

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: March 13, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: Central Middle School

PRESENT:

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

Administration:

Dr. Betty J. Sternberg, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Kathleen Greider, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Susan Wallerstein, Asst. Superintendent, Business

Operations

Mr. John Curtin, Asst. Superintendent
Mr. Chris Winters, Director, Curriculum & Professional Learning
Ms. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services
Ms. Kim Eves, Director, Communications
Dr. Ellen Flanagan, Director, Human Resources
Mr. Anthony Byrne, Director of Facilities

Other:

Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, Mrs. Kristin Kratky, Mrs. M. J. Foti, Mrs. Anne Miller, PTA Council; Mrs. Cathy Delehanty, GEA; Mrs. Kathryn Parker, Mrs. Lillian Adimari, Mrs. Laura Kelly, Mrs. Anna Xsiazek, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Carbino, Mrs. Christine Kraninger, Mrs. Ling Liu, Mr. Joseph Vancho, Mrs. Gina Furano, Mr. Marc D'Amico, Principal, Glenville School; Mrs. Laura DiBella, Mrs. Mina Bibeault, Mrs. Gianna Hernandez, Mrs. Lynn DeChiara, Mrs. Gina DeMartis, Mrs. Donna Fiorito, Mr. Jim Conin, Dr. Damaris Rau, Principal, Hamilton Avenue School, Mr. Andrew Shaw, Greenwich Time, Mrs. Anne Semmes, Greenwich Citizen and other members of the public. An attendance list is on file in the Board of Education office.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Weissler, Chairman at 6:30 p.m.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Mrs. Ponns Cohen to move to Executive Session to discuss Litigation.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Bodson to move out of Executive Session at 6:55 p.m.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

The Work Session began at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Mr. Anderson to accept the revised Agenda.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. Weissler began the meeting by thanking all of those involved in the development, implementation and support of the Hamilton Avenue Relocation Plan.

Mr. Bodson reported on the Hamilton Avenue Site Visit on Wednesday morning with Mrs. Weissler, Dr. Sternberg, Mrs. Lile Gibbons, Mr. Frank Mazza, Mr. Sylvester Pecora and representatives from Worth, Swankee and Pinnacle One. They noted that substantial progress has been made and they are staffing the project with 60 people today and there were 73 workers there on the date of the visit. Mr. Bodson noted that they are utilizing mold resistant sheetrock. He addressed rumors about flooding and mold in the building; stating that the site manager saw no evidence to substantiate these rumors. He addressed the concern about the garage floor cracking, stating that it was not a structural issue and it will be remediated. Worth Construction is projecting a completion date of May 31, 2008.

Dr. Sternberg thanked all of the people involved in the Relocation Plan. She reported on the revised Hamilton Avenue CMT testing schedule. Students will take a practice test on Monday, March 17 and will begin the series of tests, one per day, on Tuesday, March 18th.

PUBLIC HEARING

The following people spoke at the Public Hearing regarding Hamilton Avenue School Relocation/Modular issues and Glenville Relocation:

Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, PTA Council
Mrs. Dawn Nethercott & Mrs. Rose Furano, Hamilton Ave. PTA
Mrs. Lynn DiChiara
Mrs. Gina DeMartis
Ms. Faith Sweeney
Mrs. Deena Burke
Mrs. Celia Fernandez, Glenville PTA
Mrs. Alicia Budkins
Mrs. Charlotte DeQueker
Mrs. Lisa Roitman,
Mrs. Ellen Lewis
Mrs. Steinman
Mrs. Michelle Albanese
Mrs. Donna Curtis
Mrs. Gianna Hernandez
Mrs. Donna Fiorito
Mr. Tom Conelius
Mrs. Louise Principe
Mrs. Claire Crocco
Mrs. Besty Frumin
Mr. Chris VonKeyserling
Mrs. Laura Ryan
Mr. Peter Tesei, First Selectman
Mr. Sylvester Pecora, Jr.
Mrs. Abby Larch

2. Action on Formation of Advisory Committee on Facilities

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the Formation of the Advisory Committee on Facilities.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. Moriarty, who will chair this committee, explained the purpose and stated that all decisions will remain with the full Board. Her committee will supply the Board with the results of their investigation regarding the Hamilton Avenue

modulars and the Glenville relocation plan. It was recommended that the committee include a representative from both Glenville and Hamilton Avenue Schools. The PTAs of each school will choose their representative. Mrs. Weissler advised that Mr. Anderson and Mr. Bodson will serve on this committee, and Mr. Jim Campbell will serve representing the BET. The Advisory Committee will sunset in one year.

3. Action on Hamilton Avenue Relocation Plan

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Queen and seconded by Mr. Cohen to accept the Hamilton Avenue Relocation Plan

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

The Board ratified the relocation plan implemented on Monday, March 10th. The Board was provided a report on expenses related to work on the modulars and the relocation plan incurred to date; a frequently asked questions document, and a report from Environmental Assessments and Solutions, Inc. on the modular test and results to date. An update will be provided at the next Board of Education meeting. It was determined that there is a need to add another bus to the Parkway run to alleviate the amount of time required for students to ride on the bus. Questions surrounded the cost of adding the additional bus, environmental testing, and the timing of identifying the total estimated cost package of the relocation.

4. Discussion and Possible Action on Glenville Relocation

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Ponns Cohen and seconded by Mrs. Moriarty to bring this discussion to the floor.

The Board reviewed a packet describing various and multiple relocation options for Glenville School. Various scenarios were outlined based on whether or not the Hamilton Avenue School building project was completed by August 27th and whether or not there was a modular unit ready to receive the students and staff by the start of the new school year. The Board indicated that the redistricting option and the six school option should be removed from the list of considerations and added an option for further exploration which located K-3 students at Western Greenwich Civic Center and Grades 4 and 5 in modulars on the grounds of WGCC or at Western Middle School. The next iteration of these documents will include all costs

There was no action taken on this item.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Cohen to extend the meeting by one hour.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

5. Discussion of Financial Implications of the Hamilton Avenue and Glenville Relocation Plans

The Board covered this topic within the discussions on Agenda items #3 and #4. No further discussion took place on this topic.

6. New Lebanon School Magnet Committee Update

Mr. Gene Nyitray, Principal of New Lebanon School, reported on the status of the work of the New Lebanon School Magnet Committee. The Committee has researched a number of possible magnet themes, virtually and via site visits. Using a rubric based on the Board's Limitations to the committee to focus their research and the results of a survey launched on March 14th, the Committee will begin to narrow the themes for consideration. The next update will be given to the Board at the May meeting.

7. Review and Possible Action on 2008-2009 Capital Plan

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Cohen to approve the submission of a revised 2008-2009 Capital Plan to the BET.

Dr. Wallerstein and Mr. Byrne presented a proposal to add back approximately \$1.7 million in capital projects to the 2008-2009 budget. It included roof work at Greenwich High School, Havemeyer, Riverside and North Mianus.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Bodson, to withdraw this item from consideration.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED
Item Withdrawn

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Dr. Ellis to extend the meeting until 10:30 p.m.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

8. **Action to Authorize the Superintendent to Request an Amendment to the 2008-2009 Budget Resolution**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Cohen to Authorize the Superintendent to request an amendment to the 2008-2009 Budget Resolution.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

9. **First Reading, Policies G-001, G-002, G-003, G-004, G-005, and G-007**

Dr. Ellis went through the changes to the Policies. They will be reviewed again at the Board's March 27th Meeting and they will be brought to the April 24th meeting for action.

10. **Agenda Planning**

Additions to the March 27th Board Meeting were made to include further discussion on the Hamilton Avenue and Glenville relocations, a discussion on District Priorities and the PPS Report. April 3rd will include a discussion of the Vision/Mission Forums, and the May 1st meeting will include a discussion of policy to deal with Volunteers. It was also decided to move the possible adjustment to the budget due to the Hamilton Avenue modulars situation to the May 22nd meeting.

It was moved by Mrs. Ponns Cohen and seconded by Mrs. Moriarty to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven B. Anderson
Secretary