

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

**DATE:** January 21, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Central Middle School

**PRESENT:**

**Board:** Mr. Steven B. Anderson, Chairman  
Mrs. Leslie Moriarty, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Michael Bodson, Secretary  
Mrs. Marianna Ponns Cohen  
Ms. Nancy Kail  
Mr. Jonathan Cohen  
Mr. Peter Sherr

**Absent:** Ms. Natalie Queen

**Administration:**

Dr. Sidney Freund, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Ellen Flanagan, Deputy Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Susan Wallerstein, Asst. Supt, Business  
Mr. Richard Calcavecchio, Director, Budget and Systems  
Ms. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services  
Ms. Kim Eves, Director, Communications  
Ms. Regina Williams, Interim Director, Human Resources

**Other:** Ellen Murdock, GEA; Sue Rogers, Rianne Fernandez, Leslie Breck, Christina Russell, PTA Council; Julie Faryniarz, Greenwich Alliance; Camille Broderick, Adriana Ospina, Laurie Heiss Grealy, Laura Erickson, William Newberry, Despina Petsagourakis, GHS; Jill Marchak, Ann Marie Graham, CMS; Margaret Moore, EMS; Stacey Gross, WMS; Nadine Longmuir, Anne Canerty, Cos Cob School; Donna Curtis, Glenville School; Alex Capozza, Hamilton Avenue School; Caroline Reilly, Trisha Dalton, Wendy Friedman, Julian Curtiss School; Billy Shaw, New Lebanon School; Jane Henteman, North Street School; Maureen Bonanco, Old Greenwich School; Marcie Braver, Rosa Fini, Parkway School; Erynn Arnold, Riverside School. An attendance list is on file in the Board of Education office.

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

## **SCHOOL WELCOME**

Ms. Shelley Somers, Principal of Central Middle School welcomed the Board members and presented Faculty and Student representatives from two community service clubs at CMS: Just Cause and Roots and Shoots. Ms. Sherri Wollard, CMS Science teacher, presented a PowerPoint presentation prepared for Just Cause and CMS 8<sup>th</sup> graders presented information regarding Roots and Shoots. Both clubs presented information regarding their purpose, mission and activities they are involved in.

## **REPORTS / COMMENTS**

Dr. Sidney Freund welcomed Ms. Somers as the new Principal of CMS, commenting on her spirit and enthusiasm. Dr. Freund also mentioned the appointment of Mr. Chris Winters as the Headmaster of Greenwich High School, noting that Mr. Winters' appointment has been enthusiastically received. Dr. Freund discussed the District Wide Data Team training that took place on January 12, 2010, noting that he attended Middle School Training at WMS during the first half of the day and attended GHS Training at GHS in the afternoon. Dr. Freund commented on the focus shifting away from student data and moving towards adult actions to improve student outcomes. Dr. Freund also discussed the January 11, 2010 Leadership Team meeting and the January 19, 2010 Greenwich District Data Team monthly meeting.

Mrs. Sue Rogers, President of PTA Council, quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. re the function of education and its relationship to the Greenwich Public School's Vision of the Graduate. Mrs. Rogers extended congratulations to Mr. Winters and thanked Dr. Freund for the manner in which the Headmaster search was executed. Mrs. Rogers welcomed Ms. Somers as the new principal of CMS. Mrs. Rogers acknowledged the efforts of Dr. Freund and Mr. Anderson to reach out to the Special Education parent community. She thanked the administration for their efforts in getting approval by the Board for the proposed budget and thanked Dr. Wallerstein for educating parents on the rudiments of the budget process. Finally Mrs. Rogers spoke on the GHS MISA project noting that the PTA Council strongly supports the Board in their stating that the GHS MISA project is the #1 priority in the capital budget.

GHS Student Council representatives William Newberry and Despina Petsagourakis discussed the charitable events and fundraisers going on at GHS such as the Make a Wish Foundation, Red Cross Blood Drives and Haiti fundraisers. The upcoming House Olympics were discussed as was recent efforts regarding trash being picked up in the Student Center. The students expressed concern with restrictions being placed on fans at sporting events, noting that it was their opinion that cheering should be allowed. The students

support the promotion of the MISA project. Finally the students shared their gratitude that Mr. Winters has been appointed as GHS Headmaster.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

The following people spoke at the Public Hearing:

GHS PTA Presidents Adriana Ospina and Camille Broderick congratulated Mr. Winters on his appointment as Headmaster at GHS. They also thanked Dr. Freund and Mr. Anderson for their attendance at the SES PTAC meeting and for their willingness to listen and keep parents informed and involve parents in the decision making process. Mrs. Ospina and Mrs. Broderick thanked Dr. Freund and the CIP committee for their support of the MISA project noting that all students will benefit, ALP, SPED and middle packers.

Hamilton Avenue School PTA President Alex Capozza thanked Dr. Freund for his level of communication, for recognizing the needs of all of the schools and for being fiscally diligent.

## **BOARD DEVELOPMENT / SHARING INFORMATION**

### **a. Reports of Officers, Committees and Liaisons**

Mrs. Moriarty discussed the GHS MISA project, noting that the building committee met in January and discussed land use involvement. Mrs. Moriarty advised that the Planning and Zoning Department will meet on February 2, 2010 to discuss the design and development of the MISA project and that the CIP Public Hearing is scheduled for January 26, 2010. Mrs. Moriarty stressed the importance of public turnout and support.

Mr. Bodson advised the Glenville Building Committee had convened its final meeting in January. The Glenville School is complete.

Mr. Anderson addressed the SES PTAC meeting that he and Dr. Freund attended noting that it was a very good opportunity to listen to parents and absorb information, particularly about the Special Education program at Greenwich High School. Mr. Anderson also discussed the fact that he and Dr. Freund attended the RTM Education Committee meeting where they introduced themselves, noting that the relationship between the RTM Education Committee and the Board of Education is a very important one.

## **b. SIT Summary Report**

Dr. Flanagan stressed that the District is closer to the alignment of a coherent school improvement plan, noting the District Data Team is in it's learning year, referring to the chart on pp. 11 and 12. A Brown Bag Lunch or Breakfast re: District Data Teams is being developed to be presented to the public.

Mrs. Kail congratulated Dr. Flanagan on a very complete report noting success at WMS and Glenville School and recognized that this is an evolving process and the SIT is being embraced at the school level.

Mr. Bodson asked Dr. Flanagan to explain Goals (long term) v. Objectives. Dr. Flanagan advised she will review and get back to Mr. Bodson.

Mr. Sherr questioned goals of North Mianus and North Street School on pp. 31 - 32. Dr. Flanagan advised that it is necessary to look at "trend" data. Mr. Sherr asked how do we "stretch" goals. Dr. Flanagan advised that is important not to set unreachable goals and emphasized the fact that the document in question is a summary.

Dr. Flanagan explained her role in providing feedback to the SIT teams and discussed the roles of school subcommittees that go out to the schools to review goals and implementation practices.

Mrs. Ponns Cohen asked for clarification as to who comprises the school SIT Team. She was advised that the school SIT teams are comprised of the School Principal – Administrators, Parents, Teachers and students at the secondary level.

Mrs. Moriarty emphasized that this is a process with a learning curve, a work in process; District goals have different meanings in different buildings; that there is a reliance on test scores as measuring tools ("common language"). Mrs. Moriarty questioned how do goals benefit all students. She was advised that the strategy in place is being implemented for all students and that all students will benefit from improved instructional capabilities

Mrs. Kail advised that parents' involvement is crucial.

Mr. Anderson added that it is very important to understand the connection between Social Emotion Learning (SEL) and School Improvement Team (SIT).

## **c. Discussion and Possible Action on 2010-11 Capital Improvement Plan**

Dr. Wallerstein explained the CIP process. The emphasis of the discussion surrounded the different options that might be considered to "re-prioritize" projects and the status of the two major projects on the Town of Greenwich CIP list: the public safety building and the MISA project. The North Street School parking situation was also discussed, noting that due to safety issues this is also a high priority item for the Board of Education.

Mr. Anderson stated it was important to leave the dialogue open to “think creatively” in dealing with the conflicting needs and difficult fiscal situation.

Mr. Sherr questioned prioritization. Dr. Wallerstein advised it is important to support equally all projects within a given year, noting that the BET will vote in March 2010. The BoE does not prioritize other than by year of expected completion.

There was more discussion regarding the public safety building and MISA, noting that they are in different phases of development and whichever project goes forward the other will not be eligible for consideration for two years.

Mr. Anderson advised that it was necessary to stay flexible, let the process “percolate” and go through the 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman CIP Process. Mr. Anderson stated that the MISA project remains the #1 Board of Education priority.

### **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

#### **a. Action on Monthly Financial and Staffing Report**

Mr. Calcavecchio discussed the impact of the use of actual salary figures rather than a model. Mr. Anderson asked when the salary account becomes “real.” Mr. Calcavecchio advised in March / April.

It was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Mr. Cohen to approve the Monthly Financial and Staffing Report.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

### **BOARD CONSENT ITEMS**

#### **a. Action on Monitoring Report E-003 Writing**

It was moved by Leslie Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Cohen to approve the Monitoring Report E-003 Writing.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

**b. Action on Secretary's Request to Approve Minutes of November 20, December 1, December 3, December 17, 2009 and January 4, 2010**

It was moved by Leslie Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Cohen to approve the minutes of November 20, December 1, December 3, December 17, 2009 and January 4, 2010.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

**BOARD OPERATIONS PLANNING**

**a. Discussion of 2009-10 Agenda Plan**

It was discussed and decided to address the 2011-12 School Year Calendar and the CIP Plan at the February 4, 2010 BOE Work Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Mrs. Moriarity the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael C. Bodson  
Secretary