

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: February 2, 2008, 8:00 a.m.

PLACE: Havemeyer Building

PRESENT:

Board: Mrs. Nancy Weissler, Chairman
Mrs. Leslie Moriarty, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Steven B. Anderson, Secretary
Mr. Michael C. Bodson
Dr. Susan S. Ellis
Mrs. Marianna Ponns Cohen
Mr. Jonathan Cohen
Ms. Natalie Queen

Administration:

Dr. Betty J. Sternberg, Superintendent of Schools

Other: Dr. James Ritchie, Dean of Education, University of Bridgeport, Ms. Christine Edwards.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Weissler at 8:10 a.m.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Cohen to approve the revised agenda.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed **MOTION CARRIED**

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Review and Possible Revision to the District's Mission, Vision and Values

Mrs. Weissler introduced the district's current Mission, Vision and Values statement. Dr. Ellis then introduced Dr. Ritchie, who led us through a wide-ranging discussion on our desire to update and refresh the current Mission statement, which was issued in 1999. After extensive discussion, the Board compiled a draft version (see attached) of the GPS Mission and Core

Values. Board members will review this draft statement over the next several weeks; the draft will also be distributed to staff for their feedback. The timeline for this draft will be for all changes to be finished in time for the revised Mission and Core Values statement to appear as a Board Action Item before the end of the school year.

2. Discussion of Governance Issues

Mrs. Weissler introduced this topic. There were three areas that were discussed:

- a) Board member attendance at Administration meetings,
- b) guidelines concerning Board member questions to the Administration, and
- c) Board communication with staff, parents and community.

On Topic A, Dr. Sternberg will provide the Board with a working list of the major staff working groups (Report Card, Secondary Review, etc.). She will also arrange for periodic “checkpoint” updates to the Board on these working groups. The Board agreed that staff work is best done without the presence of Board members at staff meetings.

On Topic B, Dr. Sternberg brought to our attention her concern that the frequency and detail of information being requested is excessively intruding on the staff’s main focus of education. The Board discussed proper guidelines for these requests and will work within these guidelines (see attached Guidelines for Staff response to information requests from individual Board members). All information requests for the Administration will be directed through Dr. Sternberg.

MOTION: At 12:57 p.m., it was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Cohen to move to Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters.

VOTE: 7-0-1 in favor, Mrs. Ponns Cohen
abstained MOTION CARRIED

At 1:13 p.m., Mrs. Ponns Cohen departed.

MOTION: At 1:30 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to move out of Executive Session.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: At 1:31 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to adjourn.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Steven B. Anderson
Secretary

Attachments: Draft Mission and Core Values Statement, Guidelines for Staff response to information requests from individual Board members