

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: December 6, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Havemeyer Building Board Room

PRESENT:

Board: Mrs. Nancy Weissler, Chairman
Mrs. Leslie Moriarty, Vice Chairman
Mr. Steven B. Anderson, Secretary
Mr. Michael C. Bodson
Mr. Jonathan Cohen
Mrs. Marianna Ponns Cohen
Dr. Susan S. Ellis
Ms. Natalie Queen

Administration:

Dr. Betty J. Sternberg, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Kathleen Greider, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. John Curtin, Asst. Superintendent
Mr. Chris Winters, Dir. Of Curriculum & Professional Learning
Ms. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services
Ms. Kim Eves, Director, Communications
Dr. Ellen Flanagan, Director, Human Resources

Other: Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, Mrs. Jackie Johnson, PTA Council; Ms. Kristin Wood, Mr. Andrew Shaw, Greenwich Time, Mr. Ken Borsuk, Greenwich Post, Mrs. Anne Semmes, Greenwich Citizen and other members of the public. An attendance list is on file in the Board of Education office.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Weissler, Chairman at 7:02 p.m.

1. **Discussion of Monitoring Report E-003, Academic Mastery – Writing**

Mr. Chris Winters, Director of Curriculum and Professional Learning, Mrs. Marie Jordan-Whitney, Program Coordinator for Language Arts, and Mr. Lawrence Sullivan, Program Administrator for English presented the monitoring report for Writing to the Board. Mr. Winters stressed that the scores matched a five year high in writing.

Questions from the Board centered around the middle school portfolio approach, writing to a prompt, extra work for advanced writers, the writing portfolio approach at Riverside and Dundee, consistency of the rigor of courses throughout the various levels at the high school, writing of term papers, research papers and the English/Social Studies sophomore paper, the drop in scores for three elementary schools, whether writing is expository or narrative, student migration rate out of the system and its impact on scores, standards, and variances in following the guidelines that are set for all schools.

The monitoring report will return to the Board for action at the December 20th Board Meeting.

2. **Discussion on Centralized Magnet Application/Lottery Plan**

Mrs. Greider, Deputy Superintendent and Mr. Curtin, Assistant Superintendent, gave an overview of the draft magnet application form and lottery plan. The intent is for each of the three magnet schools to operate under consistent application standards, use pre-determined priority acceptance plans, use the same criteria and limitations, use the same application and run all application processes on the same timeline.

Questions from the Board were regarding removal of ethnic data, movement from one magnet to another, the need not to fill magnets to capacity, open choice, employees' children, transportation in general and as it relates to open choice, the number of magnet seats available, keeping track of racial information to determine racial balance, a suggested change to the second page of Dr. Sternberg's letter which is the cover sheet of the plan, elimination of item 7 f due to redundancy, and recruitment of prospective magnet school students throughout town.

3. **Discussion of 2007-2008 Agenda Plan**

The Agenda Plan was revised to include items discussed at the last Board Meeting. A question was asked as to what the latest date was to submit the Budget to the Town. It is the end of December.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Cohen to move into Executive Session to discuss Negotiations at 8:35 p.m.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Cohen, the meeting returned to regular session at 8:52 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Steven B. Anderson
Secretary