

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: November 19, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Hamilton Avenue School

PRESENT:

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

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. Christina Russell, Mrs. Bianca Kortlan-Cox, Mrs. Bonnie Novek, PTA Council; Mrs. Donna Maloney, Mrs. Faith Sweeney, Mrs. Laura DiBella, Mrs. Deborah Cline, Mrs. Alison Radzin, Mr. Mike Reilly, Ms. Nancy Carbone, Interim Principal, Hamilton Avenue School; Ms. Katie Bennett, Mrs. Bonnie Edwards, Mrs. Lisa Davidson, Dr. Gaetane Francis, Mrs. Alexandra Smith, Mrs. Jenny-Dee Weedon, Mrs. Kathy Walker, Ms. Liesbeth Carballo, ALP; Mrs. Maria Santillana, Mrs. Jeanette Rincon, Ms. Seriday Noneodo, PEP; 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 approve the revised Agenda.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

INDUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Carmella Budkins, Town Clerk, administered the oath of office to Ms. Nancy Kail, and Mr. Peter Sherr, our newly elected Board Members, and Mr. Steven Anderson and Mrs. Leslie Moriarty.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Bodson placed the name of Mr. Steven B. Anderson in nomination for the office of Chairman of the Board of Education. There were no other nominations. The Board voted in ballots.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

Ms. Queen placed the name of Mrs. Leslie Moriarty in nomination for the office of Vice-Chairman of the Board of Education. There were no other nominations. The Board voted in ballots.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

Mrs. Moriarty placed the name of Mr. Michael Bodson in nomination for the office of Secretary of the Board of Education. There were no other nominations. The Board voted in ballots.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

All ballots are on file in the Board office.

Reports/Comments

Dr. Freund advised the Board regarding the appointment of Shelly Somers as Principal of Central Middle School and the welcome breakfast held for her when she came to visit the school as well as to meet with the PTA. She will be starting in the position on January 1st. He also advised that Glenville School will be opening right after Thanksgiving. He went on to note that the GDDT met on Tuesday and reviewed individual school's assessment data and identified areas of focus. They will meet again on December 14th. A supplier of the Student Information System has been chosen; further information regarding the selection will be reported shortly. They are also working on aligning SEL with the Vision of the Graduate.

Mrs. Sue Rogers, PTA Council President, congratulated Mrs. Moriarty and Mr. Anderson for their re-election to the Board and welcomed Mrs. Kail and Mr. Sherr, new Board members. She thanked Dr. Freund and the Cabinet for the thoroughness of the proposed budget. She then commented on the Strategic School Profile Report but indicated elements such as demographics and dollars, indicators of educational need, charts of staffing, teachers' tenure and qualifications were not reflective of the true quality and personality of the schools. She address the fact that schools act as the center of our neighborhoods and focal point for much of our communities and therefore play an important role that goes beyond that which is described by the SSP. She went on to commend the Board for the inclusion of student communication in the Board Meeting process and their inclusion in the Headmaster interview process.

Mrs. Cathy Delehanty, GEA President, congratulated the re-elected Board members as well as welcomed new members. She spoke about visiting classrooms and teachers and participating on the District Data Team. She noted Dr. Freund's support of teachers in the decision making process.

Public Hearing

The following people spoke at the Public Hearing:

William Newberry GHS student, spoke regarding opportunities for student involvement.

Mrs. Bonnie Novek and Mrs. Christina Russell, ALP parents, spoke on the Reading Monitoring Report noting positively the utilization of the school-wide Enrichment model and Renzulli models in the general classroom.

Mrs. Ana Valencia spoke to the Board regarding Diabetes prevention.

Mrs. Angela Valentine spoke about the achievement gap and the fact that Connecticut is among the widest in the nation. Many community coalitions are focused on assisting parents on helping their children. She then invited all to a community forum on November 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at Adams Gardens; Dr. Freund and Ms. Queen both will be in attendance.

Ms. Taylor Dawson and Ms. Annina Kull, GHS students spoke about conditions at ARCH and the need for more space for students.

Ms. Colleen Bennett requested that Third Grade Interdisciplinary be added back into the budget

Ms. Kati Bennett requested that Third Grade Interdisciplinary Science program for ALP be added back into the budget.

Dr. Gaetane Francis requested that Third Grade Interdisciplinary Science program for ALP be added k into the budget.

Ms. Queen recognized the PEP parents that were in attendance and Angela Valentine specifically for acting as spokesperson.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT/SHARING INFORMATION

Reports of Officers, Committees and Liaisons

Mr. Bodson reported that there would be one more meeting of the Glenville School Building Committee. They will be moving in on December 1st, on time and under budget, He advised that the names on the plaque would include past and present members of the Building Committee, BoE Chairmen during the project, Dr. Freund, Dr. Wallerstein, Mr. Byrne and Mr. DeMarco, PTA presidents as representatives of the community, and the Architectural and Construction Management Firms.

Mrs. Moriarty advised that the MISA project application has been filed with the Planning & Zoning Department and will be filed with Wetlands in December. They are finishing

the schematic design and have commenced the design and development phase. The next meeting is December 1st at 7:30 a.m.

First Reading, 2010-2011 Board Meeting Calendar

Ms. Eves presented the first reading of the 2010-2011 Board Meeting Calendar. The Board discussed the possibility of removing the August 26th meeting and having the first meeting after the first of September. Because that would create three Board Meetings in the month of September, that suggestion was dismissed. The Calendar will come back to the December 17th Meeting for action.

First Reading, 2011-2012 School Calendar

Dr. Freund presented the 2011-2012 School Calendar. In response to a question, it was determined that the PTA Council and the GEA had not had any input into the proposal being brought forward. Comments from the Board related to the early start date and a suggestion to move the February break to the week of the 13th instead of the week of the 20th. Mr. Anderson polled the Board and the majority of the Board supporting moving the Winter Break to the week of February 13th. It was also suggested that September 1st be the first day of school. This revised item will return to the Board at the December 17th meeting. Dr. Flanagan also advised the Board that the 2010-2011 School Calendar will also return to the Board for revision due to addition of collaborative days.

Strategic School Profiles Report

Mr. Curtin presented the Strategic School Profiles Report, which is a administrative statutory requirement to file. A report was made going forward to redline from one year to the next for easier determination of trend. Edits to the narrative section of the reports around the District's efforts to address racial balance were suggested. A discussion was held regarding over the veracity of a phrase on Page 2 of the report which indicated that the presence of neighborhood schools contributed to the issue of racial imbalance. Mrs. Ponns Cohen disagreed with the comment while Mr. Bodson concurred with it. It was noted that the report was a submission of the Administration and not of the Board

(no Board approval needed) however Mr. Curtin will take it into consideration whether a different phrasing should be utilized.

Update on Modulars

Dr. Wallerstein reported on the results of a second RFP to remove and/or demolish the modulars on site at Western Middle School. The first RFP which sought to have the modulars be removed at no cost in return for the winning firm gaining possession of the modular units resulted in no responses. A second option to simply have the modulars removed was put out to RFP and 4 responses received. The estimated cost will be in the vicinity of \$300 thousand and will need to be added into the CIP proposal for the BoE. The Board added an item to the 12/2 Work Session to take action on demolishing and removing the modulars, and restoring the property at Western.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Action on Monitoring Report E-003, Reading

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Queen and seconded by Mr. Bodson to approve Monitoring Report E-003, Reading.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. Moriarty asked that additional information regarding impact on budget and staffing on schools should be included in future Monitoring Reports.

Action on Opportunities for Student Involvement

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Mrs. Moriarty to approve the the following recommendations which aim to increase the level of GHS student involvement with the Board of Education.

- 1, Inclusion of a Student representative on the GHS Headmaster search committee initial phase.
2. Student Representative segment during Report/Comment period at regular Board Meetings.
3. Attendance by Superintendent and designated Board Member with the Executive Board of GHS Student Council at its monthly meetings.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Action on Monthly Financial and Staffing Report

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

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Action on Resolution to Amend Greenwich Public Schools 403(b) Retirement Plan Document

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Ponns Cohen and seconded by Mr. Cohen to approve the resolution to amend GPS 403(b) Retirement Plan Document.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **Action on Secretary's Request to Approve Minutes of October 8 and October 22, 2009**
- b. **Action on Policy E-001, Programs, Services and Curriculum**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Ponns Cohen and seconded by Ms. Queen to approve the Minutes of October 8 and October 22, 2009.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Agenda Planning – Discussion of the 2009-2010 Agenda Plan

The following item was added to the Agenda Plan:

Decision on Modularity	December Work Session
2010-2011 Calendar Revision	December 17 th Meeting

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Mrs. Moriarty, the Board voted to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Issues at 8:45 p.m.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Moriarity, the Board returned to public session at 9:05p.m.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Moriarity, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael C. Bodson
Secretary