

## WORK SESSION OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

**DATE:** November 1, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Havemeyer Building

**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  
Mrs. Kathleen Greider, Deputy Superintendent  
Mr. John Curtin, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Chris Winters, Director, Curriculum & Professional Learning  
Ms. Kim Eves, Director, Communications  
Mrs. Mary Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services

**Other:**

Mr. Jonathan Cohen, Mrs. Marianna Ponns Cohen, Ms. Natalie Queen, BOE Candidates; Mrs. Paige Davis, Mrs. Laurie Schelz, Mrs. Debbie Armstrong-Loscarzo, Mrs. Sally Young, Special Education Services Committee; Mrs. Sherry Myer, Mrs. Colleen Moeller, Mr. Jamie Clarke, Greenwich High School; Mrs. Julia Faryniarz, Mrs. Kristen Kratky, PTA Council; Dr. Gaetane Francis, Mrs. Sue Rogers, Glenville School; Mr. And Mrs. Cesar Rabellino, Western Middle School; Mr. Ken Borsuk, Greenwich Post. An attendance list is on file in the Board offices.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Giambo, Chairman at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Dr. Ellis to approve the revised agenda.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

1. **Discussion on Monitoring Report E-003, Academic Mastery - Reading**

Mr. Chris Winters, Director of Curriculum and Professional Learning, Ms. Marie Jordan-Whitney, Program Coordinator, Reading & Language Arts, and Mr. Larry Sullivan, Program Administrator, Greenwich High School English, engaged the Board in an extensive discussion of the Reading program, results, and objectives. The Board questions involved, disaggregating ESL for students who have been here for three years, an explanation of Tier 1, 2 and 3, catching students before they get into serious problems, what is being implemented at Western Middle School to help those students increase achievement, overall, where are we in the spectrum – flat or declining, are we using the right measures (CMT), decline in AP scores, 60-70% at proficiency – is that the level we expect?, and a request for a corrected ALP chart,.

2. **Discussion on Monitoring Report for E-003, Academic Mastery – Mathematics**

Mr. Winters, Mr. Truxton Southworth, Program Coordinator for Science & Technology, and Ms. Dana Tulotta, math teacher at Greenwich High School, discussed the Mathematics program and noted that the increase in scores in math have been seen in all levels, with the most improvement in the advanced level. The gaps are much smaller between our students and students in ERG A. 90% of students are proficient in math and the high school has been giving individualized attention to underperforming students. Questions from the Board surrounded the advanced level and if there was enough challenge, differentiation in elementary school, staff development, increase in GHS AP enrollment, math performance at Western Middle School and large staff turnover, what percent of students drop out of AP.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to move Item 4, Discussion of Greenwich High School New Courses, ahead of Item 3.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

#### **4. Discussion of Greenwich High School New Courses**

##### Human Development and Family Science

Questions from the Board regarding this course centered on what students would know when they were finished with this course, and what are the course objectives and outcomes.

##### Forensic Science

The only question asked related to this course was the number of students expected. Mr. John DeLuca, Greenwich High School Administrator for Science and Technology, was congratulated on the development of this course, which fits in perfectly with the interests of students.

##### Introduction and Applications in GIS in Science

Questions from the Board related to this course were around the cost of the course, the drop out rate, and the fact that 18-19 courses are not going to be run due to lack of enrollment or staffing issues.

##### Intermediate Computer Arts and Advanced Improvisation and Performance

Dr. Jeff Spector, Program Coordinator for Art and Music, presented the Computer Arts course and questions relative to this course were related to objectives. Dr. Spector assured the Board that the objectives will be clear.

There were no questions on the Advanced Improvisation and Performance course.

##### Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics and Comparative Government and Politics

Mr. Winters and Mr. Richard Alessi, Program Administrator for Social Studies at Greenwich High School, gave the Board an overview of this course. Questions from the Board centered around the AP appeals process, whether the new course replaces Contemporary America, the importance of making it clear that the students and their parents make the final decision about taking the course and the necessity to change the language to reflect that, whether summer work is appropriate, and whether the amount of summer work is beneficial.

**3. Monitoring Report for E-001 – Programs, Services & Curriculum**

Mr. Winters presented the Board with a powerpoint presentation on the proposals for the curriculum reviews going forward.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to extend the time of the meeting by a half hour.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Questions from the Board centered around input from teachers, how do you separate content from 8 year cycle, necessity to bring back to the Board with adjustments, the need for a two year implementation rather than one, a systematic program review in all disciplines, reviews should include national comparisons, not just state, and learning objectives. Mrs. Giambo suggested that the Policy Governance Committee should look at them and determine what changes need to be made in the governing policy. It was suggested that Board member provide their comments to the Superintendent regarding this policy in advance of the December meeting. It was also determined that the ALP review will be in the next fiscal year.

**5. Action on Limitations for New Lebanon School Magnet Program**

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Dr. Ellis to approve the Limitations for New Lebanon School Magnet Program, as presented.

**AMENDMENTS**

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Kelly to insert “both startup and ongoing” under number No. 3 after the words “staff development needs.”

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mr. Kelly to change the wording under No. 3 from "transportation policy", to "transportation procedures", and from "magnet policies" to "magnet procedures".

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Gwynn to eliminate the first two paragraphs and begin the document starting at "The Board of Education directs,..."

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Kelly to insert the words "for all students" under No. 1, after "has evidence of improving academic achievement".

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson to add "community members" under No. 2, after the words "other district staff, parents from other schools".

There was no second to this motion MOTION FAILED

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to extend the time of the meeting by ten minutes.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Dr. Ellis to reword the last entry under Item 1 to read: "if there are incremental ongoing costs, they should be reasonable when compared to the expense structure for other elementary schools, and should be broken out by a) magnet expenses and b) gap closing strategies."

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**VOTE ON ITEM, AS AMENDED**

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. Giambo stressed the importance of the Board codifying their thinking regarding these decisions.

Upon motion duly made Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Bodson, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Weissler  
Secretary