

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

**DATE:** May 22, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** North Street School

**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  
Mrs. Kathleen Greider, Deputy Superintendent  
Mr. John Curtin, Assistant Superintendent  
Ms. Kim Eves, Director, Communications  
Mr. Richard Calcavecchio, Director of Budget  
Mr. Anthony Byrne, Director of Facilities

**Other:**

Mrs. Cathy Delehanty, GEA; Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, Mrs. Kristen Kratky, Mrs. M. J. Foti, Mrs. Sue Rogers, PTA Council; Ms. Betty Burfeind, Principal, Mrs. Susan Day, Mrs. Michele Howe, Mrs. Cindy Baird, Mrs. Mary Lou Tolette, North Street School; Mr. George Von Tobel, Mrs. Jill Kinnear, Western Middle School; Mrs. Angela Valentine, Mrs. Paige Davis, Mrs. Diane Corba, Mrs. Chris Garofalo, Mrs. Theresa Stanton, Mrs. Leslie Cooper, Greenwich High School; Mrs. Rosa Fini Sullivan, Mrs. Paula Bleakley, Mrs. Kat Brunsuit, Mrs. Lauren Showstead, Mrs. Molly Roy,, Mrs. Terri Collins, Parkway 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 at 7:10 p.m.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Moriarty to approve the Revised Agenda.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED  
(Mr. Bodson had not yet arrived)

Ms. Betty Burfeind, retiring North Street School Principal, spoke to the Board about the advancement of North Street students and staff in the area of social and emotional learning. Her speech was followed by comments from Mrs. Weissler regarding Ms. Burfeind's contributions to the district over her years of service to Greenwich, and to North Street in particular. Mrs. Weissler was followed by comments from Ms. Mary Forde, Ms. Colleen Morey and a North Street parent perspective from Mrs. Nancy Chapin.

### **RECOGNITION**

The Special Education Services Committee presented their choices for winners of the SES Awards:

Estelle Hermes  
Molly Roy  
Lauren Showstead  
Debbie Zygmont

Mr. Winters presented awards to the Western Middle School winners in the Governor's 2007 Summer Reading Challenge:

Bill Robbins  
Kristin Sitarz  
Shana Mae Acob

Mr. Winters recognized Kerrin Kinnear as a State Winner in the Connecticut Laws of Life Essay Contest.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, PTA Council President, thanked all involved in attending RTM district and committee meetings in support of the budget, and how pleased she was to receive a favorable vote to move forward with the A&E money for the GHS Auditorium/Music rooms project, and the additional

appropriation for Hamilton Avenue School. She also thanked retiring members of the PTA Executive Board for their hard work this year.

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

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. Andrea Vaz & the Mrs. Alicia Comesana-Vila	New Lebanon PTA Co-Presidents, thanked Board and Administration for supporting the IB work of the New Lebanon Magnet Committee.
Tracy McKenna	Supports the IB program for New Lebanon.
Jessica Vanadia & Christi Olzerowicz	Members of the NL Magnet Committee, supports the IB program for New Lebanon
Angela Valentine	Wants to reimplement a community dialogue on core values, specifically with regard to racism.
Rosa Fini Sullivan	Spoke on the need to maintain a strong academic push for all students.
Paige Davis	Spoke on the Special Education forum and her appreciation to be part of the forum
Anna Saras	Spoke on her displeasure with issues relating to the HAS construction, the modulars and RISE.
Maria Prada	NL parent, spoke in support of the IB program and the freedom it will give students to learn.

### **BOARD DEVELOPMENT/SHARING INFORMATION**

Dr. Ellis stated that the Policy Governance Committee met on Wednesday and will be bringing forward revised policies, including a draft of the Mission and Core Values.

Mrs. Moriarty stated that the next meeting of the Special Advisory Committee on Facilities would be held on May 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. A majority of this meeting will be in Executive Session to discuss possible legal claims.

Mr. Anderson advised that the Negotiations Committee continues to negotiate with the LIUNA BOE union and that the Committee has formally started negotiations regarding the GEA contract.

Mr. Bodson reported that the Hamilton Avenue Building Committee is working towards a temporary Certificate of Occupancy the third week of June. They anticipate beginning to bring in furniture during the week of June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Regarding Glenville, permits are near finalization and FF&E will be presented to the committee in June. Regarding the modular remediation, contracts are out for the bid and work will start within a week or two.

Dr. Sternberg reported on the Administrative Crosswalk at North Street School and the success of that process. She spoke about Breakthrough Coaching and the recognition in the district that this process is off to a very successful start. She stated work was beginning on plans for the 2009-2010 areas of focus.

### **New Lebanon School Magnet Proposal Presentation**

Mr. Nyitray, Ms. Eves, and Mr. Curtin gave an overview of the background of the work done by the Magnet Committee and the process involved in reaching the recommendation that New Lebanon School become an IB school. The Board was very complimentary to the committee for the excellence of the report prepared for Board review. Board comments focused on improving student achievement, IB cross-pollination possibilities with ISD, after school enrichment programs, FLES and the language component and budget considerations. This item will come back to the Board on June 12<sup>th</sup> for action.

### **Discussion of 2009-2010 Budget Limitation**

Mr. Calcavecchio led the discussion on 2009-2010 Budget Limitations. The Board input to the limitations included concerns that next year's budget increase may need to be minimal, a request that the 2009-2010 budget continue to focus on increasing efficiencies, the addition of benchmarking and incremental shared services possibilities (boiler inspections, elevator inspections, fire extinguisher inspections), central residency verification investment results, and promotion of Board efforts to self monitor the budget process. Board consensus was to eliminate points 11.b and 11.c as they are already encompassed within 11.a and 11.d. The limitations will be revised and brought back to the Board on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Discussion of Revision to Policy R-002, Superintendent's Evaluation**

Dr. Ellis reviewed the revisions to this Policy, which comes back to the Board for action on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Note that evaluation point #4 was mistakenly left in this copy of the policy and that it will be removed from the next version.

### **Discussion of Limitations and Scope for Central Office**

Mrs. Weissler explained that the BET had previously approved \$150,000; ½ for the Senior Center to pay for a review of their space needs and half for the BOE to do their study. These limitations for our \$75,000 study will come back to the Board for discussion at the June 12<sup>th</sup> Work Session and for a vote on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Sternberg advised that there are 90 people currently based out of the Havemeyer building, and there are some areas that could possibly be relocated out of the Central Office. The study will help us make that determination. Board input involved review of the needs assessment, centralized vs. decentralized functions, consideration of the impact of other capital projects, consideration should not include space for others, travel considerations, cost analysis, whether rental cost can be justified, the possible cost impact on how a new building would impact state reporting, and a probability assessment of any possible needed Land Use approval. It was stressed that we will need a complete solution, not a “future promises” solution. Mrs. Weissler asked all Board members to email their suggested changes to the limitations to her for the next iteration, which will be at the June 12<sup>th</sup> Work Session.

## **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

### **a. Action on Monitoring Report L-010, Information, Assessment, Analysis**

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Cohen to approve Monitoring Report L-010.

Mrs. Moriarty thanked the Administration for this Monitoring Report and found it helpful to focus on the cumulative work and its usefulness to the Board and Administration. Dr. Sternberg suggested investigating breaking down the



Discussion focused on the BOE / BET transfer approval process.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

c. **Action on Monitoring Report L-030, Aligned Operations Management**

MOTION:                      It was moved by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Dr. Ellis to approve Monitoring Report L-030.

VOTE: 7 in favor, 1 opposed  
(Mrs. Ponns Cohen opposed)                      MOTION CARRIED

d. **Action on Monitoring Report E-003, The Arts**

MOTION:                      It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Ms. Queen to approve Monitoring Report E-003.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

e. **Action on Middle School Textbooks (English)**

MOTION:                      It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Ms. Queen to approve Middle School Textbooks.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

f. **Approval of Monthly Financial Statement**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Ponns Cohen to approve the Monthly Financial Statement.

Mr. Calcavecchio provided additional detail to the Board questions.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

g. **Action on Possible Adjustments to the 2008-2009 Budget Based on BET/RTM Action**

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mrs. Moriarty to remove \$15,000 from the Board of Education Budget based on BET/RTM action.

Discussion focused on the Hamilton Avenue modulars relocation costs, Special Education reimbursements, and the expected variances as the budget year heads toward conclusion.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

**BOARD CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. **Action on Healthy Food Certification**
- b. **Action on Acceptance of Veteran's Memorial Donation for Hamilton Avenue School from the Chickahominy Association**
- c. **Action on Grades 3-5 Spelling for Writers Pilot Report**
- d. **Approval of Minutes of March 27, April 3, April 8, April 11, April 21 and April 25, 2008**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Cohen to approve all Consent Items.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION                      CARRIED

**AGENDA PLANNING**

Here are the revisions to the Agenda Plan:

- a. New Lebanon Magnet plan back to the Board for Action on June 12<sup>th</sup>
- b. Review of Revised Budget Limitation for 2009-2010 on June 12<sup>th</sup>
- c. Executive Session for Personnel Matters and Contract Negotiations on June 19<sup>th</sup>

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Weissler and seconded by Mr. Cohen to move Confidential Student Matter to the first item for discussion in the Executive Session.

VOTE:                      8 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Dr. Ellis, the meeting was moved to Executive Session at 10:00 p.m.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Queen and seconded by Mr. Anderson, the meeting moved back into Public Session at 10:39 p.m.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Queen and seconded by Mr. Anderson to accept the Technical Adjustments to the Superintendent's Contract.

VOTE:                      8 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Anderson  
Secretary

