

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

**TIME:** August 30, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Eastern Middle School

**PRESENT:**

**Board:** Mrs. Colleen Giambo, Chairman  
Mrs. Leslie B. Moriarty, Vice Chairman  
Mrs. Nancy Weissler, Secretary  
Mr. Steven B. Anderson  
Mr. Michael C. Bodson  
Dr. Susan S. Ellis  
Ms. Virginia L. Gwynn  
Mr. William G. Kelly

**Administration:**

Dr. Betty J. Sternberg, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Kathleen Greider, Deputy Superintendent  
Mr. John P. Curtin, Assistant Superintendent  
Dr. Susan O. Wallerstein, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Christopher Winters, Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Mr. Anthony Byrne, Director of Facilities  
Mr. Richard Calcavecchio, Director of Budget  
Ms. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services  
Ms. Kim Eves, Director of Communications

**Other:**

Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, President, Mrs. Kristen Kratky, Mrs. Patricia Jomo, Mrs. Carol Ann Coughlin, Mrs. Michele Regan, PTA Council; Mrs. Cathy Delehanty, President, and many members of the GEA; Mrs. Marianna Ponns Cohen, Mr. Jonathan Cohen, Ms. Natalie Queen, Mrs. Anna Saras, , representatives from Greenwich Time and Greenwich Post, and Greenwich Citizen. An attendance list is on file in the Superintendent's Office.

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

## **STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION**

The following students were recognized for their performance in the Johns Hopkins Talent Search:

Alexander Beck	Ryota Ishizuka
Casey Gaynor	Christina Lamoureux
Julian Ghahramani	Nandita Makam
Matthew Sullivan	Cecily Choi
Richard Hofer	Lucas Siegmund
Connor Harris	Alexandra Chan
Lucas Cofer	Samuel FASTER
John Hsu	Gwendolyn Pfetsch
Simon Tebbe	Barbara Callahan
John Cofer	Ben Weissler
Jennifer Grieco	Rachel Livermore
Emily Fabrizio-Stover	Saneyuki Matsuoka
Kentaro Ogura	Clare Ryan
Tyler Triscari	Eli Hanover
Nicolette Shender	Ahana Shanbhogue
Jessica Bernstein	Trevor Frey
Henry Hartwell	Stephen LeBreton
Keisuke Sawada	Elizabeth Stillman
Parthiv Naresh	Daniel Carr

The following students were recognized for their achievement in the State Debate Championship:

Lucas Siegmund	Best Speaker Trophy
Jordana Cepelewicz	Most Outstanding Speaker Award

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Andersons and seconded by Ms. Gwynn to adjourn to reception at 7:20 p.m.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

## PUBLIC HEARING

The following people spoke at the Public Hearing:

Mrs. Julia Faryniarz, PTA Council President, extended thanks for a great opening and the work of the custodian staff in getting schools ready. She talked about the class size policy and the unfeasibility of utilizing the August 15<sup>th</sup> deadline imposed by the policy. She discussed the RISE options and encouraged all to attend the September 4<sup>th</sup> RISE task force meeting for a clear explanation of the options. She also voiced PTAC's support of the GHS Auditorium and Music project and the new SRO officer at GHS.

Ms. Cathy Delehanty, GEA President, spoke against the new compensation plan pilot which involves merit pay.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Moriarty to limited the time for speakers to two minutes each.

VOTE:            8 in favor, none opposed            MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Tom Ryan                            spoke in support of ALP as it is and requested that we do not phase out the testing.

Mrs. Laurie Heiss and  
Mrs. Leslie Cooper,                    GHS PTA Co-Presidents, thanked the Board for the SRO officer, the speed with which the GHS Auditorium and Music project is moving, and for the extra 20 days Housemasters were able to work this summer.

Mrs. Genevieve Krob                    Thanked the Board for moving the GHS Auditorium project forward and requested that they please monitor its status through the CIP process.

Mr. Frank Kovac                        Spoke against the merit pay plan for teachers.  
Ms. LeeAnn Hinkle                      Spoke against the merit pay plan for teachers.  
Mrs. Lisa Zitzman                        Spoke against the merit pay plan for teachers.  
Mr. John Vellardito                      Spoke against the merit pay plan for teachers  
Mrs. Martha Dayton                      Spoke regarding North Mianus School class sizes.  
Mrs. Leslie Alfano                        Spoke regarding class size.  
Mrs. Teresa Ginsberg                    Spoke regarding class size at North Mianus School.  
Mrs. Mina Bibeault                        Spoke regarding class size at Hamilton Avenue School.  
Mrs. Anna Saras                         Spoke regarding the issues of racial balance, plans by race and the constitutionality of the aim of the RISE Task Force. She suggested obtaining an opinion from the Attorney General and for the RISE Task Force to hold their work until the opinion is received.

## **BOARD DEVELOPMENT/SHARING INFORMATION**

### **Reports of Officers, Committees, Liaisons, and Superintendent**

Ms. Gwynn advised that the Policy Governance Committee has made some revisions to the Ends policies and they will be going to the Board in September.

Mr. Bodson advised that the Hamilton Avenue Building Committee has been meeting every two weeks and that the completion date from the contractor is still November 9<sup>th</sup>. They will be meeting again in two weeks and will get an update on that information. Mr. Bodson also provided an update on the Glenville School project.

Mr. Kelly advised the Board that the Negotiations Committee has met with the GEA and with LIUNA. LIUNA is scheduled for mediation on October 4<sup>th</sup>, arbitration September 4<sup>th</sup> and hearing on September 28<sup>th</sup>. He stated that currently, we pay mentoring teachers \$750 to \$1,500. In the proposal for merit pay, every teacher would have the opportunity within seven years of being hired, of making \$100,000 rather than waiting 18-19 years to make that salary

Mrs. Giambo commended staff for the opening of school and having all the buildings ready for students. She advised that Mrs. Weissler will be on the committee with staff and parents for the GHS Auditorium project

Dr. Sternberg reported on opening day and thanked staff for the work done over the summer. She addressed class size concerns, reviewed the policy, explained the protocol that was followed this summer, in accordance with the policy, gave the numbers per grade per school involved, and assured all that the numbers would be looked at very closely over the next two weeks. She will present recommendations regarding class size to the September 20<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting using September 12<sup>th</sup> numbers. She also addressed the AYP press release as it involves Central and Western Middle Schools, and Julian Curtiss School, the RISE options and the timeline and schedule for public hearings, and task force meetings outlining the options and narrowing them down through discussions with the Task Force, the BET, the RTM, and the community.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Mrs. Weissler and seconded by Mr. Bodson to move Item 8D the 2007-2008 Pilot Teacher Evaluation Plan to be heard ahead of the Board Discussion Items and to move Item 7C, Update on Greenwich High School Auditorium and Music Space to be heard as the first Board Discussion Item.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**8.d Action on Pilot TEPD Plan**

Dr. Flanagan gave the Board an overview and background of the plan and answered questions posed by the Board.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the Pilot TEPD Plan.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**7.c Update on Greenwich High School Music Space & Auditorium Project**

Dr. Wallerstein introduced Mr. Rusty Malik, an architect with Perkins & Will, who provided an overview of the preliminary options developed after meetings with the Police Department, the Town Engineer, and Town Planner. A meeting of all stakeholder will be held on September 5<sup>th</sup>, a presentation to the Board on October 25<sup>th</sup> is also scheduled. They are using the number of 2,655 students for the 2008-2009 usage numbers. They are also negotiating with the state regarding previous construction and possible reimbursement for all space except the music space. It appears as though there are several variances that will be needed for the various options. They will have further discussion on these items at the September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**a. Achievement Report**

Mr. Curtin provided the Board with an annual overview of student achievement on standardized tests, including a powerpoint presentation which included bar graphs to indicate the accomplishments achieved.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Weissler and seconded by Mrs. Moriarty to extend the meeting until 10:30 p.m.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**b. Discussion of Level Services Budget for 2008-2009**

Dr. Wallerstein and Mr. Calcavecchio provided the Board with a timeline, including September 11<sup>th</sup>, when they meet to receive the Budget guidelines, and September 18<sup>th</sup> when the full BET provides their guidelines. They expect to know the GEA decision by the end of October. They advised the Board that it looks like they will be returning \$2.2 million to the Town of Greenwich for fiscal 2007-2008.

**c. Discussion of Fifteen Year Capital Improvement Plan**

Dr. Wallerstein led a discussion of the Fifteen Year Capital Improvement Plan. In response to questions from the Board, she will ask the architect about moving up the GHS Auditorium/Music Project to 2008-2009.

**BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

**8.a Monthly Financial Report to Include Status Report on 2006-2007 Closing**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Ms. Gwynn to approve the Financial Report.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**b. Approval of Transfers \$10,000 or More Approved by Executive Committee**

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Dr. Ellis to approve the transfers \$10,000 or more approved by the Executive Committee.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**c. Approval of Transfers \$10,000 or more**

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the transfers of \$10,000 or more.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**BOARD CONSENT AGENDA**

**9.a Approval of Minutes of June 5, June 7, June 14, June 22(2) and July 19, 2007**

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Bodson to approve the minutes of June 5, June 7, June 14, June 22 (2) and July 19, 2007.

**BOARD OPERATIONS PLANNING**

**10.a Agenda Planning**

Mrs. Giambo requested that an Executive Session be added at 6:00 p.m. on September 20<sup>th</sup>, before the Board Work Session, in order to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation.

Upon motion by Dr. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Kelly, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Weissler  
Secretary