

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: April 24, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Riverside School

PRESENT:

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

Administration:

Dr. Betty J. Sternberg, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Kathleen Greider, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Susan Wallerstein, Asst. Superintendent
Ms. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services
Ms. Kim Eves, Director, Communications
Mr. Richard Calcavecchio, Director of Budget
Mr. Anthony Byrne, Director of Facilities
Dr. Ellen Flanagan, Director of Human Resources

Other:

Mrs. Cathy Delehanty, GEA; Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, Mrs. Margaret Santhanam, Mrs. Sue Rogers, Mrs. Kristen Kratky, Mrs. Patti Jomo, PTA Council; Mrs. Marie Robino, Mrs. Christina Downey, Mrs. Ronnie Polansky, Mr. Alex Dixon, Mrs. Laura Erickson, Mr. John Grasso, Principal, Riverside School; Mrs. Gail Citarella, Mrs. Marlene Gilbert, Mrs. Alicia Budkins, Mrs. Donna Curtis, Mr. Ralph Vuolo, Mrs. Siegrun Pottjen, Mrs. Marianne McCullough, Mr. Marc D'Amico, Principal, Glenville School; Mrs. Dana Evans, Mrs. Kristen Taylor, Old Greenwich School; Mrs. Bianka Kortlan-Cox, International School at Dundee; Mr. Tom Conelias, Mr. Bob Brady, RTM; Mrs. Laurie Heiss Greeley, Greenwich High School; Ms. Hoa Nguyen, Greenwich Time, Mr. Ken Borsuk, Greenwich Post, Ms. Anne Semmes, Greenwich Courier and various members of the community. An attendance list is on file in the Board Office.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Weissler, Chairman, at 7:05 p.m.

A motion was made to accept the Agenda by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Dr. Ellis.

A motion to amend the Agenda by removing Action Item 6.j. (Action on Technical Revisions to the Superintendent's contract) was made by Mrs. Weissler and seconded by Mr. Anderson.

VOTE: 6 in favor, none opposed AMENDMENT CARRIED
Mr. Bodson and Mrs. Ponns Cohen not yet in attendance

VOTE ON AMENDED AGENDA: 6 in favor, none opposed
MOTION CARRIED
Mr. Bodson and Mrs. Ponns Cohen not yet in attendance

RECOGNITION

The 2008 Distinguished Teachers were presented by Mrs. Esther Bushell, Chairman of the Distinguished Teacher Committee. The Distinguished Teachers are:

Karen Anderson
Rita Clair
Camille Fusco
Arianne Haley-Banez
Christine Kovac
Anthony Mullen

Mr. John Grasso, Principal of Riverside School, and Mrs. Fran Kompar, Program Coordinator for Media and Technology, along with Riverside School Teachers provided in-classroom demonstrations on the use of Smart Boards.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mrs. Julia Faryniarz, PTA Council President, congratulated the Distinguished Teacher Award winners. She asked that everyone come out to the RTM Meetings in support of the education budget, and the GHS Auditorium Project. She thanked administration for the work done in trying to resolve the mold issues at the Hamilton Avenue School modulars and the consideration of the district having "swing space", the concern related to class size, and the PTAC opposition to calling newly enrolled students to offer them a place in a non-magnet school to avoid adding an additional section.

Mrs. Cathy Delehanty, GEA President, congratulated the Distinguished Teacher Award winners, and spoke in support of the paraprofessionals.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Cohen to limit the time for speakers to three minutes each.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED
Mr. Bodson not yet in attendance.

Mrs. Alicia Budkins Glenville PTA Co-President, urged the Board to settle the modular issue as soon as possible.

Mrs. Celia Fernandez Glenville PTA Co-President, urged the Board to begin construction on July 1st.

Mrs. Sue Rogers & Mrs. Marlene Gilbert Glenville parents, urged the Board to begin Glenville construction on July 1st.

Mrs. Mary Lou Tollette & Mrs. Cindy Baird North Street School PTA Co-Presidents, spoke on E-040 and their objection to calling new students to go to other than their neighborhood school. They asked that this clause be removed.

Mrs. Donna Curtis Glenville parent, expressed concern about delivery of core academics. She recommended rehab of the modulars and stressed keeping the community together.

Mrs. Siegrun Pottgen Glenville resident, stressed the need to keep the Glenville School students together.

Mr. Richard Kontos Glenville resident, spoke against the use of the Glenville Civic Center as a school, citing traffic issues, the dangerous road, flooding and the fact that it is on the National Historic registry.

Mrs. Rose Furano & Mrs. Dawn Nethercott Hamilton Ave. PTA Co-Presidents, addressed Tools for Schools and the need to build back confidence. They stressed that it is imperative to get the students into their new school for August 27th.

Mrs. Abby Large Glenville parent, said she is trusting the Board to make sure the modulars will be safe for the students.

Mrs. Betsy Frumin District 9 RTM Rep, thanked the Board and the Havemeyer staff for their hard work.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT/SHARING INFORMATION

Dr. Ellis reported that the Policy Governance Committee will meet in May to discuss the Mission and Core Values statement and that the revised documents will be presented at the June Work Session.

Mr. Anderson reported that the Negotiations Committee is heading toward arbitration with little LIUNA. He stressed that, contrary to newspaper reports, the Board was not trying to cut salaries of paraprofessionals.

Mrs. Weissler stated that the Havemeyer project was 94% complete. She provided updates on the kink wall, the bricks on the second floor, the exterior panels, and the air floor. Construction staffing is at 70-80 men per day.

She also advised that, with the BET accepting the needs assessment report for senior citizens, we will now begin our needs assessment for Central Office with the \$75,000 budgeted. Regarding the Hamilton Avenue mold situation, she thanked the Glenville and Hamilton Avenue parents and PTA, First Selectman Peter Tesei, all Town Departments, all Principals, staff and especially the Facilities staff and the Special Committee on Facilities for all of their work and support.

Dr. Sternberg reported on the progress for the New Lebanon School Magnet theme. She also reported on the strong progress made by the SIT Review Committee at Western Middle School as evidenced by her recent walkthrough there. Staff also completed a crosswalk at Riverside School. She advised that the SIT handbook has been completed and that we are in the process of interviewing for many openings (i.e., Language Arts, Science, ALP and SPED).

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

a. Discussion and Possible Action on Elementary School Relocation Plan

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Ms. Queen that the Board of Education request a capital appropriation of \$972,000 for costs associated with the repair and remediation of the Hamilton Avenue modular facility.

Mrs. Moriarty gave the Board a comprehensive report on the history of the mold situation at the Hamilton Avenue modulars, the work that has been done in evaluating the causes and possible remedy, the criteria used in making the

decision being put forward, the pros and cons of all options, and the meetings held to discuss all of these things, both with the full Board and with the Special Committee on Facilities.

Questions mainly focused on the level of confidence in remediation, the cost of the construction acceleration schedule, hard dates to hand over control of Glenville to the Glenville Building Committee, monetary consequences of delaying the start of the Glenville rebuild, the ability to accommodate Glenville parents who may wish to opt-out their children, and elements of testing protocol at the remediated modulars.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Bodson exited the meeting.

b. Action on Secondary School Review Limitations

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Cohen to approve the Secondary Review Limitations.

Dr. Ellis outlined the changes in the limitations based on the input from the Board at the last meeting. A request was made that she come back to the Board with a revised targeted committee composition (with a view towards adding more non-GPS people to the committee) at the June 12th Board Work Session.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

c. Action on Monitoring Report E-003 – World Language

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Ponn's Cohen and seconded by Ms. Queen to approve Monitoring Report E-003 – World Language.

Discussion focused on the desire to consider the need to add a language requirement for graduation, consideration for adding sign language as a World Language, and investigating the ability to have World Language be a part of the core everyday schedule in the middle schools.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

- iii. **Policy G-003 – Board Operations**
- iv. **Policy G-004 – Policy Stewardship**
- v. **Policy G-005 – Board Meetings**
- vi. **Policy G-007 – Board Orientation, Development and Appraisal**

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mrs. Ponnas Cohen to approve Policies G-002, G-003, G-004, G-005, and G-007.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

g. Action on Policy E-004, Graduation Requirements

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Moriarty to approve Policy E-004, Graduation Requirements.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

h. Action on Transfers of \$10,000 or More

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mrs. Ponnas Cohen to approve the Transfers of \$10,000 or more.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

i. Approval of Monthly Financial Report

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Cohen to approve the Monthly Financial Report.

Questions pertained to the confidence intervals of the budgeted numbers and accumulated sick leave.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

a. **Approval of Minutes of February 28, March 3 and March 13, 2008**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the minutes of February 28, March 3 and March 13, 2008.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

BOARD OPERATIONS PLANNING

a. **Agenda Planning – Discussion of the 2007-2008 Agenda Plan**

Mrs. Weissler reviewed the changes to the 2007-2008 Agenda Plan:

1. The Secondary Review Committee composition will be discussed in June.
2. Transfers needed to be approved for year end will be presented at the May 1st Board Work Session.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Cohen, the meeting was moved into Executive Session at 9:40p.m. to discuss Contract Negotiations.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Queen and seconded by Mr. Cohen, the meeting was moved back into Public Session at 10:25 p.m.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Queen and seconded by Mr. Cohen, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Anderson
Secretary

