

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: June 19, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Town Hall Meeting Room

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:

Mrs. Kathleen Greider, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Susan Wallerstein, Asst. Superintendent
Mr. John Curtin, Asst. Superintendent
Ms. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services
Ms. Kim Eves, Director, Communications
Mr. Anthony Byrne, Director of Facilities
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. Sue Rogers, PTA Council; Mrs. Angela Valentine, Mrs. Adriana Ospina, Mrs. Leslie Cooper, Mrs. Laurie Heiss Grealy, Greenwich High School; Mrs. Rose Furano, Mrs. Alex Capozza, Mr. Robert MacIntyre, Mrs. Charil Chin, Mrs. Donna Ortolli, Mrs. Donna Tigano, Mrs. Tina Biela, Ms. Faith Sweeney, Hamilton Avenue School; Mr. Bob Brady, Mr. Tom Conelius, RTM; Mrs. Diana Finkel, Mrs. Alicia Budkins, Mrs. Claire Crocco, Mr. Bob Martin, Mrs. Alice Kennedy, Mrs. Donna Curtis, Mrs. P.J. Connolly, Mrs. Susan Lanie, Mrs. Patti Roer, Mrs. Gina Furano, Glenville 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 7:04 p.m.

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

AMENDMENT: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Bodson to move Item 4b (Facilities Update) to #3 on the agenda and to have the items of discussion in Executive Session read:

- a. discussion of CHRO complaint;
- b. update on LIUNA negotiations;
- c. update on GEA negotiations;
- d. discussion of non-represented salaries; and
- e. discussion of Superintendent's compensation for 2008-2009

VOTE ON AMENDED AGENDA:

8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

2. Action on Appointment of Acting Superintendent

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Ponns Cohen and seconded by Ms. Queen to approve the appointment of Mrs. Kathleen Greider as Acting Superintendent of Schools.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

4b. Facilities Update

Mr. Frank Mazza Chairman of the Hamilton Avenue Building Committee, and Mr. Jerry Adams, Project Manager, gave the Board an update on the project. They are working toward obtaining a temporary Certificate of Occupancy, which would allow the building to be occupied. Inspections have begun in one wing of the building and they are moving forward with further inspections. They are hoping for a temporary Certificate of Occupancy by the third week in July. All painting, flooring, lighting, telecommunication and monitoring systems are in place.

Mrs. Moriarty advised that the building permit for the modulars has been delayed due to one item and that should be taken care of tomorrow. They are still on budget and on a timeline that would have construction done by the end of July.

Mr. Bodson advised regarding Glenville School that all subs have been selected for Phase I and they will be ready to go in 4-6 weeks. Turner is overseeing this project and they anticipate a start date of July 1st.

Dr. Wallerstein addressed contingency plans and the repercussions of short and long term delays to either of the Hamilton Avenue or the Glenville school communities. Based upon the current status of the construction work on the Hamilton Avenue School and the modulars, the Board expects to hold a Special Meeting in mid to late July to possibly release Glenville to the Building Committee.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mrs. Julia Faryniarz, PTA Council President, offered PTAC's wishes for good health for Dr. Sternberg, and thanked the Board and the Cabinet for all the time they have given the school system this year. She asked for the Town to support our efforts to secure a temporary Certificate of Occupancy for the Hamilton Avenue School so that the Glenville project can begin.

Mrs. Cathy Delehanty, GEA President, stated it was a challenging year for everyone. She commented on the great work of the TEPL Committee and her hope for a delay in implementing the revised elementary report card pilot to allow teachers and coordinators to continue their focus on the goal of a standards-based report card. She advised that GEA negotiations would continue through the summer.

Ms. Angela Valentine, a GHS parent, spoke on the need for a community dialogue on core values. She requested the Board support PLTI, a training program for parents.

Mrs. Rose Furano, Hamilton Avenue parent, questioned the Board regarding "Plan B" if the building is not ready in time for the start of school and its impact on Hamilton Avenue and Glenville schools. She stressed the need for resolution of this issue.

Mrs. Alex Capozza, Hamilton Avenue parent, stressed the impact on parents if there is a delayed opening.

Mrs. Janine Wakim, North Mianus parent, spoke in support of the waiver of the gift cap for the PTA to purchase more Smartboards and playground equipment for their school.

Mrs. Celia Fernandez, Co-President of Glenville PTA, spoke on the Glenville School building project.

Mrs. Alicia Budkins, Glenville PTA Co-President, spoke on the Glenville project.

Mrs. Leslie Cooper, Mrs. Laura Heiss Grealy and Mrs. Adriana Espina – GHS PTA Co-Presidents, spoke in support of the GHS renovation project and their endorsement of the School Resource Officer. They thanked for Board for their work this year.

Mr. Tom Conelius, RTM member, spoke against Contingency Option 2, which moves Glenville into the modulars and Hamilton Avenue disbursed among other schools. He stressed the importance of setting up a “Plan B” now. He also advised that the front steps of the new school are an issue and the soccer field is not flat

Mrs. Donna Ortoli, Hamilton Avenue parent, gave her suggestions to the proposals in “Plan B”. She suggested that Glenville move to the modulars and Hamilton Avenue to Glenville, or for Glenville to be disbursed to other buildings.

Diana Senicoli, Hamilton Avenue parent, spoke on wanting to have the school situation figured out as quickly as possible.

Mrs. Donna Curtis, Glenville parent, spoke on the Glenville School issues.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT/SHARING INFORMATION

Mr. Anderson reported that the Negotiations Committee successfully negotiated an agreement with LIUNA BOE and that there will be no arbitration. Negotiations with GEA will continue through the summer.

Mrs. Weissler, on behalf of the Board, thanked Cabinet and staff on their amazing work ethic to improve academic achievement in the district. She thanked Board members for their commitment to the Board of Education. Mrs. Ponns Cohen thanked Mrs. Weissler for her hard work during her first year as Chairman.

Mrs. Greider extended her best wishes for a speedy recover to Dr. Sternberg. She reported on work in secondary reform, items covered at her Principals Meeting and the success of Professional Development Day, which was today. She reviewed strategic improvement plans and her participation in the Hamilton Avenue PLP. She also discussed successful leadership development strategies, Crosswalks and

continuing the partnership between the Finance area and principals and assistant principals.

Discussion on Revision to Policy E-001 – Curriculum Review Process

Mr. Winters led the discussion on the revisions to this policy. It will be referred back to the Policy Governance Committee and will come back to the full Board in August.

Discussion on Revision to Policy E-000 – Mission

Dr. Ellis led the discussion on the revisions to the Mission of the Board. She asked all Board members to send their suggested changes to her as soon as possible so that she can prepare a draft for review at the August Board Meeting.

Review of Magnet School Report

The Board reviewed the Magnet School Report presented by Mr. Curtin. Discussion centered on the lottery system and helping parents understand the odds of success for their child's application. Mr. Curtin advised that, due to a much lower number of "in catchment" Julian Curtiss Kindergarteners than expected, he will be doing another Kindergarten lottery there. Additional discussion focused on racial imbalance issues, which preliminary information shows are all moving in the right direction at the magnet schools and the procedures to handle "in catchment" students at magnet schools who subsequently move into another school's catchment zone but desire to stay at the magnet.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

a. Action to Release Glenville School to Building Committee

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Mr. Bodson to release Glenville School to the Glenville Building Committee.

This motion was withdrawn by Mr. Cohen.

Mr. Bodson stated that it was advisable to permit the Administration to work with Turner Construction to prepare for the project to proceed (i.e. getting the work trailer set up on site, positioning furniture and supplies in anticipation of a move to the modulars, etc).

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Mr. Anderson to give authority to the Administration to undertake short term, reversible steps to facilitate the Phase 1 construction of the Glenville Project.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

b. Action on Monitoring Report E-010, Strategic Roadmap/Success System

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Cohen to approve Monitoring Report E-010, Strategic Roadmap/Success System.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

c. Action on Monitoring Report E-003, Media & Technology

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Mrs. Moriarty to approve Monitoring Report E-003, Media & Technology.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

d. Action on Revision to Policy R-002, Superintendent's Evaluation

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the revision to Policy R-002, Superintendent's Evaluation, as submitted.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

e. Action on Draft Limitations/Scope for Central Office

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Cohen to approve the Limitations/Scope for Central Office.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

f. **Action on Waiver of Gift Cap for North Mianus School**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Ponns Cohen and seconded by Ms. Queen to approve the Waiver of Gift Cap for North Mianus School.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

g. **Action on Waiver of Gift Cap for North Street School**

MOTION: It was duly moved and seconded to approve the Waiver of Gift Cap for North Street School.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

h. **Approval of Monthly Financial Report**

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

Mr. Calcavecchio advised the Board that at the moment he is projecting a giveback to the Town of Greenwich of approximately \$1,000,000. The September RTM will review the final numbers.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

a. **Action on Authorization of the Board Executive Committee to Approve Transfers from June 19, 2008 through August 28, 2008**

- b. **Action on Authorization to Submit Glenville Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment to State Department of Education**
- c. **Approval of Minutes of April 24, April 25, May 1, May 22 and May 30, 2008**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the Items on the Board Consent Agenda.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

BOARD OPERATIONS PLANNING

- a. **Agenda Planning – Discussion of the 2008-2009 Agenda Plan**

The Board reviewed and approved the 2008-2009 Agenda Plan.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Mr. Anderson, the meeting was moved into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. to discuss the CHRO Complaint status, the LIUNA negotiations, the GEA negotiations, non-represented salaries for 2008-2009 and the Superintendent's compensation for 2008-2009.

Mrs. Greider and Dr. Flanagan joined the Board in Executive Session.
Dr. Flanagan left after the discussion on the CHRO Complaint.

Upon motion duly made by Mrs. Weissler and seconded by Dr. Ellis, the meeting was moved back into Public Session at 11:33 p.m.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Weissler and seconded by Mr. Bodson that the Board, per the revised Superintendent's contract, set the potential raise to the Superintendent's '08 – '09 salary at \$15,000.

VOTE: 7 in favor, Dr. Ellis opposed MOTION CARRIED

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Bodson, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Anderson
Secretary