

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: June 12, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: Greenwich High 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. Richard Calcavecchio, Director of Budget

Other:

Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, Mrs. Sue Rogers, PTA Council; Mrs. Nancy Kail, Greenwich Alliance for Education; Mrs. Alicia Budkins, Mrs. Donna Curtis, Glenville School; Mrs. Tracy McKenna, New Lebanon School; Mr. Gene Nyitray, Principal, New Lebanon School; Mrs. Joan Karasick, Mrs. Patty Wyle, Greenwich High School; Ms. Hoa Nuygen, Greenwich Time, Mr. Ken Borsuk, Greenwich Post, 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 6:35 p.m.

Upon motion duly made by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Dr. Ellis, the Board moved into Executive Session to discuss legal matters.

Upon motion duly made by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Ms. Queen, the Board moved out of Executive Session at 6:55 p.m.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Queen to accept the revised agenda.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

RECOGNITIONS

The following students were recognized for achieving perfect scores in all rounds of Connecticut Math League for 2007-2008:

Riku Kawata
James Scarlata
Christine Deng
Tyler Shaver
Ryusei Yamada
Sanjeev-Kumar Sathish
Kai Sherwin
William Chen
Robby Blank
Andrew Triscari
Emily Perzolla
Yuka Shiotsuki
Yusuke Iwai
Ojiro Miyamoto

Andrew McCausland was recognized for achieving perfect scores on all CMLs for the past three years.

Michael Kural was recognized for WordMasters perfect scores for the year.

Mr. Anthony Mullen was recognized as the Greenwich Representative to the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program. Mr. Nick Edwards of the Kiwanis Club presented their annual award to Mr. Mullen.

2. Greenwich Alliance for Education Annual Report

Mrs. Nancy Kail, Chairman, Greenwich Alliance for Education, gave her annual report to the Board, advising that the Alliance has donated over \$90,000 in Reaching Out grants to school programs during this fiscal year and have committed to \$110,000 in Reaching Out grants for 2008-2009. Their fundraising efforts have provided them with \$365,000 in donations for fiscal year 2008. In addition to Reaching Out grants, they fund Going Places With Books, Tuning Into Music, school community gatherings for Hamilton Ave School during the school's relocation and to New Lebanon for their 2008-2009 Writers in Residence Program., Eve Barron discussed the Literacy Home Visits and how the Alliance will be starting this effort with 10-15 families. Mrs. Kail concluded by requesting continued collaboration with the Board, feedback on current efforts and input on the "next thing", and names of prospective Alliance volunteers and supporters.

The Board expressed its thanks for all that the Alliance has done.

3. Facilities Update

Mr. Bodson advised that they are in the final steps of completion of the Hamilton Avenue School. There are approximately 80 workers on site every day. They are working toward getting a temporary Certificate of Occupancy in the beginning of July.

Mrs. Moriarty advised that work on the modulars had to be temporarily stopped because of insurance issues with a contractor. The work has been rebid and the remediation is still targeted to be within budget and within the expected timeline.

With the new Hamilton Avenue School and the remediated modulars both still being worked on, there will probably have to be a Special Board Meeting in July if we are not able to vote at the June 19th Board Meeting to release Glenville to the Building Committee.

It was stressed that we must have various contingency plans in place in case Hamilton Avenue and/or the modulars are not ready for the first day of school in August. Dr. Wallerstein advised she would provide an updated contingency matrix at the June 19th meeting.

4. Acceptance of New Lebanon School Magnet Proposal

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Mr. Bodson to approve New Lebanon School to become an International Baccalaureate Magnet School, with implementation in the 2009-2010 school year.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

5. Discussion of Policy Revision E-000, Mission

Dr. Ellis presented the Mission Policy for review and discussion, requesting feedback from Board members on the draft submitted. Board members expressed concern that the Mission statement seemed weaker than the last version. After much discussion, it was determined that all Board members should submit their revisions/questions/suggestions to Dr. Ellis to be used in preparation of the next draft. The revised draft will come back to the June 19th meeting for discussion. It will be reviewed again over the summer, and will come back to the Board in August and September.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Ms. Queen to move Item 8, Discussion on Monitoring Report E-003, Media & Technology, to be heard now.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

8. Discussion of Monitoring Report E-003, Media & Technology

Mrs. Fran Kompar, Library, Media and Instructional Technology Coordinator, presented the Board with a demonstration of the capabilities of the new Teacher and Student portals. This Monitoring Report will be presented for action at the June 19th Board Meeting.

6. Discussion of Monitoring Report E-010, Strategic Roadmap/Success System

Mr. Curtin, Assistant Superintendent, presented the Strategic Roadmap/Success System and led the discussion. He requested that Board members email their comments to him and he will incorporate those comments in the next version, coming to the Board at the June 19th meeting.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Ms. Queen to extend the meeting by one half hour.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

7. Discussion of Draft Limitations/Scope for Central Office Study

Mrs. Weissler explained that the BOE has \$78,000 allocated to it for a study to determine where the Central Office should be located. She recommended hiring a consultant to determine if this building is possible and whether it was necessary that all staff currently housed in the Central Office need to be located there. The limitations document was reviewed and will be scheduled for action at the June 19th Board Meeting. The plan is that the study would begin in the summer and the Board would be provided with an update in the Fall.

9. Discussion of Policy Revision E-001, Curriculum Review Process

Dr. Ellis and Mr. Winters provided a revision to this policy which included a new process for curriculum review. The policy will come back to the board at the June 19th meeting and action will be taken at the August 28th meeting.

10. Action on 2009-2010 Budget Limitations

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Bodson to approve the 2009-2010 Budget Limitations.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

11. Secondary Review Limitations: Committee Composition

Dr. Sternberg presented the committee composition for the Secondary Review Limitations Committee and outlined the various disciplines for the proposed members. The list included representatives from business, parents, teachers, administrators, students, and community members.

12. **Review of 2007-2008 Agenda Plan and Submission of 2008-2009 Draft Agenda Plan**

Ms. Eves reviewed the proposed Agenda Plan for 2008-2009 and there was discussion regarding alignment with policy reviews and timing.

It was moved by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Ms. Queen to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss non-represented salaries and a personnel matter concerning a request for medical leave at 9:28 p.m.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

Dr. Sternberg, Dr. Flanagan and Mr. Calcavecchio joined the Board in Executive Session.

Mr. Calcavecchio left after the discussion on non-represented salaries was concluded.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Bodson, the meeting moved back into regular session at 10:12 p.m.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Bodson, the meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven B. Anderson
Secretary