

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

**DATE:** September 24, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** International School at Dundee

**PRESENT:**

**Board:** Mrs. Nancy Weissler, Chairman  
Mrs. Leslie Moriarty, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Michael C. Bodson, Secretary  
Mr. Steven B. Anderson  
Mrs. Marianna Ponns Cohen  
Dr. Susan S. Ellis  
Ms. Natalie Queen (arrived at 7:15 p.m.)

**Absent:** Mr. Jonathan Cohen

**Administration:**

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

**Other:** Mrs. Cathy Delehanty, GEA; Mrs. Sue Rogers, Mrs. Rianne Fernandez Staps, Mrs. Andrea Vaz, Mrs. Bianca Kortlan-Cox, PTA Council; Mrs. Nancy Kail, Mr. Peter Sherr, Mrs. Theresa Stanton, BOE Candidates; Mrs. Jennifer Dayton, Mrs. Pam Speer, Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, Mrs. Stacy Loveless, Mrs. Christina Russell, Mrs. Jackie Welsh, Mr. Don Carlson, Eastern Middle School; Mrs. Theresa Ricci, Principal, Mrs. Marlene Fernandez, Mrs. Amy McCooe, Mrs. Leslie Perry, Mrs. Michele Regan, International School at Dundee; Colin Gustofson, Greenwich Time, Mr. Ken Borsuk, Greenwich Post, and various members of the community. An attendance list is on file in the Board Office.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Weissler, Chairman, at 7:03 p.m.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Bodson to accept the Agenda.

VOTE: 6 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

### **Reports/Comments**

Terri Ricci, Principal of ISD, welcomed the Board to the school. She also provided an overview of the International Baccalaureate Program and the benefits derived from it. She also thanked the Board for the gift cap which permitted the purchase of Smartboards and for the new five half days provided for teacher training.

Dr. Freund spoke to the Board about the Glenville relocation, advising that if we get the TCO by October 16<sup>th</sup>, we should be able to move into the building over the Thanksgiving weekend.

He provided an update on the District Data Team work advising that on Wednesday, there was collaborative time with K-2 Language Arts and 3-5 Math staff where they were reviewed the proposed benchmarks for tests which will be administered three times during the year. He also related that he had observed a high school Science class and was happy to see the benchmark assessment being given at that time.

Dr. Freund advised that SAT training has been completed for the last four elementary schools and Turnkey training for Instructional Data Teams will be conducted on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. He advised the Board that there would be a learning curve for all levels of staff and it will take time to get up to speed.

In regard to the District Vision, conversations are taking place in each of our schools regarding how it will be implemented. We need to model that vision as we conduct our business to set the example for the entire district.

Dr. Freund advised that every staff member has been provided with the TEPL plan. The focus is on differentiation and training will be on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Social & Emotional Learning team will hold their first meeting in early October working on the revision of the rubrics and identifying staff to take on this work.

In regards to the new School Information System, the bid opening to select a new system will be held on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Freund thanked Dr. Wallerstein and Mrs. Gunnip for their work. There will be a vendor presentation October 5<sup>th</sup> and a recommendation will come to the Board in the budget process.

Mrs. Sue Rogers, PTA Council President, advised the Board that PTAC will support the upcoming budget, but hope that while remaining fiscally prudent, we don't defer needed spending on staffing, supplies, maintenance and equipment in order to come in under budget. She commended Mr. Curtin on the Success System Dashboard. She then discussed a meeting of middle school PTAs which came together to brainstorm ideas and share best practices and lessons learned in supporting their schools. She then advised that PTA Council will be hosting a candidates' debate next week at the PTAC monthly meeting and are also co-sponsoring a forum for BOE and BET candidates with the League of Women Voters on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Rogers thanked Dr. Freund for continuing to reach out into the community, attended meetings of the BET, RTM, Junior League and for even being a guest on the local radio station.

Mrs. Cathy Delehanty, GEA President, spoke about teachers working hard to incorporate all of the district initiatives and that they have already conducted open houses to introduce themselves and their curriculum to parents. They support the collaborative support model and look forward to refining it. GEA continues to look for ways to increase the amount of GEA scholarships awarded each year.

### **Public Hearing**

The following people spoke at the Public Hearing:

Mrs. Donna Curtis, Glenville PTA Co-President expressed her desire to move into the renovated school by Thanksgiving. She also advised that the School would be having a Harvest Fair on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Anna Saras, Parkway parent, spoke about the changes in bus routes and the fact that no savings were being realized by these changes. She stated that children now are on the bus for close to an hour and it is taking the District too long to resolve problems resulting in many parents driving their children to school, creating more problems.

Mrs. Adriana Ospina and Mrs. Camille Broderick, GHS PTA Co-Presidents, thanked Dr. Freund and Mrs. Moriarty for appearing at their PTA Meeting and answering parent questions.

Mrs. Mary Valdino spoke about the bus issue and wanted to know why Bus #4 can't pick up the Adams Gardens children, who are walking to Sheephill Road and Old Orchard to catch a bus to school.

## **BOARD DEVELOPMENT/SHARING INFORMATION**

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

Mr. Anderson advised that the Negotiations Team will be holding an all day arbitration session with GOSA on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> and a vote must be taken by the Board by October 16<sup>th</sup> in order to bring the salary proposal to the RTM. Negotiations should be wrapped up by the end of October.

Mrs. Moriarty advised that the GHS MISA Building Committee is in the process of trying to match the schematics and design to the finalized educational specs. They are also analyzing costs and space requirements. They are preparing a presentation to the Board on the schematic design on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Their next meeting is October 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:45 a.m.

Mrs. Wiessler thanked all of the organizations in Town for giving Dr. Freund such a warm welcome.

### **Success System Report**

Mr. Curtin provided the Board with an overview of the Success System Report. He outlined the performance data and an overview of district performance across both outcome and process measures. Mr. Curtin provided an overview including the trend data provided as well as the main categorization utilized in the report. He indicated his desire to include the Harris survey for the next budget cycle. Board members comments included a concern regarding poor attendance at Greenwich High School, a concern about inclusion of the Harris Survey, why minority student suspension data s being singled out, the need to look at a link between class absences and achievement. Other than CAPT Science, we have made little progress toward goals and our efforts have not been helping; how do we take this information and use it to improve student achievement?. Dr. Freund stressed the need to use disaggregated data to drill into results and provide an understanding as to what is working and to determine what adult actions need to be undertaken to achieve improved results.

### **Discussion of Glenville Relocation**

Dr. Wallerstein led the discussion regarding the relocation of Glenville from the modulars to their new building. She outlined what has to happen to enable a move over the Thanksgiving holiday. Mr. Bodson advised that the painting will be done this week, hand rails landscaping and paving, next week and exterior handrails on October 9.. The project passed the fire inspection and boiler room inspection, and FFE receipt is scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup>. They are hoping to avoid using the gym as a staging

location as to not damage the new floor. An update will be provided by Dr. Wallerstein at the October 8<sup>th</sup> Work Session.

### **Discussion on Level Services for the 2009-2010 Budget**

Dr. Wallerstein presented the level services budget. The budget was developed using current utility costs, with a 3% increase over 08-09 numbers, included the impact of adding 56 students projected over the 09-10 enrollment, projected certified salary costs based on current staffing, salary increases for other bargaining groups consistent with Town recommendations and all other accounts assuming a 3% inflationary adjustment, all of which are consistent with preliminary BET guidelines. Questions from the Board included concern with a 3% increase in utilities when the BET expected a decrease, the amount of salary savings and how comfortable we are with the number and how to capture savings on the modulars and on utilities, etc. in relation to Glenville School; Dr. Wallerstein advised the BET will vote on the guidelines in November.

### **Discussion of Fifteen Year Capital Plan**

Dr. Wallerstein presented the Fifteen Year Capital Plan for discussion to the Board noting a new iteration will be provided on October 22 which may include the impact of the facilities impact to be completed in October. Questions from the Board related to the North Street parking lot, concern about the number of roofs to be repaired, GHS carpets and tile, and renovation of the Central Middle School lockers and gym. It was recommended to move the Havemeyer A & E from plans the 2012-13 years into the 2013-14 plan. A question was also raised regarding whether or not the auditorium seating renovation at Central Middle School can be shared with the Town of Greenwich since they use the building monthly for RTM meetings.. As noted, the plan will return for review in October.

## **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

### **a. Action on BOE Response to BET on Draft Guidelines**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Dr. Ellis to approve the BOE Response to BET on Draft Guidelines as presented.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Dr. Ellis suggested that before any changes are made we need to be very clear on what the benefits are. It was stressed that these are guidelines with focus on fiscal discipline and control given the Town's possible revenue shortfall. Given last year's very tight budget, it was also noted that there was little room for further reductions from the level service budget.

**b. Action on Monthly Financial and Staffing Report**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Dr. Ellis to approve the monthly financial and staffing report.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**c. Action on Transfers of \$10,000 or more.**

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Queen and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the Transfers of \$10,000 or more.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**d. Action on Year End 6/30/09 Financial Report**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Ponns Cohen and seconded by Mrs. Moriarty to approve the Year End Financial Report.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**BOARD CONSENT AGENDA**

**a. Action on Secretary's Request to Approve Minutes of August 27, 2009**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Ponns Cohen and seconded by Mr. Bodson to approve the Minutes of August 27, 2009., adjusted for minor grammatical items corrected.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**Agenda Planning – Discussion of the 2009-2010 Agenda Plan**

The following item was added to the Agenda Plan:

Discussion of Student Rep to BOE  
Revisit of Harris Survey

November Work Session  
During Budget Discussions

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Dr. Ellis, the Board voted to go into Executive Session to discuss Board Self-Evaluation, Personnel Issues, and GOSA Negotiations at 9:10 p.m.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Moriarity, the Board returned to public session at 9:35p.m.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Queen and seconded by Mr. Anderson, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael C. Bodson  
Secretary