

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: September 20, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Havemeyer Building

PRESENT:

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

Absent: Mr. Michael C. Bodson

Administration:

Dr. Betty J. Sternberg, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Kathleen Greider, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. John Curtin, Asst. Superintendent
Dr. Susan Wallerstein, Asst. Supt., Business Operations
Mr. Christopher Winters, Director, Curriculum & Instruction
Ms. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services
Ms. Kim Eves, Director, Communications
Dr. Ellen Flanagan, Director, Human Resources

Other: Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, Mrs. Gerri Fleming, Mrs. Sue Rogers, Mrs. Patricia Jomo, PTA Council; Mrs. Marianna Cohen, Mr. Jonathan Cohen, Parkway School; Mrs. Lilian Eng, Mrs. Genny Krob, Mr. Neil Bouknight, Mrs. Janice Gardner, Mrs. Pamela Speer, FHSPA; Mr. Sam Romeo, North Mianus School; Mr. Brian Harris, Eastern Middle School; Mr. Andy Shaw, Greenwich Time, and Mr. Ken Borsuk, Greenwich Post.

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.

1. Discussion of Monitoring Reports

a. E-003-Academic Mastery & Whole Student Development

i. Science

Mr. Winters, along with Mr. Truxton Southworth, Program Coordinator for Science, and Mr. John DeLuca, Program Associate, Greenwich High School Science, presented the monitoring report and noted accomplishments as well as governance and management issues. They advised that both AP enrollment and average scores have increased.

Their presentation was followed by a question and answer period with the Board. In response to Board questions about the relatively low percentage of GHS students achieving goal or better on CAPT, Mr. DeLuca and Mr. Southworth noted that changes have been made to the curriculum in response—i.e., chemistry teachers have adopted a more physics-based focus. They also indicated that science is the only CAPT area not included as a graduation requirement, which may have some effect on students' motivation. They also noted that there has been a focus on integrating into the curriculum “embedded performance tasks” that are tested in CAPT and will be part of the Science CMTs administered to grades 5 and 8 this spring. In response to a Board question on the middle school Advanced Science program, which is intended to mirror the curriculum but is more rigorous, Mr. Southworth indicated that enrollment had increased significantly. The monitoring report will be brought to the Board for action at the next regular meeting on September 27th.

ii. Social Studies

Mr. Winters, along with Mrs. Barbara O'Neill, Interim Program Coordinator for Social Studies, and Mr. Richard Alessi, Program Associate, Greenwich High School Social Studies, presented the monitoring report. They noted that enrollment in AP courses had increased significantly in the past five years while the percentage of students scoring three or better also rose. They also advised the Board that this year they had the highest percentage of sophomore students achieving Proficiency on the mandatory research paper.

Their presentation was following by a question and answer period with the Board. One of these questions focused on whether the number of

objectives for 4th and 5th grader is reasonable given time constraints and past difficulties in meeting these objectives. The Board requested that Mr. Winters and Mrs. O'Neill provide it with a recommendation on this issue. In response to a Board question about the effect, if any, on the Sem Skills program from changes instituted a few years ago to reduce the time allotted to it for students in higher level courses, they indicated that this transition had not been problematic.

b. E-020 Financial Management

Dr. Wallerstein reviewed the Financial Management Monitoring Report with the Board, followed by a question and answer period, including questions on shared services, the gift cap policy, the 2006-2007 budget surplus, donated services, double budgeting, consultants and disbursement sheets. In response to a question on the deficit incurred by the Continuing Education program, Mrs. Greider indicated that a survey is being conducted to assess community interest in courses and a possible move to a 12 month program is being considered.

c. L-040 Management of Resources

Dr. Wallerstein reviewed the Management of Resources Monitoring Report with the Board, followed by a question and answer period with the Board that included questions on fraud prevention, document imaging, operating procedures and field trips.

2. Discussion of 15 Year Capital Budget

Dr. Wallerstein led the discussion on the 15 Year Capital Plan. In its discussion on Havemeyer, the Board decided that the new central office should be sequenced after the GHS Auditorium/Music project; and it agreed with the Administration's recommendation to include plans for a new furnace and roof for Havemeyer in the Capital Plan.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to extend the meeting by 60 minutes.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

Further discussion centered on the draft Greenwich Center for the Arts Agreement to Lease the Havemeyer building. The Board was nearly unanimous in its view that it would not be in the best interest of the Board to

sign this Agreement. Board members stated that the Board had already provided sufficient clarity on the terms under which we would vacate the building.

3. Discussion of Policy Revisions

- a. **E-002 – Whole Student Development**
- b. **E-004 – Graduation Requirements**
- c. **E-020 – Financial Management**
- d. **E-010 – Strategic Roadmap and Annual Goals**
- e. **E-040 – Effective Learning Environment**
- f. **E-050 – Management of Human Resources**
- g. **E-051 – Other District Administrative Operations**
- h. **E-080 – Public Involvement in Schools**

Ms. Gwynn presented the changes to the above policies, which were in response to recommendations from the Administration and Board. She explained each policy and responded to questions and suggested changes from other Board members. After discussion, she will make the recommended changes and bring the revised policies to the September 27th Board Meeting for action.

4. Enrollment Update

Dr. Sternberg gave the Board an overview of current enrollment. She reviewed the charts showing the distribution of students by grade by school, and highlighted changes in numbers from the August 15th date to the September 12th date. There was discussion about keeping these two touch points in administering the “hard cap” policy due to the changes in enrollment from August to September. However, the Administration will provide a recommendation to the Board on revisions to this policy. The Board agreed with the Administration’s recommendation to add 3 FTE teachers: one each for Hamilton Avenue and Glenville, 0.5 for Old Greenwich, and 0.5 for Riverside. In addition, an additional 0.8 FTE teachers for art, music, and PE would be added.

5. Discussion of Vision (“Blue Sky”)

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Moriarty to extend the time of the meeting by 10 minutes.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

6. Action on Statement on Impact of Supreme Court Ruling on RISE Task Force Issues

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Dr. Ellis to approve the statement on Impact of Supreme Court ruling on RISE Task Force issues.

After discussion, this motion was withdrawn and will be brought back to the September 27th Board Meeting to allow time for input from Town Counsel.

7. Review of 2007-2008 Agenda Plan

Because of the late hour, it was determined that the Agenda Plan would be reviewed at next week's regular Board Meeting.

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Anderson to move into Executive Session at 10:10 p.m. to discuss Labor Negotiations.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Anderson to move into Public Session at 10:24 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Weissler
Secretary