

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Business/Education Meeting

Metcalf Elementary School Library, 30 Nooseneck Hill Road, Exeter, RI 02822

“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 June 23, 2026 to order at 6:00 PM.

Board members present: Lee Kissinger, Chairperson; Donna Gamache-Griffiths, Vice Chairperson; Kevin Mc Govern, Clerk; Kevin Robishaw; Shelley O'Connor; Jennifer Sweet

Board members absent: Madeline Josefson

Others present: Superintendent James Erinakes II; Patricia Denman, Director of Administration; 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 May 26, 2026

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments – (As recommended by the Superintendent)

- a. Kristen Stringfellow as 1.0FTE Senior High School Principal, Annual Salary \$ 126,500, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, on or about July 1, 2026**

MSV = Motion, Seconded, Vote

June 23, 2026

1 | Page

- b. Lauren LaPlume as 0.733FTE Wawaloam School STEAM/Literacy Teacher (Elementary Grades K-1), Step 3, Bachelor's Degree, Annual salary \$ 41,891.27, effective for the 2026-2027 school year, on or about August 27, 2026
 - 2. Leave of Absence
 - 3. Resignations – (As recommended by the Superintendent, with regret)
 - a. Email communication from Robert Medeiros resigning his position as Sr. High School Basketball-Boys JV Coach, effective June 1, 2026
 - 4. Non-Renewals/Terminations
 - 5. Recalls – (As recommended by the Superintendent) – Please see attached *Additional Recall of Teacher Non-Renewals – June 10, 2026-(effective for the 2026-2027 school year)*
 - 6. Sabbaticals
 - 7. Job Share Proposals
 - 8. Administrative Salary Adjustments – (As recommended by the Superintendent)
 - a. Please see attached – *Administrative Salary Adjustments-June 10, 2026*
 - C. Bills –Bills in the amount of \$425,080.12; Bills in the amount of 535,933.54
 - D. Home School Approvals – (As recommended by the Superintendent)
 - 1. RETURNING FAMILY Grade(s) 10, 7, 5, 3
 - 2. RETURNING FAMILY – Grade(s) 9
 - 3. NEW FAMILY – Grade(s) 11
 - 4. RETURNING FAMILY – Grade(s) 12, 10, 6, K-(New)
 - 5. RETURNING FAMILY – Grade(s) 8, 6
 - 6. NEW FAMILY – Grade(s) 2-(Beginning 4/25/26 through the remainder of the 2025-2026SY)
 - 7. RETURNING FAMILY – Grade(s) 6, 4, 3
 - 8. RETURNING FAMILY – Grade(s) 12
 - 9. RETURNING FAMILY – Grade(s) – 12, 8
 - 10. RETURNING FAMILY – Grade(s) 12, 6
 - 11. NEW FAMILY – Grade(s) K
 - 12. RETURNING FAMILY – Grade(s) 5, 3
 - 13. RETURNING FAMILY – Grade(s) 5, 5, 3, K-(New)
 - 14. RETURNING FAMILY – Grade(s) 12
 - 15. RETURNING FAMILY – Grade(s) 12
 - 16. RETURNING FAMILY – Grade(s) 9, 6, 8, 5

End Consent Agenda

The meeting minutes of June 23, 2026 were pulled and voted on separately.

MSV – To accept the consent agenda, less the regular meeting minutes of May 23, 2026 Member Gamache-Griffiths/Member McGovern. The motion passed. (6-0).

MSV – To approve the meeting minutes of May 23, 2026 – Member McGovern/Member Gamache-Griffiths. The motion passed. (4-0-2). Members Kissinger, Gamache-Griffiths, McGovern, and O’Connor voted in favor. Members Robishaw and Sweet abstained due to absence.

Superintendent Erinakes introduced Dr. Kristen Stringfellow, who had been serving as interim senior high school principal for the past three months, as the new incoming high school principal.

Dr. Stringfellow was unanimously chosen by the interview committee, with great confidence that based on her achievements over the last three months, she will continue to do great things at the high school. Administrators and school committee members welcomed and congratulated Dr. Stringfellow.

Dr. Stringfellow expressed appreciation for the Exeter-West Greenwich school community and said that she is excited to continue to grow relationships with students, faculty, and families, as well as to work alongside and serve the community.

E. Correspondence – (1) August 27, 2025 – May 31, 2026 AND August 28, 204 – May 31, 2025 Discipline Reports; (2) School Committee Meeting Summary of June 10, 2026

F. 2025 – 2026 Budget Projection

The FY26 budget is projected to end with a balance that exceeds the 2% set aside. Administration will work together with the auditors over the next several months. All projections point to being on target.

G. Monthly Status Reports

1. Superintendent
2. Business
3. Curriculum
4. Special Education
5. Maintenance
6. Technology

H. Monthly Subcommittee Reports

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

VI. New Business

A. Discussion/Action: Approve school meal price increase

Director Denman presented and discussed administration’s recommendation to increase the school lunch meal prices for the 2026-2027 school year, with a goal to grow and support improvements to the program, increase breakfast participation at the senior high school by introducing a Grab-and-Go

MSV = Motion, Seconded, Vote

June 23, 2026

3 | Page

Breakfast program, continue access to a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, and provide nutritious meals for all students. In response to Member Robishaw's inquiries, Director Denman further explained the basis for the proposed price increase, as well as the effects of not raising meal pricing.

MSV – To approve an elementary and secondary meal price increase for the 2026-2027 school year, as recommended/presented by the Administration – Member O'Connor/Member Sweet. The motion passed. (5-1-0). Members Kissinger, Gamache-Griffiths, McGovern, O'Connor, and Sweet voted in favor. Member Robishaw opposed.

B. Discussion/Action: Award workers' compensation insurance renewal to The Beacon Mutual Insurance Company

Director Denman presented her recommendation to award the workers' compensation insurance contract renewal to the incumbent, The Beacon Mutual Insurance Company for one-year.

Superintendent Erinakes noted that the price represents an approximate \$23,000 increase from last year. The new cost is already built in the FY27 budget. Director Denman and Superintendent Erinakes answered members' clarifying questions.

MSV – To award the workers' compensation insurance contract to Beacon Mutual Insurance Company for the annual premium of \$123,404 for contract period 7/1/2026 thru 6/30/2027– Member Robishaw/Member Gamache-Griffiths. The motion passed. Vote (6-0).

C. Discussion/Action: Policies – Review/Amendment/Adoption/Deletion **1. Policy 7602: Advanced Coursework Preparation and Success – Amendment**

Superintendent Erinakes introduced three different policies to members, noting that one additional policy would be coming at the next meeting. He voiced support for and presented Dr. Stringfellow's suggested amendments to policy 7602, which are based on comparisons of current practices at the senior high school to school district policy, along with changes at the state level. Because the coursework falls under the RIDE initiative, language defining the perimeters for which students can access advanced coursework has been built in to clarify what is required.

MSV – To approve policy 7602: Advanced Coursework Preparation and Success, as amended – Member Gamache-Griffiths/Member Sweet. The motion passed (6-0).

2. Policy 7603: High School Graduation Requirements – Amendment

The only change to policy 7602 was to reflect the current language relating to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways.

MSV – To approve policy 7603: High School Graduation Requirements, as amended – Member Robishaw/Member Gamache-Griffiths. The motion passed. Voted (6-0).

3. Policy 7601: Student Internship Policy – 1st Reading

Superintendent Erinakes presented new policy 7601 for a first reading, as there is currently no student internship policy in place. This policy clarifies the perimeters of what students must do to apply for internships, ensuring that they are authorized to participate in a meaningful, rigorous program that is connected to the technical pathways offered at the high school that align with their future career goals. This policy will continue to the next meeting agenda for a 2nd reading/adoption.

MSV = Motion, Seconded, Vote

June 23, 2026

4 | Page

VII. Unfinished Business

**A. Discussion/Action: FY2027 Budget Update – Vote line item changes
FY27 budget**

Superintendent Erinakes presented the final, balanced version of the school committee and voter approved 2026-2027 budget for approval.

MSV – To approve the revised line item allocations of the 2026-2027 budget, as of June 10, 2026 – Member Sweet/Member Gamache-Griffiths.
The motion passed. Vote (6-0).

B. Capital Project Update/Bond Discussion

Director Denman presented the RIDE School Construction Memorandum of Agreement, which outlines the District's new 5-year Capital Asset Protection Plan (CAPP), for signatures by all school committee members and the superintendent.

It was noted that the fire suppression and safety construction projects have been submitted for housing aid reimbursement.

**VIII. Important Dates and Meetings – Tuesday, July 14, 2026-School
Committee Meeting**

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 6:33 p.m. – Member Robishaw/Member McGovern.
The motion passed. (6-0).

**ROBIN CERIO
RECORDING SECRETARY**