

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

December 11, 2012

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 6:00 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present: Teri Cicero, Chairperson; Mark Rafanelli, Vice-Chairperson; Lee Kissinger (arrived at 6:08 p.m.), Theresa Donovan, Paul McFadden, and Claudine Pande. Members absent: Valerie Zuercher, Clerk. Others present: James Erinakes, II, Superintendent; Robert Ross, Director of Administration; *Substitute* Student Member Abigail Borges.

ORDER – Chair Cicero called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Vice Chair Rafanelli read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM – None

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER ASSIGNMENTS – Chair Cicero requested a motion to table this item to the next meeting because Clerk Zuercher was absent.

Motion made by Rafanelli to move it [School Committee Member Assignments] to January 8, 2013; seconded by Pande. Motion passed (5-0).

Cicero clarified that the *School Committee Assignments* would be moved to January 8. The committee would hold a Special Meeting tomorrow at 5:PM in the Administration Office to vote to elect the Chair, Vice Chair, and Clerk. Immediately following that meeting, the committee would meet for contract negotiations as scheduled.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Substitute Student Member Abigail Borges reported an Art Show would be on display in the library and a Holiday Chorus Concert would take place in the auditorium tomorrow evening at 7:PM. Winter sports officially began this week. A girl's indoor track meet took place today. The Student Council Blood Drive was successful with approximately forty donors participating. A Student Council sponsored canned food drive is underway. The GSA has organized two holiday events; *Send a FREE Holiday Card to a Friend* on December 20 and *UGLY Holiday Sweater Day* on December 21. The Math Team did well at its recent competition. Senior Kyle Couture was top scorer with 6 points. Sophomore Carly Dallas scored 4 points and sophomore Sarah Rumsey and senior Austin Zuercher each scored 2 points.

Member Kissinger arrived at this time, (6:08 p.m.).

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

Donovan requested specifics regarding *Bills – Tacony Corporation* disbursement. Mr. Ross explained Tacony Corporation is a maintenance supply company. The maintenance department ordered three seven-gallon buckets. Prior to approving this requisition, which included a freight charge of \$52.63, a cost comparison was done with Granger Industrial Supply. Identical bucket(s) cost \$74 each from Granger and \$34 each from Tachony. Donovan observed that the freight charge for three buckets was more than \$50, which seemed excessive. It is half the cost of what the product was to begin with. Ross said he has been mindful of all shipping charges. He offered his rationale for approving this requisition. A cost comparison was done. The items were necessary. The buckets are relatively large and shipped from Texas. Consequently, freight charges are costly regardless.

Next, Donovan asked if the expenditure to Tonya LeCour was a reimbursement to an individual. Ross said he suspected LeCour purchased e-materials using her own card and this was indeed a reimbursement. He would verify and bring that back to the committee. Donovan noted that the amount of the purchase was not large. However, the school district is a tax-exempt entity. Having to reimburse individuals for purchases made on their own that include tax is a contradiction for the district. Kissinger said he believed the types of items that were purchased by LeCour should be purchased through the school district and not by an individual so they could be reimbursed. Donovan remarked that in the end perhaps LeCour actually saved the District money because there was no freight charge involved, but it is about *practice*. Ross said he thought this matter underlined the need and served as a reminder to have the policy subcommittee review procedure to address electronic commerce, which has become a bigger part of purchasing.

Motion made by McFadden to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Pande. Motion passed (6-0).

The following items were approved:

- A. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting Minutes of November 27, 2012;
Executive Session Minutes of November 27, 2012**
- B. Personnel Items**
 - 1. Appointments**
 - 2. Leaves of Absence**
 - 3. Resignations**
 - 4. Grievances**
 - 5. Recalls**
 - 6. Non-Renewals**
 - 7. Sabbaticals**
- C. Bills – In the amount of \$346,075.65**

**D. Home School Approvals
End Consent Agenda**

Correspondence – (1) 8/28/12 – 11/30/12 Discipline Reports; (2) School Committee Presentation Schedule for 2013; (3) November 14, 2012 The Champlin Foundations grant approval letter; (4) December 3, 2012 Letter to Town Council Members from the Superintendent regarding Re-establishment of the Charter Review Committee; (5) Superintendent’s December 5, 2012 letter to Staff regarding December 10 Early Release Professional Development Schedule

Rafanelli referenced Correspondence (3) and expressed gratification that the District received a grant from The Champlin Foundations. He questioned if a plan was in place on how the funds would be spent. Erinakes explained this particular grant is a technology grant. Part of the application required submittal of a plan for what the technology would be used for, and then Champlin funds that proposal. Rafanelli acknowledged that Executive Director Keith Lang has been good to the District in the past. One thing Champlin appreciates is when recipients follow up; even invite them into a classroom to demonstrate what was done. That also helps to keep the relationship going. Erinakes said he would relay that message to Louse Oliveira.

**MONTHLY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT(S) – Policy Subcommittee- IT
Subcommittee - Public Relations Subcommittee – None**

MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS – Maintenance – Rafanelli proposed to bring to the next meeting a report/analysis from Facilities Manager Bill Plumley regarding poor outside lighting and traffic signage at the high school facility. He wondered if there is a minimum requirement for outdoor lighting and traffic signage, and if so is the District is able to meet those requirements. He expected there might be grant funds available to fund those types of needs as well. Rafanelli offered his view that traffic signage and outdoor lighting are minimal at the high school and said he would appreciate it if Mr. Plumley could look at that and then report back to the committee.

Superintendent – Pande asked the Superintendent if he could expand on his mention of different future uses for Lineham School or if he would rather wait. Erinakes said he would prefer to wait. His report was just to inform the School Committee that conversations about potential uses of that building have started. There is a lot more information to gather. He would not feel comfortable sharing anything further at this time.

Next, Pande asked if the preschool would move to Wawaloam. Erinakes said that was being discussed and was a possibility. We do not want to leave the building vacant for any amount of time for a number of reasons. Everything has to be coordinated. One of

our charges is to look at the effective and useful use of space and to explore the possibility of other revenues. That is what is being done.

Business – No comments

Special Education – No comments

Technology – No comments

NEW BUSINESS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Capital Project Update – Ross reported the Capital Project building committee meets tomorrow night. During that meeting, the committee should vote to sign off on the final invoice, which would effectively close out the 5.8 million dollar project for the district.

Ross advised members as the budget process begins to keep in mind the debt service is declining and the committee and community has supported many investments in the facilities. It is important not to lose sight of that, as far as maintenance of effort activities.

In response to Pande's inquiry, Ross confirmed that SORICO has dissolved and the District received funds from the sale of the SORICO building.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – None

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Wednesday, December 12, 2012 – Special School Committee Meeting and Negotiations Meeting; Wednesday, December 12, 2012 – Building Committee Meeting; Monday, December 17, 2012 – Negotiations Meeting; Wednesday, December 19, 2012 – Building Committee Meeting; Tuesday, January 8, 2013 – School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, January 22, 2013 – School Committee Meeting

Cicero again reminded members there would be a Special Meeting tomorrow at 5:PM in the Administration Office to elect School Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and Clerk. The scheduled negotiations meeting would take place immediately afterwards.

Student Member left at this time, (6:22 p.m.).

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Rafanelli moved to go into Executive Session at 6:22 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5(a)(9) – CBA –

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Grievance(s); 42-46-5 (2) – CBA – (C94/Teachers’ Association) – Negotiation Discussion and/or Pending Litigation; seconded by Pande; and voted as follows:

Teri Maia-Cicero	Yes
Mark Rafanelli	Yes
Lee Kissinger	Yes
Claudine Pande	Yes
Theresa Donovan	Yes
Paul McFadden	Yes

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 6:31 p.m.

Motion to reconvene to Open Session made by Rafanelli; seconded by Pande. Motion passed (6-0).

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 7:49 p.m.

There were no votes taken during Executive Session.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Rafanelli; seconded by Pande. Motion passed (6-0). Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

**ROBIN CERIO
CLERK**