

## BUDGET MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

**DATE:** December 1, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Cos Cob School

**PRESENT:**

**Board:** Mr. Steven Anderson, Chairman  
Mrs. Leslie Moriarty, Vice-Chairman  
Mrs. Marianna Ponns Cohen  
Ms. Nancy Kail  
Ms. Natalie Queen  
Mr. Peter Sherr

**Absent:** Mr. Michael Bodson, Secretary  
Mr. Jonathan Cohen

**Administration:**

Dr. Sidney Freund, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Ellen Flanagan, Deputy Superintendent  
Mr. John Curtin, Special Projects Manager  
Dr. Susan Wallerstein, Asst. Superintendent  
Ms. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services  
Ms. Kim Eves, Director, Communications  
Mr. Richard Calcavecchio, Director of Budgets & Systems

**Other:** Mrs. Sue Rogers, Mrs. Bianka Kortlan-Cox, Mrs. Christina Russell, Mrs. Bonnie Novek, PTA Council; Mr. Larry Simon, , Board of Estimate & Taxation; Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, Greenwich Alliance; Mrs. Mary Ann Grabel, Mrs. Jodi Speaker, Mrs. Cathy Carriero, Mrs. Susan Tedford, Mrs. Amy Yu, Mrs. Bonnie Novek, Mrs. Lucy Pecover, Mrs. Margo Clark, Mrs. Linda Delgado, Mrs. Alexandra Smith, Mrs. Sue Stern, Mr. Michael Sullivan, Mrs. Beth Cahilly, ALP parents; Mrs. Cathy Delehanty, GEA; Mrs. Camille Broderick, Greenwich High School; Mrs. Nicole Hadley, Riverside School; Mrs. Dana Evans, Mr. Colin Gustafson, Greenwich Time; Mr. Ken Borsuk, Greenwich Post, and other members of the public. An attendance list is on file in the Board Office.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Weissler, Chairman, at 7:01 p.m.

Dr. Freund advised the Board that Glenville School re-opened today.

**1. Public Hearing on 2010-2011 Budget**

The following people spoke at the Public Hearing:

PTA Council: Mrs. Sue Rogers thanked Mr. Anderson for accepting budget questions from them and advised they have more. She spoke about the concern of ALP parents about the cut of Third Grade Interdis not being reinstated, concern for the amount of turnover in superintendents during the last eight years, the need for consistency, and the need for further review of the effectiveness of the SPED programs. She applauded the completion of the first phase of the Smartboard rollout and the difficulty for lay people to understand the budget.

The following people spoke in support of reinstating the Third Grade Interdis ALP program:

Mrs. Christina Russell, parent  
Mr. Laurence Pevsner, student  
Mrs. Alexis Voulganis, teacher

**2. Discussion of Budget Questions and Answers**

The initial discussion focused on Hamilton Avenue magnet swimming program and whether or not it should be a part of the program offered. The Board was polled regarding this issue with a split decision. They also discussed the middle school transition to Greenwich High School, how we racially balance schools and its impact on neighborhood students, and costs implications for any proposed change. Dr. Freund addressed the possibility of having an IB at the middle school level and at this point, it is under exploration. Funding will probably be from professional earning budget or a grant. Other areas of discussion were extra duty pay, GOSA staff, Cabinet incentive, and the internship program. Mrs. Moriarty said the Board should keep an open mind regarding what is important and not to rush into changes.

The Board requested feedback at the next budget meeting regarding cost to bring back interdis for Third Grade, a review on how ALP review dovetails with the science review, and a description of Project Evolve. The Board asked for assurance that the curriculum objectives would be enforced evenly in all buildings. Another question was asked regarding leasing vs. purchasing computers, and the five year cycle for smartboards. Mrs. Kompar will attend the

December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting and will forward material ahead of time in response to these issues.

Mr. Anderson reminded everyone that the next budget meeting is December 10<sup>th</sup> and questions must be in to him by Thursday night and they will be provided to the Superintendent by Friday night.

He explained that at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Work Session, there would be a review of the Science curriculum, the monitoring report for Math, the summer school report, and a discussion on demolition of the modulars.

Upon motion duly made by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mrs. Ponns Cohen, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Leslie B. Moriarty  
Vice Chairman