

## WORK SESSION OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

**DATE:** October 8, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Havemeyer Building

**PRESENT:**

**Board:** Mrs. Nancy Weissler, Chairman  
Mrs. Leslie Moriarty, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Michael Bodson, Secretary  
Mr. Steven B. Anderson  
Mr. Jonathan Cohen  
Mrs. Marianna Ponns Cohen  
Dr. Susan S. Ellis  
Ms. Natalie Queen

**Administration:**

Dr. Sidney Freund, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Ellen Flanagan, Director of Human Resources  
Dr. Susan Wallerstein, Asst. Superintendent, Business Operations  
Ms. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services  
Ms. Kim Eves, Director, Communications

**Other:**

Mrs. Sue Rogers, President, PTA Council; Ms. Cathy Delehanty, GEA President; Mrs. Theresa Stanton, Mrs. Nancy Kail and Mr. Peter Sherr, BOE Candidates; Mrs. Genny Krob, Mrs. Pam Speer, Mrs. Andrea Aaron, Mr. Neil Bouknight, GHS MISA Building Committee; Mrs. Paige Davis, Special Education Services; Mrs. Dana Evans, Old Greenwich School; Mrs. Camille Broderick, Greenwich High 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 Mrs. Weissler, Chairman at 7:05 p.m.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Mrs. Ponns Cohen to accept the revised Agenda.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Anderson provided the Board with an update on the GOSA arbitration, advising that the Arbitrators' final brief will be received by Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> and the Board will have to meet immediately thereafter so that a resolution can be delivered to the RTM for approval of the contract (via a vote not to reject).

### **1. Annual Enrollment Report**

Dr. Freund pointed out that as of September 30<sup>th</sup> K-12 enrollment was over projection by 171 students. The Board also discussed the lottery process for students in our magnet and Pre-K programs. It was noted that due to the high level of catchment area enrollment, there was only room for one magnet student in the Hamilton Avenue Kindergarten class. A request was made for data regarding the makeup of the Hamilton Avenue Kindergarten class.

### **2. Discussion of Superintendent's Goals and Professional Development for 2009-2010**

Mrs. Weissler and Dr. Freund presented the goals and professional development plans for the current year for the Superintendent. His goals will primarily be focused upon the development of interpersonal relationships that will lead to the confidence in his character and establishing the appropriate level of trust he seeks from staff, students and families in the district. The only specific topic area which was included in his goals was a review of the SPED program.

### **3. Discussion of Glenville Relocation Plan**

Dr. Freund discussed the possibilities regarding a move from the modulars to the renovated Glenville School. He advised that a move to the new building is still possible over the Thanksgiving break. Even though we will not be able to meet the October 16<sup>th</sup> TCO date, it is still possible to meet the November move date if the TCO is achieved by October 30 and the school and central administration are confident that the move can be achieved without any negative educational impact.

Inspections will be taking place on next Tuesday and Thursday of the HVAC, the electrical work and the plumbing. Final cleaning is being done and furniture is being delivered from long term storage. The gym floor may have to be re-finished and the building will need to be aired out prior to occupancy. Turner Construction, the construction manager, has advised it is acceptable to send Town employees into the building but non-Town employees are not to be allowed on the premises.

**4. Discussion of Monitoring Report E-020, Financial Management**

Dr. Wallerstein and Mr. Calcavecchio discussed the Financial Management Monitoring Report and the status of discussions with Town of Greenwich departments regarding shared services. This item will come back to the Board for action.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Ponn's Cohen and seconded by Dr. Ellis to move Item 8, Discussion of GHS MISA Schematic Design, and Item 9, Action on Request for Municipal Improvement Status for GHS MISA to be the next items to be discussed.

VOTE:           8 in favor, none opposed           MOTION CARRIED

**8. Discussion of GHS MISA Schematic Design**

Representatives from Perkins & Will, Turner Construction, and Mr. Joe Ross, Chairman of the GHS MISA Building Committee, presented an extensive and in-depth review of the project, its implications on issues such as parking, water runoff, lighting, traffic, building height and costs. At the current time, the most current cost estimate is approximately \$3.5 million over initial estimates on hard costs, \$960 thousand over on FF&E; with cost estimates including contingency levels of 12% all in. The Board discussed possible reductions or eliminations of parts of the project as a means of reducing the overall cost estimates. Mrs. Moriarty asked the Board to forward their questions/recommendations to her no later than Monday afternoon and she will revert with revised estimates and recommendations.

**9. Action on Request for Municipal Improvement Status for GHS MISA Project**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Mrs. Moriarty to Request Municipal Improvement Status for the GHS MISA Project.

VOTE:           8 in favor, none opposed           MOTION CARRIED

**6. First Reading, Monitoring Report L-040, Management of Resources**

Dr. Wallerstein & Mr. Calcavecchio provided an overview of L-040, Management of Resources. They responded to questions from the Board which had been submitted in advance; this item will come back to the Board for action on the Consent Agenda.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Ms. Queen to add 15 minutes to the meeting.

VOTE: 7 in favor, Mrs. Ponns Cohen  
abstained

MOTION CARRIED

## **7. First Reading, Revision to Policy E-001, Programs, Services and Curriculum**

Dr. Ellis presented a first reading of revisions to Policy E-001 to comply with recent changes in state regulations regarding the establishment of a Curriculum Committee. The revision will come back to the Board one more time for comments and then will be on the Consent Agenda at the November Board Meeting.

## **10. Preview of 2010-2011 Initiatives**

Dr. Freund advised the Board that he is not proposing any new initiatives that will impact next year's budget. He will focus on existing initiatives that address the Action Plan established by the GDDT. The costs associated in supporting existing initiatives are included in the level services budget.

## **11. Discussion of Recommendations for Building BOE/School Community Relations**

Ms. Eves led a discussion regarding recommendations for improving school/community relations. She advised that the PTA had created a list of all PTA events and suggested that each Board member attend a minimum of three events. She also suggested the Board hold an open Forum in the spring to include staff and community members. She stressed the Forum must be open to all. She ended by discussing her view of the necessity to include the Harris Survey in the upcoming budget.

## **12. Discussion of Board Self Evaluation**

Mrs. Weissler provided an overview of the Board Self-Evaluation, indicating the major areas of success and the major areas for prioritization and improvement. She also provided a summary of the various individuals who had been consulted during the evaluation process.

### **13. Review of 2009-2010 Agenda Plan**

The following were revisions to the Agenda Plan:

1. November Work Session                      Guidance Report
2. MISA MI Status & report                      Leslie will work with Kim on timing

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Ms. Queen to move into Executive Session at 9:17 p.m. to discuss Personnel Issues.

VOTE:            8 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mrs. Moriarty to move back into Public Session at 9:35 p.m.

VOTE:            8 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Cohen to adjourn at 9:36 p.m.

VOTE:            8 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Michael C. Bodson  
Secretary