

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

**TIME:** September 27, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Old Greenwich 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, 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; Mrs. Genevieve Krob, Mrs. Ashley  
Crihfield, Mrs. Debbie Finkelstein, Mrs. Pam Speer, Mrs. Joanne  
Bouknight, Mr. Neil Bouknight, FHSPA; 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.

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Ms. Gwynn to adjourn to reception at 7:17 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, spoke in support of the GHS Auditorium and Music Instructional Space Project as a priority in the 15 year capital plan and urged the Board to move forward with the renovation of Glenville School. She praised Hamilton Avenue School's accomplishments and stressed the importance of their school building being completed as soon as possible. She also noted that PTAC would like the following to be incorporated in any recommended RISE options: increased academic achievement, focus on neighborhood schools, and no school closures. She also spoke on the ongoing work she is doing with PTAC and Dr. Wallerstein regarding the sharing of resources among schools.

Ms. Cathy Delehanty, GEA President, spoke against the proposed compensation pilot plan pilot which involves merit pay, the revised evaluation process, and large class sizes.

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

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Chip Gawle FHSPA, spoke on the importance of moving the GHS Auditorium and Music Instructional Space Project up on the CIP list. He noted that these facilities have been inadequate since GHS was built 36 years ago.

Mr. Alex Popp Passed

Mrs. Nikki Barrett-Lennard Old Greenwich PTA Co-President, spoke on the diversity of Old Greenwich School student population.

Mrs. Kristen Taylor Passed

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| Mrs. Celia Fernandez          | Glenville PTA Co-President, thanked the Board for its support of the Glenville renovation and requested that contingency plans be made if the modulars are not available by September.           |
| Sharon Krois                  | Passed   |
| Dawn Nethercott & Rose Furano | Hamilton Avenue PTA Co-Presidents, spoke on the need to reduce class sizes at the school.  |
| Marianna Ponns Cohen          | Parkway parent, spoke against magnet schools and expressed her concern that they could lead to a reallocation of resources from neighborhood schools.  |
| Anna Saras                    | Parkway parent, spoke against magnet schools and the costs involved in their implementation.   |
| Christine Chao                | ISD parent, spoke on the benefits of IB at Dundee and recommended it be expanded to other schools, as well as to the middle schools and the high school.   |
| Joe Gross                     | Passed   |
| Michele Regan                 | Passed   |
| Gerri Fleming                 | Cos Cob parent, spoke regarding her son, a special education student, and the problems he is having due to a recent injury and her view that the school was not adequately addressing his needs. |
| Gaetane Francis               | Glenville parent, spoke on the need for math specialists and the need to make the math curriculum more challenging.  |
| Debra Sacks                   | Passed   |
| Jackie Welsh                  | GHS and EMS parent, spoke on the RISE proposal and her recommendation to expand the IB program into other elementary schools, the middle schools, and high school.                               |
| Laura Heiss Greely            | GHS PTA Co-President, thanked Dr. Wallerstein for her work on the Auditorium and Music Instructional Space Project, for the smartboards and for the school resource officer.                     |
| Steven Stein                  | Lawyer, noted that he does not think that the state racial imbalance statute is constitutional in light of the Supreme Court ruling in the Seattle case.   |

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| Diane Pignataro      | Parkway and CMS parent, spoke against magnet schools because of their potential impact on neighborhood schools.                    |
| Joanne Steele        | ISD parent, spoke on the benefits of the IB program.   |
| Loretta Knowle       | EMS parents, spoke on her desire for more magnet schools and math specialists in Greenwich.  |
| Wheatley Dunham      | ISD parent, spoke on his desire to retain neighborhood schools and to expand IB at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. |
| Chris Von Keyserling | Spoke on the implications of the IB program in Greenwich.  |

## **BOARD DEVELOPMENT/SHARING INFORMATION**

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

Mr. Bodson noted that for the Hamilton Avenue project, the construction manager has advised that the revised completion date is December 10<sup>th</sup>. Regarding Glenville, they have received notification from the State that the change made in the roof design has made the project eligible for state reimbursement.

Mr. Kelly advised the Board that the Negotiations Committee would commence arbitration hearings for the GEA contract the next day, and it is in the middle of negotiations with LIUNA.

Mrs. Weissler advised the Board that the Greenwich Alliance recently hosted a reception to recognize its first grants cycle, reflecting \$90,000 in grants to GHS, SoundWaters, EMS and WMS, and the Greenwich Arts Council for programs benefiting Greenwich students.

Mrs. Giambo thanked the staff for the all the work done on various projects during the past week.

Dr. Sternberg reported on October 1<sup>st</sup> there will be a professional learning program on data driven instruction, and that she will be meeting monthly with principals. Next month's subject will be literacy and the following month will be math. She also advised that 23 students were National Merit Semi-Finalists and 47 were named Commended Scholars. She noted that 115 GHS students passed all four sections of CAPT, the highest in the state.



Mr. Curtin presented a report on the Success System to the Board, including performance data from the 2006-2007 school year. It provided an overview of the district performance across both outcome and process measures. The presentation was followed by a question and answer period with the Board.

### **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

#### **e. Action on Fifteen Year Capital Plan**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to approve the 15 Year Capital Plan.

Dr. Wallerstein presented the Board with a detailed explanation of the items included in the 15 Year Capital Plan and the year-by-year breakdown of major initiatives. Board Q and A focused on the proposed roof and boiler for Havemeyer and the GHS Auditorium and Music Instructional Space Project..

The original motion was withdrawn.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Bodson to authorize the Superintendent to submit the CIP Project sheets as presented, except to change the GHS Auditorium and Music Instructional Space Project sheet to reflect only the 2008-2009 A&E funding request plus a statement indicating that the estimate for the out-years for this project is being refined and will be submitted by mid-October. The Board also moved to have the Board of Education Chairman write an accompanying letter explaining the status of the project, Board of Education intentions and timing. It was also agreed that Mrs. Weissler would work with Dr. Wallerstein on the wording of CIP sheet for the GHS project.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

It was agreed that the Board would meet shortly with the architect to review the GHS project.

#### **a. Monthly Financial Report**

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to approve the Monthly Financial report.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**b. Approval of Transfers \$10,000 or More**

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

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**c. Action on Policy Revisions:**

1. E-002 – Whole Student Development
2. E-004 – Graduation Requirements
3. E-020 – Financial Management
4. E-010 – Strategic Roadmap and Annual Goals
5. E-040 – Effective Learning Environment
6. E-050 – Management of Human Resources
7. E-051 – Other District Administrative Operations
8. E-080 – Public Involvement in Schools

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to approve the modifications to the above policies, as presented.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**d. Action on Monitoring Reports:**

**Policy E-003 – Science**

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the Monitoring Report for E-003 – Science. It was noted by Dr. Ellis that on page 3, the report should be reworded to indicate that the achievement gap on CAPT has narrowed, not closed.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**Policy E-003 – Social Studies**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to approve the Monitoring Report for E-003 – Social Studies.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**Policy E-020 – Financial Management**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Gwynn to approve the Monitoring Report for E-020 – Financial Management.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**Policy L-040 – Management of Resources**

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to approve the Monitoring Report for L-040 – Management of Resources.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**f. 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 the impact of the Supreme Court ruling on the RISE Task Force charge.

Mrs. Moriarty noted that she had talked informally with the State’s Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, who had indicated that the Board had taken the appropriate steps to clarify the legal status of the state statute, but had not provided any timeline as to when he would provide an opinion. She also noted that the Town’s Attorney approved the Statement.

**AMENDMENT**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bodson to add a statement that if the status of the state statute were to change, the Board would reconsider its position.

There was no second to this motion.

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION

VOTE: 6 in favor, Mr. Bodson opposed MOTION CARRIED

