar explained that the classification system, which is based upon performance and growth, is a new system. It is taking the place of AYP (Annual Yearly Progress). Moving forward and after review of the data, the new superintendent and principals will have a better understanding of the system. There is a lot of data to review. This item could be brought back to the School Committee in August or September for a better explanation. Member Pande requested to bring this item back in August.

NEW BUSINESS – Superintendent Search/Appointment – Chair Cicero expressed excitement about the appointment of the new superintendent. She said that the search committee worked hard and there was a very rich pool of candidate. The School Committee is happy to announce that at the end of the process it has appointed Jim Erinakes.

Member McFadden added that the superintendent search was a very lengthy process. There were a tremendous number of people interested in the position. The committee worked long and diligently and is happy with the outcome. He gave accolades to Jim Bell and Pierre LaPerriere the two community members that served on the search committee and worked alongside the School Committee. Chair Cicero recognized and thanked Melissa Marino and Deb Blake for their hard work as well. She said that they were all an asset and applauded the excellent work they did.

Clerk Zuercher welcomed and congratulated Mr. Erinakes. Dr. Geismar stated that he and Jim recently spent time together and he thinks that the committee made an outstanding choice. He offered congratulations to Mr. Erinakes.

Clerk Zuercher moved to appoint James Erinakes as our new superintendent, effective July 18, 2012; seconded by Vice Chair Rafanelli; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Mr. Erinakes and Chair Cicero signed Mr. Erinakes' contract.

Mr. Erinakes thanked the committee and said that everyone has made him feel welcomed. He is excited and is looking forward to coming to EWG. Mr. Erinakes introduced his wife Kelly, son Kaden, and his parents Jim and Cathy. He also acknowledged audience members from his town and colleagues from the Coventry School Department.

Approve Copier Contract Bid Award – Mr. Ross respectfully recommended that the School Committee award the Multi-Functional Digital Copier/Printer Bid # 11-12-13 to the low-cost qualified provider, Innovex.

Member McFadden moved to approve the contract bid by Innovex - \$4,659.28 monthly contract fee; Vice Chair Rafanelli seconded the motion.

Mr. Ross answered members' clarifying questions. Vice Chair Rafanelli asked that administration make sure that with the card reading system, it is working correctly.

Voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policies Review/Adoption – 8518: Bullying – Prohibited – 2nd Reading – Dr. Geismar said that this policy is for a second reading. The policy aligns with the new state law and state policy.

Clerk Zuercher requested that this policy, once adopted, be explained to staff members and that all staff is notified on the first day of school of this very important policy.

FY2013 General Fund Balance Assignment – Mr. Ross said that this is a continuation of the conversation that took place at the last school committee meeting. This is a repeat of last year's action when the committee assigned general fund shortfalls.

Mr. Kissinger arrived to the meeting at this time, (6:28 p.m.).

Member McFadden recommended that rather than assigning general fund shortfalls going on presumption of a certain spending rate based on projections, that the committee assigns general fund shortfalls gradually. Vice Chair Rafanelli said that he liked the idea to assign funds on a quarterly basis. Member McFadden suggested coinciding

assignments with the towns' quarterly payments to the district. Clerk Zuercher questioned if that would be in compliance with GASB 54 regulations. Mr. Ross expressed some uncertainty and suggested that he could ask the auditor. He said that the assignment could wait to the next meeting. Mr. Ross confirmed that he did solicit the WB Community Health for the district's money. Chair Cicero asked if the committee is confident with what it talked about. The committee agreed. Member Donovan said that she supports the quarterly rationale. She questioned if the GASB 54 reference to unanticipated revenue equally addresses deficits under that rule. Mr. Ross said the general fund balance is the net of revenue and expense, and that balance can be assigned to address a deficit or an anticipated deficit.

Technology Update – None

Out of District Transportation – Mr. Ross advised that the district is still waiting for the state transportation provider to give back the private runs.

School Committee Decorum – Chair Cicero said that when the committee frees up time, work on the decorum policy would begin.

Capital Project Update – Dr. Geismar reported that during the last couple of weeks of school the security card swipe system and the buzz-in system were successfully used at each of the schools. Member McFadden questioned how emergency responders get into the locked buildings. Mr. Ross said that responders would get buzzed in and they have keys to the lockboxes located on each of the buildings. He said that he would check with Mr. Plumley and Mr. Wright to verify which emergency responders have lockbox keys and report back to the committee. Vice Chair Rafanelli requested that before the new school year begins to have all involved parties, together with representatives from each group, report to the School Committee on who has keys to lockboxes.

Reports/Comments – Member Pande requested to have the Athletic Director give the School Committee a complete overview in the fall on the entire track program and how track coaches did this year. Dr. Geismar noted that some distinct improvements were made to the program this year at no cost to the district.

Important Dates and Meetings – Tuesday, July 17, 2012 – School Committee Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Vice Chair Rafanelli moved to go into Executive Session at 6:44 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (2) – CBA – (C94/Teachers’ Association) – Negotiation Discussion and/or Pending Litigation; seconded by Clerk Zuercher; and voted as follows:

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

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 6:44 p.m.

Clerk Zuercher moved to reconvene to Open Session. Member Kissinger seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

Meeting reconvened to **Open Session** at 6:55 p.m.

Motion by Member Donovan to appoint Bob Ross as acting superintendent from July 15, 2012 through July 17, 2012; seconded by Member McFadden; and voted 7 – 0 in favor.

There were no votes taken during Executive Session.

Adjournment – Vice Chair Rafanelli moved to adjourn; Clerk Zuercher seconded the motion; and voted 7 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO
CLERK