

## SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

**DATE:** March 11, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Western Middle school

**PRESENT:**

**Board:** Mr. Steven B. Anderson, Chairman  
Mr. Michael Bodson, Secretary  
Mr. Jonathan Cohen  
Mrs. Marianna Ponns Cohen  
Ms. Nancy Kail  
Ms. Natalie Queen  
Mr. Peter Sherr

**Absent:** Mrs. Leslie B. Moriarty, Vice-Chairman

**Administration:**

Dr. Ellen Flanagan, Director of Human Resources  
Dr. Robert Lichtenfeld, Interim Managing Director of Operations  
Ms. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services  
Ms. Kim Eves, Director, Communications  
Ms. Jane Anderson, Director, Human Resources  
Ms. Regina Williams, Asst. Director, Human Resources

**Other:** Mrs. Sue Rogers, President- PTA Council, Mrs. Bianca Courtlan Cox, Mrs. Kelley Moore, Mrs. Christina Russell, Mrs. Andrea Vaz, Mrs. Rianne Fernandez Staps, PTA Council; Mrs. Camille Broderick, Mrs. Adriana Ospina, Mrs. L. B. Savitz, Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, Mrs. Paige Davis, Mr. Dan Faryniarz, Greenwich High School; Mrs. Paige Davis, , SES Committee; Mrs. Jill Chessman, Mrs. Alicia Fernandez, Mrs. Maureen Finn, Western Middle School; Mrs. Anne Marie Graham, Central Middle School; Mr. Bill Shaw, New Lebanon, Mrs. Nadine Longmuir, Mrs. Debra Olsen, Cos Cob School, Mr. Colin Gustofson, Greenwich Time and Mr. Ken Borsuk, Greenwich Post. . An attendance list is on file in the Board of Education office.

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

## **Recognition**

Congratulatory speeches were made for Dr. Stacey Gross, Principal of Western Middle School, who has been named the 2009 Connecticut Middle School Principal of the Year, by Mr. Anderson, Chairman of the Board, Dr. Freund, Superintendent, Mrs. Sue Rogers, President of the PTA Council, and Ms. Cathy Delehanty, GEA President. All offered her congratulations for being honored, in addition to her also being named the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning, effective July 1, 2010.

## **Reports/Comments**

Dr. Freund announced Dr. Stacey Gross as the new Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning and Ms. Jane Anderson as the Director of Human Resources. He reported on the success of the Greenwich High School Math League, coming in first in the County and heading for States on April 6<sup>th</sup>. He reminded everyone about the Harris Survey and the importance of completing the survey, which will run from March 27<sup>th</sup> to April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Sue Rogers, PTA Council President, spoke on the comprehensive re-examination of the science curriculum, the value of the "super-sub" concept, the TEPL rollout highlighting the value of this comprehensive and supportive evaluation process. She addressed the importance of teacher retention and thanked the Administration for creating a budget that is highly supportive of our children's education. She welcomed Dr. Lichtenfeld to our District.

Ms. Cathy Delehanty, GEA President, congratulated Dr. Gross on being named Connecticut State Middle School Principal of the Year and her appointment to the Cabinet. She discussed whole student development and the work that the GEA membership does in support of the United Way fund raising campaign and the CEA's Holiday Bear Program. She thanked the Administration for the thorough job done on the budget and the need to focus on the number of initiatives teachers were expected to implement at the same time.

### **1. Public Hearing**

There were no speakers at the Public Hearing.

**Board Development/Sharing Information**

Mrs. Kail acknowledged the PTA parent body for their contributions, both financially and in the high level of parent involvement in the schools. She also discussed a program at CES addressing best practices in communications.

Mr. Bodson advised his participation in the Board of Selectmen Downtown study group which includes the Havemeyer Building and the future of downtown Greenwich.

Mrs. Moriarty provided a report on the GHS MISA project which was read in her absence indicating the formation of the GHS MISA Project Funding Guidelines Committee which is charged with establishing the guidelines upon which outside donations will be accepted and exploring the feasibility of a private funding component to assist the MISA project for both construction costs as well as project enhancements. Members of the Committee will be Mr. Bodson, Chairman, Mr. Sherr and Ms. Kail. The Committee will report back to the Board as needed. They will seek to establish the procedures to obtain outside funding and private donations to help move the project forward. There will be no money for 2010-2011 coming from the Town budget since the project did not make it through the Capital Improvement process in lieu of other Town projects.

Mr. Anderson discussed the work on the budget and advised everyone that next Tuesday will be the Public Hearing at Town Hall and then on to the Committee and District Meetings.

**Update on 2010-2011 Operating and Capital Budget**

Dr. Freund advised that the BET reduced our budget by \$318,000 despite the BoE submission coming in under the guidelines. In addition, the CIP process deferred the MISA project. It was noted the BET Budget Committee may request to hold back the \$300 thousand funding for the removal of the modulars pending final agreement by all Town departments that there is no possible usage of the facilities. For example, there is a possibility that the Fire Department may consider using them.

**Curriculum Review – Science**

Dr. Sheila Civale provided an overview of Step 3 of the new Science curriculum. She answered questions that were submitted prior to the meeting. Question/comments from the Board related to non-alignment with Connecticut standards, the importance of seeing improvement before the full curriculum is implemented, and which schools have more dedicated space to science and the impact of such on the delivery of our curriculum.

Carol Desalvo 5/4/10 8:35 AM  
Deleted: the  
Carol Desalvo 5/4/10 8:35 AM  
Deleted: of  
Carol Desalvo 5/4/10 8:35 AM  
Deleted: f

Carol Desalvo 5/4/10 8:32 AM  
Deleted: n

**First Reading, Monitoring Report E-050, Management of Human Resources**

Ms. Williams reported that they are in the process of finalizing the Employee Code of Conduct and responded to questions related to TEPL, evaluation and training of staff, attendance rate for teachers, volunteers, strong improvements in the numbers regarding retention of staff, diversity training, and what is the main reason given by staff who have left the district other than for retirement.

**First Reading, Monitoring Report L-020, Professional Personnel Practices**

Ms. Williams gave an overview of L-020. Mr. Anderson asked how we compare with the Town on wellness and grievances for Teamsters. Ms. Williams said she would get that information to the Board. One Board member commented on the fact that the number of evaluations was much higher this year.

**First Reading, Monitoring Report L-002, Contracts and Agreements**

Ms. Williams presented this Monitoring Report. A request was made for a comparison with the Town on grievances claims for Teamsters union members. Ms. Williams agreed to supply that information to the Board.

**First Reading, Monitoring Report E-051, District Administrative Operations**

Dr. Lichtenfeld presented E-051 Monitoring Report advising the Board that Ms. Susan Chiapouras has been named the Interim Facilities Director and Mr. Tom Bobkowski has been named Director of Security. He discussed Tools for Schools usage, the upgrade of security cameras, and the ITMIS introduction of student information system. He advised training will begin this summer on the inputting of student records. Eventually, parents will be able to access the information. He also advised that facility rentals are down, but cost is the same. He is looking at PTA usage at each school. He discussed funding and gift issues which needed to be addressed.

Carol Desalvo 5/4/10 8:37 AM  
Deleted:

Ms. Eves discussed the significant undertaking of Parent Link and the Harris Survey, noting that the Harris Survey will be online this year.

In Food Services, there are 12.1% of students on Free or Reduced meals, as compared to 10.5% last year.

Ms. Queen addressed the fact that Spanish parents are getting calls by the Parent Link system, but do not understand the information because the message is in English.

Questions from other Board members related to equity of air conditioning among schools, and the Eastern Middle School routes and whether parents have been notified that the service will be implemented in the new school year.

The Board discussed fundraising and donations and equity issues that should be reviewed by the PGC. It was decided that the Board should take this issue up through the Policy Governance Committee. The Policy Governance Committee will follow up on this request and will report back to the Board in May or June.

**Action on Tuition/Rental Rates 2010-2011**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Mr. Bodson to approve 2010-2011 K-12 tuition rates as proposed.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Kail and seconded by Mr. Bodson to approve 2010-2011 Pre-School Tuition rates as proposed

In discussion regarding this item, Ms. Queen brought to the attention of the Board that people on Reduced Lunch were paying \$884 and certified staff [members](#) were only paying \$286 for the 5 hour program and \$1,190 and \$385 respectively for the 6.5 hour program. She felt that the Reduced Lunch people should pay the same as certified staff. The Board decided to table this item until the March 25<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Mr. Cohen to approve the 2010-2011 rental rates subject to final collective bargaining agreements.

Questions from the Board included whether we are higher than the Town facilities. Dr. Freund advised that the policy and procedures related to rentals are being reviewed. The policy will be revised to indicate that community organizations will be able to use our facilities for free with less than 50 people. There is discussion still being held regarding a limit on the number of times an organization can utilize this opportunity.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Regarding Summer School, no motion was made. The Board decided to table this item until the March 25<sup>th</sup> Board [Meeting](#), at which point it will be wrapped up with the Pre-School [tuition discussion](#).

Carol Desalvo 5/4/10 8:40 AM  
Deleted: admissions

**Monthly Financial and Staffing Report**

MOTION: 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

**Minutes of January 4 (4), January 15 (6), January 21 and February 4, 2010**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Mrs. Ponns Cohen to approve the minutes of January 4 (4), January 15 (6), January 21 and February 4, 2010.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**Discussion of 2009-2010 Agenda Plan**

The Board added discussion on E-001 and E-002 Policies to the agenda. It was noted that the Policy Governance Committee would be meeting prior to the discussion of these policies before appearing in front of the Board.

By motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael C. Bodson  
Secretary