

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Education Meeting

EWG Jr. – Sr. High School Library, 930 Nooseneck Hill Road, West Greenwich, RI 02817

“Empowering Students: Dream...Reach...Succeed.”

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 of the proceedings. A recording is made a part of the record for a complete account of the School Committee meeting. Recordings are published online and available to stream on the EWG District website.

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Member Kissinger called the School Committee meeting of April 28, 2026 to order at 6:00 PM.

Board members present: Lee Kissinger, Chairperson; Donna Gamache-Griffiths, Vice Chairperson; Kevin Robishaw; Madeline Josefson

Board members absent: Kevin McGovern, Clerk; Shelley O'Connor; Jennifer Sweet

Others present: Superintendent James Erinakes II; Patricia Denman, Director of Administration-*(Arrived at 6:02 p.m.)*; Deidre Carreno, Esq., Solicitor

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. District Mission Statement

IV. Open Forum (3-minute time limit per individual; 15-minute maximum time allowed for open forum)

Comments must be directed to the Chairperson of the School Committee who may limit or terminate a discussion. No comment should address personnel, litigation or negotiations as restricted by open meeting regulations. The School Committee cannot take action or vote on topics introduced that are not reflected on the agenda.

Superintendent Erinakes reviewed the consent agenda.

V. Routine Items

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2026

B. Personnel Items

- 1. Appointments – (ENCLOSED) – (As recommended by the Superintendent)**
 - a. John (Jack) Paliotte as Sr. High Baseball-Assistant Varsity Coach, annual stipend \$2,978.76, effective for the 2025-2026 season**
- 2. Leave of Absence**
- 3. Resignations**
- 4. Non-Renewals/Terminations**
- 5. Recalls**
- 6. Sabbaticals**
- 7. Job Share Proposals**

MSV = Motion, Seconded, Vote

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C. Bills –Bills in the amount of \$ 742,423.57

D. Home School Approvals – (As recommended by the Superintendent)

- 1. RETURNING FAMILY Grade(s) 7 – (request is for the entire 2025-2026 SY)**
- 2. NEW FAMILY – Grade(s) 6, 4 – (request is for the entire 2025-2026 SY)**

End Consent Agenda

Director Denman arrived, 6:02 p.m.

MSV – To accept the consent agenda – Member Gamache-Griffiths/Member Josefson. The motion passed. (4-0).

E. Correspondence – (1) Special Meeting Summary of April 13, 2026

F. Monthly Subcommittee Reports

- 1. Policy Subcommittee**
- 2. Building Committee**
- 3. Technology Committee**

VI. New Business

A. Discussion/Action: Formalize Certification of Compliance – Rhode Island High Performance Green Building Act (RIGL §36-24)

Superintendent Erinakes explained that RI General Law and the RI Department of Education School Building Authority require the formalization of the Certification of Compliance - High Performance Green Building Act (RIGL § 37-24), the adoption of the NECHPS Resolution, and the adoption of the IAQ Participation Plan Resolution documents as part of the Stage II submission to qualify for housing aid reimbursement. Superintendent Erinakes and Director Denman responded to members' clarifying questions.

MSV – To formalize Certification of Compliance – High Performance Green Building Act (RIGL §37-24) – Member Gamache-Griffiths/Member Josefson. The motion passed. Voted (4-0).

B. Discussion/Action: Adoption of the Resolution Mandating Compliance with Rhode Island School Construction Regulations and Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools Criteria (NE-CHPS)

MSV – To adopt the Resolution Mandating Compliance with RI School Construction Regulations and Northeast Collaborative for High Performance School Criteria (NE-CHPS) – Member Josefson/Member Gamache-Griffiths. The motion passed. Voted (4-0).

C. Discussion/Action: Approve and adopt the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Participation Plan Resolution

MSV – To approve and adopt the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Participation Plan Resolution as presented – Member Josefson/Member Gamache-Griffiths. The motion passed. (Voted 4-0).

D. Policies Review/Amendment/Adoption/Deletion

1. Discussion/Action – Policy 8517: Student Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices in Schools --Amendment

Superintendent Erinakes discussed the revisions made to *Policy 8517 – Student Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices in Schools*, to ensure compliance with RIGL §16-21-43. To date, there have been no cell phone/device use issues at the elementary schools and very few at the junior high school. All students follow current policies and do so in a respectful way, so no issues are anticipated. Based on numerous discussions at the high school level, and with no pushback from the Student Advisory Committee or parents, the revisions require high school students to keep their phones/devices turned off and away during the school day, except for during their assigned lunch period.

MSV – To approve policy 8517: Student Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices in Schools, as amended – Member Gamache-Griffiths/Member Josefson. The motion passed. (Voted (4-0)).

2. Discussion/Action – Policy 6220: Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace – Amendment

Superintendent Erinakes discussed the language updates made to Policy 6220: Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drug-Free Workplace because of the new systems for delivering nicotine, and to make it explicitly clear that under federal law, medical marijuana possession or use is prohibited on school grounds, despite of what the law says is allowable outside of school grounds.

MSV – To approve policy 6220: Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace, as amended – Member Josefson/Member Gamache-Griffiths. The motion passed. Voted (4-0).

VII. Unfinished Business

A. FY2027 Budget Update

Superintendent Erinakes continues to monitor and adjust the FY2027 voter approved budget to reflect any new changes. A final, balanced version of the approved budget will be presented to the committee in June.

B. Capital Project Update/Bond Discussion

1. Discussion/Action: Approve payment to vendor invoice(s) for work completed under Bond Funding

MSV – To approve Bond Funding invoice progress payment(s) for work completed through March 31, 2026 as recommended by OPM Steve Smith of Downes Construction Company – Member Gamache-Griffiths/Member Josefson. The motion passed. Voted (4-0).

VIII. Important Dates and Meetings – Tuesday, May 12, 2026-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, May 26, 2026 School Committee Meeting; Thursday, May 28, 2026-Honors Night at 6:PM

The committee did not enter into executive session.

IX. Executive Session – RIGL 42-46-4 and 42-46-5

A. 42-46-5 (a)(2) – CBA – (C-94/Teachers' Association) – Negotiation Discussion and/or Potential Litigation – Legal Advice

1. Discussion/Action: EWGRSC v. RIDE, CA No. PC2022-06435 (RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2))
 2. Discussion/Action: Wawaloam School playground update (RIGL § 42-46-5(a)(2))
- B. 42-46-5 (a)(9) – Grievance(s)
 - C. 42-46-5 (a)(1) – Personnel
 - D. 42-46-5 (a)(3) – Security
- X. Vote to exit Executive Session and return to Open Session
- XI. Vote to seal Executive Session Minutes
- XII. Disclosure of votes taken in Executive Session
- XIII. Adjournment
MSV – To adjourn at 6:29 p.m. – Member Gamache – Member Robishaw.
The motion passed. (Voted 4-0).

ROBIN CERIO
RECORDING SECRETARY