

BUDGET MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: November 8, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Cos Cob School

PRESENT:

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

Absent: Dr. Susan S. Ellis

Administration:

Dr. Betty J. Sternberg, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Kathleen Greider, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. John Curtin, Asst. Superintendent
Dr. Susan Wallerstein, Asst. Superintendent
Ms. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services
Ms. Kim Eves, Director, Communications
Mr. Richard Calcavecchio, Director of Budget

Other: Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, Mrs. Anne Miller, Mrs. Nancy Chapin, Mrs. Sue Rogers, PTA Council; Mr. Tom Conelias; Mrs. Leslie Bruce, Mrs. Alison Burns, Parkway School; Mrs. Kristin Taylor, Old Greenwich School; Mrs. Laurie Heiss Grealy, Greenwich High School; Mrs. Genny Krob, FHSPA; Mr. Andy Shaw, Greenwich Time; Mr. Ken Borsuk, Greenwich Post, and other members of the public. An attendance list is on file in the Superintendent's Office.

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

Presentation on the Board of Education Budget for 2008-2009

Dr. Sternberg and Dr. Wallerstein delivered a detailed presentation on the budget. Dr. Sternberg indicated the proposed budget is \$125,179,096, a 4.9% increase over the 2007-2008 budget. The budget is based on an enrollment projection of 8,929 students for 2008-2009. She noted that the focus of the budget is to improve the learning of all students and that any new initiatives would be funded by reallocations.

Board members were very complimentary of the improved Budget presentation and book. Board members asked the following questions, which are to be addressed by the Administration in writing:

GENERAL

- 1) More information on how resources relate to initiatives.
- 2) Big picture on how dollars are allocated and how they follow areas of focus shift from year to year .

STAFFING

- 1) How have we done in the past in projecting Line 199?
- 2) Reference pages 33 & 34, obviously more FTE in Special Ed and ALP, are there really more kids in the programs or are we changing the definition of who gets into the programs?
- 3) Justification for proposed staffing increases.
- 4) Proposed increase in assistant summer staffing: Is it better to add and decentralize for registration, or to centralize registration, save summer staffing dollars, and achieve better and more consistent controls on registration - ensuring proper residency requirements?

TECHNOLOGY

- 1) Smartboards: Do we have a plan in place to be sure these tools are used appropriately and not just glorified overheads? Looking at the proposed \$300,000 investment, are we getting the best 'return on investment' for the money?
- 2) Please provide a better understanding of the overall technology plan.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

- 1) Integrated classroom walks: More information on how this works and how it is coordinated and staffed. What happens to reviewers' their classrooms/buildings when they are not there?
- 2) How are professional learning dollars allocated?

SCHOOLS/PROGRAMS

- 1) Please provide % of ESL students in other like districts.
- 2) Why are some schools' budgets showing increases, other decreases, others more or less the same?
- 3) EMS has 6th graders starting school a few days early, seems like a good idea, how will we measure effectiveness and if successful, insure that the other middle schools implement?
- 4) Supplemental programs: Please provide more detail as to what's included.
- 5) Effectiveness of Saturday detention versus suspension – provide numbers and data.
- 6) Consultants: Comparative expenditures for this year and last year. What are we using them for?
- 7) Secondary review: Scope and timing?
- 8) GHS Band: What is the rationale for the increased staffing expenditure?

ASSESSMENTS

- 1) Formative Assessments: How are these developed? Each school develops its own and every school uses something different? Or once they are developed do the schools share?

PRESCHOOL

- 1) Preschool: What are the resources allocated to helping Head Start and other private preschools in Town?
- 2) Provide information on the number of classes and students this year and what is projected for next year and any space implications.

CAPTIAL

- 1) CIP Process: Where are we with the rankings? When will the next steps be taken?

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Nancy Weissler
Secretary