

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: March 25, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Julian Curtiss School

PRESENT:

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

Administration:

Dr. Sidney Freund, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Ellen Flanagan, Deputy Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Robert Lichtenfeld, Managing Director of Operations
Mr. Richard Calcavecchio, Director, Budget and Systems
Ms. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services
Ms. Kim Eves, Director, Communications
Ms. Regina Williams, Assistant Director, Human Resources

Other:

Mrs. Sue Rogers, President, Mrs. Lisa Beth Savitz, Mrs. Rianne Fernandez Staps, Mrs. Kelly Moore, Mrs. Bianka Kortlan-Cox, Mrs. Christina Russell, PTA Council; Cathy Delehanty, President, GEA; Mrs. Trisha Dalton, Mrs. Debra Pongior, Mrs. Robyn Byron, Mr. Eric Reinken, Mr. Kris Cooper, Ms. Mary Ann Murray, Mrs. Caroline Reilly, Mrs. Marianne Kouslionis, Mrs. Audra Frumin, Mrs. Erin Brinton, Ms. Lee Ann Hinkle, Ms. Betsy Cragg, Mrs. Mary Wergola, Ms. Marilyn White, Mr. Rob Andrasi, Mrs. Wendy Friedman, Ms. Karen Nagy, Julian Curtiss School; Ms. Julia Nixon, Ms. Ruth Sherman, Mr. Neal Shopich, Mrs. Camille Broderick, Mrs. Adriana Ospina, Mrs. Paige Davis, Greenwich High School; Mr. Colin Gustafson, Greenwich Time; Mr. Ken Borsuk, Greenwich Post, and various members of the public. 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

March is Board of Education Appreciation Month in Connecticut and the Board was recognized by the Superintendent, the GEA, PTAC, and Town and State officials for their contributions to the community.

Greenwich High School Scholastic Art Award Winners were also honored. They were:

Karen Aviles – Honorable Mention – Printmaking
Jessica Ertel – Honorable Mention – Mixed Media
Macauley Lerman – Honorable Mention – Photography
Lily Olsen-Ecker – Honorable Mention – Drawing
William Haslun – Silver Award – Photography
Gina Mischianti – Silver Award – Drawing
Jessica Walters – Gold Award – Photography
Kristi Cavaturo – Gold Award – Sculpture and the
CAEA/Arnini Best in Sculpture
Nichole Ramos – Gold Award – Digital Art and the
CAEA/Arnini Best in Show in Digital Art
Benjamin Langford – Gold Award – Photography Portfolio
Siena Park – Gold Award – Photography Portfolio
Will Russack – Gold Award – Photography Portfolio
Julia Aviles – Gold Award – Photography Portfolio and the
Hartford Art School Scholarship
Carter Murdoch – Gold Award – Photography Portfolio and
The Hartford Art School Scholarship

REPORTS / COMMENTS

Dr. Sidney Freund commenced by welcoming Dr. Robert Lichtenfeld as our permanent Managing Director of Operations. He then discussed the issues regarding the school calendar after losing a week of school due to the storm and its implications and impact. He covered the options and admitted that none of them were very attractive.

Mrs. Sue Rogers, President of PTA Council, thanked Dr. Freund and Ms. Eves for their efforts in dealing with the aftermath of the storm – their updates and timeliness of information were appreciated. She addressed Council's position regarding possible changes to the calendar related to the lost week and agreed there is no attractive solution. She thanked Ms. Queen for pointing out the discrepancies in reduced lunch tuition for preschool and summer school versus staff tuition rates.

She encouraged all to complete the Harris Survey, which was recently distributed and provides everyone a chance to be heard. She also expressed her thanks to the BET for their support of the BOE budget, even though they removed the funding for the IB program – they did support the operating budget. She ended by congratulating Dr. Lichtenfeld on becoming a permanent member of Cabinet.

Ms. Cathy Delehanty, GEA President, spoke about not dipping into vacation periods to make up the days lost due to the storm.

GHS Student Council representative Jack Applebaum thanked the Board in honor of Board Appreciation month. He provided the Board with recommendations from the study body related to making up the lost days due to the storm and its impact on graduation. He advised that in a recent survey, a 2/3 majority of the students supported changing the current system to allow AP grades should be weighted. He told the Board about the second annual House Olympics and its success.

PUBLIC HEARING

The following people spoke at the Public Hearing:

Ms. Angelica Arenas addressed the issue of PreK tuition and summer school tuition. She pointed out that the financially challenged population has a hard time paying for day care during April break, when in most cases, both parents are working. She requested that reduced lunch students pay the same as staff for PreK and summer school.

Ms. Lisa Beth Savitz, Chair of the PTA Readiness Council, spoke about the lack of space for students in PreSchool. She underscored that children coming from our PreSchool have better performance than those that who have attended other programs or have not attended any program. She asked the Board to consider expanding the PreSchool program.

Ms. Alex Capozza, Hamilton Avenue PTA President, thanked the Board and Administration for their continual contact and information flow to the parents after the storm.

Ms. Teresa Ginsberg and Ms. Paige Davis, SES parents, thanked Administration for the work done on the PPS Report, and they look forward to discussion of the results. They noted the SES Awards will be on their April 9th meeting.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT / SHARING INFORMATION

a. Reports of Officers, Committees and Liaisons

Mrs. Moriarty discussed the GHS MISA project, noting that the BET has deferred funding for at least one year and the project remains the board's number one capital project. They are proceeding with the requisite planning and approvals, and are working on preparing for the April Planning & Zoning meeting. They have already received wetlands approval.

Mr. Bodson advised the GHS MISA Fundraising Committee had convened its first meeting and will provide a report in a few weeks.

Mr. Anderson addressed the work done regarding the 2010-2011 Budget. He reviewed the prep work regarding the RTM Meetings in May and discussed the \$317,000 cut the BET made to our budget.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Ms. Queen to move Action on 2009-2010 School Calendar as the first item on the Action Agenda.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Action on 2009-2010 School Calendar

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Sherr to approve to charges to the 2009-2010 School Calendar.

Dr. Freund explained the challenges presented to the school calendar in light of losing five school days because of the recent storm and resultant tree do and power outages. Due to the closeness of the April break, he felt families would lose a great deal of money on already booked trips if that week were taken away. His recommendation is to have the last day of school June 29th, leaving the April break and Good Friday and Memorial Day in the calendar. Graduation would then be on June 29th. He explained it would cost an additional \$155,000 for classified staff to open school on a holiday.

The discussion moved to the situation at Glenville School, who are required to make up an additional two days because of the earlier move into their new building. The recommendation for Glenville was to open on Good Friday with an early release to make up the day and also to be open on June 30th.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Action on 2010-2011 School Calendar

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Ms. Queen to approve the adjustments to the 2010-2011 School Calendar.

AMENDMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Kail and seconded by Mrs. Ponns Cohen to start school on August 31st and have teacher orientation on August 26th.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

The changes included staff to return on August 26th, orientation on August 30th and first day of school for students on August 31st. The calendar has 182 school days. The Board discussed several options and they will continue to deliberate the calendar issues for vacation times and to set the graduation date at the May 11th Board Work Session.

Action on Phase III Science

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Queen and seconded by Mr. Bodson to approve the Phase III Science report.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Action on Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Staff

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Ponns Cohen and seconded by Mr. Cohen to approve the Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Staff.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

Action on Monthly Financial & Staffing Report

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

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

Action on Transfers of \$10,000 or More

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Cohen to approve the Transfers of \$10,000 or more.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

Action on Monitoring Report E-002 – Whole Student Development

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Ms. Queen to approve Monitoring Report E-002 – Whole Student Development with the addition of governance and management issues. The addition of governance and management issues includes an interim report before February regarding the progress on management and governance issues.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

Action on Tuition Rates for Summer School and PreSchool

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Mr. Bodson to approve the tuition rates for Summer School and Pre School.

AMENDMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Sherr and seconded by Mrs. Ponns Cohen to postpone action on this item to May in order to allow time for a caucus.

VOTE: Mr. Sherr and Mrs. Ponns Cohen
In favor, 6 opposed MOTION FAILED

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:

6 in favor, Mr. Sherr and Mrs. Ponns
Cohen opposed MOTION CARRIED

It was determined that the Board would discuss preschool staffing and tuition rates for employees for the following school year at the June Board Meeting.

BOARD CONSENT ITEMS

Action on Monitoring Report L-020, Professional Personnel Practices
Action on Monitoring Report L-002, Contracts & Agreements
Action on Monitoring Report E-051, District Administrative Operations
Action on Secretary's Request to Approve Minutes of January 7, 2010

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Queen and seconded by Mr. Cohen to approve the Consent Items listed above.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

a. Action on Monitoring Report E-050, Management of Human Resources

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Kail and seconded by Mr. Bodson to approve Monitoring Report E-050, Management of Human Resources

Ms. Kail discussed the TEP: project and requested a progress report on TEPL at the September 2010 Work Session.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

BOARD OPERATIONS PLANNING

a. Discussion of 2009-10 Agenda Plan

The following items were added to the 2009-2010 Board Agenda Plan:

2010-2011 School Calendar
PreSchool Tuition

June Work Session
June Work Session

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Ms. Queen, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael C. Bodson
Secretary