

## WORK SESSION OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

**DATE:** June 10, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Havemeyer Building, Board Room

**PRESENT:**

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

**Absent:** Mr. Jonathan Cohen

**Administration:**

Dr. Sidney Freund, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Ellen Flanagan, Deputy Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Robert Lichtenfeld, Managing Director of Operations  
Ms. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services  
Ms. Kim Eves, Director, Communications

**Other:** Mrs. Camille Broderick, Mr. Vincent Annunziata, Mrs. Paige Davis, Mrs. Philippa Orszelak, Mr. Chris Winters, Greenwich High School; Mrs. Sue Rogers, Mrs. Christine Russell, PTAC; Ms. Dana Evans, Mr. Roger Simpson, Mrs. Sarah Simpson, Old Greenwich School; Mrs. Michele Regan, International School at Dundee; Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, Greenwich Alliance, Mrs. Andrea Sherman, Riverside School; Mr. Colin Gustofson, Greenwich Time; 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 7:10 p.m.

**Action on Secretary's Request to Approve Minutes of March 11, March 25, April 8, April 22 and May 7, 2010**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Ms. Queen to approve the minutes of March 11, March 25, April 8, April 22, and May 7, 2010.

**AMENDMENT**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Ponns Cohen and seconded by Mr. Bodson to remove the April 8<sup>th</sup> minutes from this motion.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT**

6 in favor, none opposed  
Mr. Sherr not yet arrived      MOTION CARRIED

**VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION, AS AMENDED**

6 in favor, none opposed      MOTION CARRIED

**Greenwich Alliance for Education Annual Report**

Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, advised that Board that Laura Geffs was stepping down as Chairman of the Alliance and Christine Kim will be the new Chair. She thanked staff member Mary Ann Murray, who was also stepping. Extended thank yous went to Chris Winters, Kim Eves, Steve Anderson, Mike Bodson, Dr. Freund and John Curtin.

She advised that in the Tuning Into Music program, they provide private lessons and assistance with acquiring of instruments for students who are financially challenged. They find the students in need by recommendations from the music teachers within the schools. They have 41 students participating in this program.

This year the Alliance funded grants at Greenwich High School only. The grand proposals were excellent. She noted that the PTA Council funded an additional \$3,000.

### **First Reading, Monitoring Report E-003, Media**

Mrs. Fran Kompar presented an overview and update of the Media Services and advised that she has been working with Sheila Civale in the science transdisciplinary units and Third grade implementation schedule. Some school are 90% proficient and they have worked very hard to close the caps. Questions from Board Members related to home access to computers for students, implementation in classrooms and in TELP, what role we play in looking at electronic content, how we define technologically capable by grade.

This report will return to the Board for action at the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Special Education Review/Update**

Dr. Freund provided an overview of the Special Education review, and referred further discussion to Dr. Lichtenfeld. He introduced the members of the Oswego Leadership team who conducted the interview process and thanked them for their work and for their interest in contributing to this effort. Dr. Lichtenfeld indicated that the interview process included a relatively small sample but participants exhibited a very positive attitude. They did not interview teachers, paraprofessionals or other administrators.

The overall results of this study indicated:

- a. a lack of consistency of criteria
- b. a more uniform commitment by grade
- c. a lack of continuum of services
- d. method of staffing needs to be re-examined
- e. PPT should be chaired by trained leaders

Dr. Freund indicated that the responsibility for Special Education is the responsibility of all our staff.

Mr. Winters provided the Board with an overview of actions being taken at the high school and Ms. Kathy Coon, GHS Special Education Coordinator reported on improvements in the reading component.

They also reviewed plans for next year aimed at strengthening meeting procedures, training staff on better facilitation of PPT meetings, and when parents bring an attorney to the meeting, we will have an attorney present as well. Questions from the Board included input based on parental experience, RTI, Best/Appropriate; sometime full inclusion is not appropriate – how and when is it determined, is there a process in place to evaluate past actions we have taken, the need to make this the district’s first priority to include a top to bottom review. Dr. Freund advised there will be reports to the Board related to progress on a regular basis going forward.

### **Discussion of 2011-2012 Budget Limitations**

Dr. Freund presented the 2011-2012 Budget Limitations and the Board engaged in an extensive discussion regarding changes to the document. The method for review was to take each Board Member’s recommendation for change, discuss the change, and make the decision to include or not include.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Ms. Kail to extend the meeting to 10:00 p.m.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

It was determined that the Board would receive a report in October on projected receipt of grants and other funds and their uses, applications and allocations.

All changes approved by the Board will be incorporated into the Limitations and they will return to the Board for action at the June 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

### **Discussion of GHS MISA Fundraising Guidelines**

Mr. Bodson gave an overview of the GHS MISA Fundraising Guidelines (MIKE – can you fill in this part?)

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Queen and seconded by Mrs. Ponns Cohen to extend the meeting for to 10:15 p.m.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

This item will return to the Board for action on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **First Reading, Monitoring Report E-010, Strategic Roadmap/Success System, District Data Team Goals/Improvement Plan**

Dr, Freund presented an overview of this Monitoring Report. The Board discussed an early release collaboration update, TEPL, SIS, Vision of Graduate roll-out, benchmark assessments, how many per grade and how are we using it.

This Monitoring Report will return to the Board for action at the June 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

### **First Reading, Monitoring Report L-010, Timely, Accurate and Complete Information, Assessment and Analysis**

Dr. Freund presented an overview of this Monitoring Report. Board discussion was centered on the Freedom of Information Act as it pertains to this item.

### **Discussion of 2009-2010 Agenda Plan**

The following changes were made to the 2009-2010 Agenda Plan:

1. Add April 8<sup>th</sup> Minutes to 6/24 Meeting
2. Add MISA Guidelines action to 6/24 Meeting
3. Add PTA Council report to 6/24 Meeting
4. Add Action on Letter or Racial Imbalance to 6/24 Meeting
5. Add Presentation on Design Development and Revised Budget on GHS MISA Project to 6/24 Meeting

### **Discussion of 2010-2011 Agenda Plan**

The following changes were made to the 2010-2011 Agenda Plan:

1. Presentation on Grants and Foundations at the 10/7 Work Session
2. Discussion on Tuition rates and Fees for PreSchool and on Rates for Employees at the 11/4 Work Session
3. GHS MISA Approval for the 8/26 Board Meeting
4. Program Review, Step 1, ALP at the 8/26 Board Meeting
5. Science Monitoring Report at the August 26<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael C. Bodson  
Secretary

DRAFT