

**MINUTES**

**The form and content of these minutes conform to commonly accepted standards and shall become the official record of the meeting after review and approval by the School Committee. By definition, minutes are not a verbatim record for the proceedings.**

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, Claudine Pande, Lee Kissinger. Others present: Superintendent James Erinakes, II

**ORDER** – Chair Cicero called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Clerk Zuercher read the District Mission Statement.

**Open Forum** – None

Clerk Zuercher made a motion to move up on the agenda the Routine Items – Consent Agenda; seconded by Member Kissinger; and voted 6 – 0 in favor.

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

Member Kissinger moved to accept the consent agenda; seconded by Clerk Zuercher; and voted 6 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

- A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2012**
- B. Personnel Items**
  - 1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)**
    - a. John Cottle as Co Drama Coach at the Senior High School, Half-Stipend of \$1,786.16; Effective for the 2012 – 2013 school year; Contingent upon receipt of a complete application packet**
    - b. Zachary Searle as Co Drama Coach at the Senior High School, Half-Stipend of \$1,786.16; Effective for the 2012 – 2013 school year; Contingent upon receipt of a complete application packet**
    - c. Kate DiNoto as .5 FTE Guidance Counselor at the Senior High School, Step 8; Masters; Annual Salary \$30,906.58; Effective on or about August 30, 2012; Contingent upon receipt of a complete application packet and a non-disqualifying Criminal Background Check**

2. **Leaves of Absence**
  3. **Resignations**
  4. **Grievances**
  5. **Non-Renewals**
  6. **Recalls**
  7. **Sabbaticals**
- C. Bills – In the amount of \$147,455.80; Accruals in the amount of \$1,746.15**
- D. Home School Approval**
1. **Returning Family – Ages 17, 15, 13, 11, 9, and (new) Age 6**
  2. **Returning Family – Grades 5, 3, and 1**
  3. **Returning Family – Grades 4, and 4**
  4. **Returning Family – Grades 4, and 1**
- End Consent Agenda**

**PRESENTATION – Year 1 Reading Street Implementation Report/Results –**

Reading Supervisor Deborah Blake gave a PowerPoint presentation on Year 1 of the Reading Street Implementation Report/Results. Part one of her presentation provided details related to the Reading Street Three-Year Implementation Plan, illustrated expected instructional components to be utilized, and focused on Program Organization, Content, Tier Instruction, and Technology. Mrs. Blake said that she felt the overall implementation plan was successful for year one. Part two of the presentation showed end-of-the-year data by each grade level. Member McFadden said he would like to see data by classroom. Mrs. Blake said that data is available. It is looked at per student, per classroom in order to target where work is needed. However, this is not the forum in which to share that data. Member McFadden agreed but said that he did not want the classroom data disregarded. Mrs. Blake and Superintendent Erinakes answered clarifying questions from various members regarding the pie charts depicting the baseline and end-of-year-data and regarding support for advanced level students.

Member McFadden left the meeting at this time, (7:56 p.m.).

In response to Chair Cicero's inquiry, Mrs. Blake said that so many things affect the average end-of-year fluency rate probably because of the intensity and rigor of the program.

Member McFadden returned to the meeting at this time, (7:58 p.m.).

In closing, Mrs. Blake shared her opinion that the district can be proud of the accomplishment in year one. She said, "We did quite well and the program has highlighted our needs."

**New Rhode Island School Accountability System** – As requested by the School Committee, Superintendent Erinakes gave an overview of the new RI School

Accountability System process and outlined how the district received a rating of *Typical* under the new system, which relates to NECAP testing. His report included a review of the Classifications, School Specific Variables for Classifications, How Schools are Classified, and How Point Values Translate into a Classification Rating. His report also provided specifics on each of the schools' classifications.

Member McFadden said he was looking ahead at the superintendent's presentation handout. He observed that EWG had a very successful graduation rate and SAT scores were not too bad. He questioned what the problem was. Superintendent Erinakes said there were some areas of the report that need to be reviewed. Principal Butler said that one area for review was NECAP participation. EWG had close to 100% participation, yet RIDE had that the district had 95.6% participation. At the time, the district did not question the data. Next year when ratings come out, the district will go through the report with a fine toothcomb.

Member McFadden left the meeting at this time, (7:07 p.m.).

Superintendent Erinakes said now that there is an understanding of the variables, the district will know next time whether or not to question if the state data is accurate.

Member McFadden returned to the meeting at this time, (7:09 p.m.).

Superintendent Erinakes explained the state's process for determining a school's growth score.

Chair Cicero left the meeting at this time, (7:36 p.m.).

Superintendent Erinakes answered members' clarifying questions.

Chair Cicero returned to the meeting at this time, (7:38 p.m.).

Chair Cicero thanked Superintendent Erinakes for his presentation.

Clerk Zuercher made a motion to move up on the agenda under New Business all five policies 8401, 2500, 6405, 8701, 8301; seconded by Member Pande; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS – Policies – Review/Adoption – 8401: Admission of Students – Amendment** – Clerk Zuercher said she had comments to share regarding Policy 2500.

**2500: Managing Student Pre-Enrollment Registration and Count – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading** – With regard to proposed policy 2500, concerning proof of residency for students requiring a student to attain a registration card from the town before enrolling for school,

Clerk Zuercher said she had concerns with the School Committee telling the Town Councils what to do and with the prospect of having two different polices in place for each of the towns. She said that the school community is already divided enough and this policy would contribute to that division. Clerk Zuercher pointed out that this policy first came to light because there were discrepancies in the number of students in the district due to human error. She does not see how this proposed policy addresses human error.

Chair Cicero said that it was a collaborative effort of both the town of West Greenwich and community members that had asked the School Committee to consider following what Chariho has done with its pre enrollment process. Concerns were brought to the policy subcommittee that Exeter is uncomfortable with the proposed policy so an opt-out clause was added that neither town would be required to participate and there would be no penalty for not participating. The School Committee directed the policy subcommittee to do this and the subcommittee spent a lot of time to please all parties. Chair Cicero reported that in the process, two students were found that were not residing in either of the towns, which saved the district money.

Member Pande said that when the policy subcommittee first met concerning this policy the direction from the entire School Committee was to reduce the amount of time spent to get an accurate count. Chariho School District involves three different towns so it made sense to research that process. The proposed policy helps both towns to reduce the amount of time spent to get an accurate count and it is less of a burden on administration.

Member Kissinger expressed concern that someone could feel discriminated against if one community requires a registration card and one does not. Member Donovan voiced concern with color coding students and said she did not think the School Committee should be giving record keeping duties to the municipalities.

Chair Cicero representing the policy subcommittee asked for direction from the School Committee in the form of a motion for the record. A lengthy debate ensued over how to move forward.

Member Kissinger made a motion to send the policy back to the subcommittee for removal of any reference to assistance from the towns concerning the proof of residency card and residency procedure; seconded by Member Donovan; and voted 3 – 3. Zuercher, Pande, Cicero voted no. The motion failed.

Superintendent Erinakes left the meeting at this time, (8:23 p.m.).

Clerk Zuercher took issue with the word assistance used in Member Kissinger's motion and said that the district does want assistance from the towns.

Superintendent Erinakes returned to the meeting at this time, (8:24 p.m.).

Member Pande recommended adding language to the motion to clarify it was specific to policy 2500. Clerk Zuercher agreed.

Member Kissinger made a motion to send this policy back to the subcommittee for removal of any reference to assistance from the towns concerning the proof of residency card as in the proposed policy 2500; seconded by Member Donovan; and voted 4 – 2 in favor. Pande and Cicero voted no. The motion passed.

Policy 2500 was sent back to the policy subcommittee for revision. This policy will continue to a future agenda.

**Policies – Review/Adoption – 8401: Admission of Students – Amendment** – Member Donovan moved to adopt amended Policy 8401 as presented with the exception of the NOTE on page one, The student registration process specified in this policy shall apply only to Exeter students. West Greenwich students will be registered in accordance with school committee policy 2500: Managing Student Pre-Enrollment Registration and Count; seconded by Clerk Zuercher; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policies Review/Adoption – 6405: Background Screening Potential Employees and School Volunteers – Amendment** – Member Donovan questioned if background checks conducted by the West Greenwich Police Department are done internally or through the Attorney General’s office.

Member McFadden left the meeting at this time, (8:36 p.m.).

Mr. Clay said that the Attorney General will not conduct a National Criminal Investigation for *volunteers* because law does not require it. Member Donovan said her concern is that not just a local check is done, even though it is not required. A brief discussion ensued on whether the committee wished to add national background checks for volunteers to a future agenda for discussion. Superintendent Erinakes pointed out that there is a cost involved with national background checks and questioned what would be done with the current volunteers if there were a change made.

Member McFadden returned to the meeting at this time, (8:41 p.m.).

The superintendent’s secretary Mrs. Cerio told the committee that the West Greenwich Police Department (WGPD) screens all volunteers for the district regardless of residency. It is a very simple process and the police department is very helpful to the district. There are over 1000 volunteer on the list.

Member Kissinger shared information about his experience with the WGPD background screening process. He said that WGPD ties into the NCI and receives a complete profile on individuals. Member Donovan said that would need to be verified.

Member Pande moved to approve Policy 6405 as amended; seconded by Member Donovan; and voted 6 0 in favor. The motion passed.

**8701: Administering Student Medication – Amendment** – Member McFadden moved to accept Policy 8701; seconded by Member Donovan; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Member Donovan thanked the policy subcommittee for all of its work. Chair Cicero acknowledged that it is a lot of work and said that after tonight she is close to quitting.

**8301: Student School Attendance – Amendment** – Clerk Zuercher moved to accept Policy 8301; seconded by Member Donovan; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

**Correspondence** - None

**2012 – 2013 Budget** – None

**NEW BUSINESS – NSBA (National School Boards Association National Affiliate Fees)** – Superintendent Erinakes asked if the School Committee wishes the district to continue its NSBA membership.

Members briefly discussed the benefits of renewing the membership. Member Pande pointed out that a majority of the membership fees goes to helping lobby for thing that ultimately benefits a school district.

Clerk Zuercher moved to continue it; seconded by Member Pande; and voted 4 – 2 in favor. McFadden and Kissinger voted no. The motion passed.

**Approve Google E-Mail Archiving Costs** – Superintendent Erinakes advised that the original request made at the August 14 meeting is enclosed in the supplemental packet. As per School Committee request at its last meeting, Technology Administrator David Wight explained to the committee the Google Postini Archive Services and what formats archived messages can be exported to should the district decide to move to a different provider. Mr. Wright and Superintendent Erinakes reported that overall the district is not looking at incurring a cost for staff training. Mr. Wright said that training is not really needed for this product. Superintendent Erinakes said that the building principals have confirmed that training can be handled internally.

Clerk Zuercher moved to accept the recommendation to go with Postini Archive Services based on the follow up David Wight has done for us; seconded by Member Donovan; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Mr. Wright advised that the district would probably move to Google in October. Superintendent Erinakes said administration wants to do the rollout all at once. A block of time when teachers will not need access has to be determined to avoid stress. Administrators will meet next week and will talk about the timeline.

Mr. Wright, Superintendent Erinakes, and Principal Butler answered Member Donovan's questions and a discussion ensued regarding if ASPEN (the student information system) is fully functioning.

**Out of District Transportation** – Superintendent Erinakes referenced enclosures in the supplemental packet relating to transportation changes. Student needs resulted in the addition of a wheelchair ready mini-bus at a cost of roughly \$67,900. Mr. Ross met with Ocean State Transit and spoke with the state transportation provider to explore other possible eliminations, which resulted in a cost of approximately \$30,000 overall.

Clerk Zuercher acknowledged that Bob Ross has worked very hard on transportation and said that he has done an outstanding job for the district. Member Pande echoed Clerk Zuercher's sentiments.

Member Pande moved to approve the addition of a wheelchair ready mini-bus with a cost of approximately \$30,000; Seconded by Member Donovan; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

**Technology Update** – None

**Capital Project Update** – None

**Reports/Comments** – Member Kissinger asked the superintendent to pass on information to the music department regarding a contest he heard about on the radio. He said that details could be found on the B101.5 website, keyword: sing. The winning chorus would get to sing with Foreigner this fall and a monetary contribution would be awarded to the music department.

Superintendent Erinakes told members that the RI Monthly magazine lists the top high schools in RI. Exeter-West Greenwich High School is rated at #9.

Member McFadden asked if Metcalf School would be used as a polling place by Exeter on September 11. Superintendent Erinakes said he was uncertain; however, there is no school for students that day and it is a professional development day for teachers.

Member Donovan advised the committee that she would be absent from the September 11 School Committee meeting.

**Important Dates and Meetings – Tuesday, September 11, 2012 – School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, September 25, 2012 – School Committee Meeting**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5** – Clerk Zuercher moved to go into Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (2) – CBA – (C94/Teachers’ Association) – Negotiation Discussion and/or Pending Litigation; seconded by Member Kissinger; and voted as follows:

Teri Maia-Cicero	Yes
Valerie Zuercher	Yes
Lee Kissinger	Yes
Theresa Donovan	Yes
Paul McFadden	Yes
Claudine Pande	Yes

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 9:20 p.m.

Clerk Zuercher moved to reconvene to Open Session. Member Kissinger seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 10:55 p.m.

There were no votes taken during Executive Session.

**Adjournment** – Member Kissinger moved to adjourn; Clerk Zuercher seconded the motion; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO  
CLERK