

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: December 17, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Greenwich High School

PRESENT:

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

Administration:

Dr. Sidney Freund, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Ellen Flanagan, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Susan Wallerstein, Asst. Superintendent, Business
Mr. John Curtin, Special Projects Manager
Mr. Rich Calcavecchio, Director, Budget and Systems
Ms. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services
Ms. Kim Eves, Director, Communications
Mr. Richard Calcavecchio, Director, Budget & Systems
Ms. Regina Williams, Interim Director, Human Resources

Other:

Mrs. Cathy Delehanty, GEA; Mrs. Sue Rogers, Mrs. Rianne Fernandez Staps, Mrs. Christina Russell, Mrs. Leslie Breck, Mrs. Bianca Kortlan-Cox, Mrs. Bonnie Novek, PTA Council; Mrs. Cynthia Kirk, Mrs. Sarah McEvoy, Mrs. L. B. Savitz, Mrs. Lynn Arezzini, Mrs. Odetta Clark, Mrs. Philippa Orszulak, Mrs. Kristen Kratky, Mrs. Suzanne Cincotti, Mr. Alonso Martinez, Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, Mrs. Pat Ferris, Mr. Jack Appelbaum, Mr. Wililam Newberry, Mrs. Brittany Garrett, Mrs. Paige Davis, Mrs. Claire Gordon, Mrs. Diane Corbo, Mrs. D Rabellini, Mrs. Ellen Morrison, Mrs. Margaret Santhanam, Mrs. Meghan Santhanem, Mrs. Beth Auch, Mr. Vincent Annunziata, Greenwich High School; Mr. Larry Simon, Mr. Steve Walko, BET; Mr. Bill Bambrick, Mr. Bob Lichtenfeld, Mrs. Susan Fahey, Ms. Kim Blank, Mr. Randall Huffman, Ms. Char Barnes, Mrs. Mary Jacobson, RTM; Mr. Colin Gustafson, 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 Mr. Anderson, Chairman, at 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Chris Winters, Interim Headmaster of Greenwich High School, welcomed the Board members and presented four students who spoke about their experiences in the school community. Each came from different backgrounds, and each explained their varied interests and experiences at the high school.

RECOGNITION OF DR. SUSAN WALLERSTEIN

The following people spoke in congratulations and thanks to Dr. Wallerstein for her dedicated service to the Board of Education and enumerated on all of the projects that have come to fruition due to her efforts.

Mr. Steven Anderson, Board Chairman
Dr. Sidney Freund, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. David Theis, Selectman
Mr. Larry Simon, Board of Estimate & Taxation
Mrs. Sue Rogers, PTA Council President
Mrs. Angela Schmidt, GOSA Co-President
Ms. Cathy Delehanty, GEA President
Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, Greenwich Alliance President
Cabinet Members

Dr. Freund pointed out that he has not been able to find a replacement for Dr. Wallerstein and she has kindly agreed to stay on until the end of January.

Reports/Comments

Dr. Freund wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Mrs. Sue Rogers, PTA Council President thanked Dr. Freund for his approach to the budget and his focus on our children. She thanked him and Dr. Flanagan for visiting every school in the district and thus not only did they talk the talk, they walked the walk of learning about our children and walking the halls of our schools and seeing their educational experience first hand. She advised that the Board and Superintendent would be hearing from parents of students who populate the two extremes of the learning spectrum, ALP and SPED, regarding how their needs are not being addressed. She applauded the efforts to investigate bringing IB to the middle schools, and thanked the Board for their responsiveness to parents' concerns and questions.

Ms. Cathy Delehanty, GEA President, thanked the Board, Superintendent and Central Office staff for their tireless work on the budget. She addressed the school calendar and the importance of the additional day added at the beginning of the school year and the early release days for professional learning. She expressed concern about the vacation week coming before Presidents Day.

William Newberry, GHS Student Government President, and Jack Applebaum, Senior Class President, thanked the Board for allowing them a time-slot on the agenda to speak at all regular BOE meetings. They explained the goals and structure of the student government and how it operates. They explained how one of their initiatives has been to decrease the amount of garbage left in the student center. They advised that since this initiative was started, they have cut the amount of garbage by 50%. They are also working on increasing school spirit and connectedness. They are organizing House Olympics and have brought issues from the students to the administration including school facilities, bathrooms being unclean and out of date, food service offerings and quality, and request for AP Economics to be an additional social studies course at GHS.

PUBLIC HEARING

The following people spoke at the Public Hearing:

Mrs. Cynthia Kirk addressed her serious concerns about the services provided to SPED students at Greenwich High School.

Mrs. Lynn Arezzini also addressed how her autistic son, who previously had progressed very well in school, has regressed dramatically since his arrival at GHS.

Mrs. Suzanne Cincotta also addressed her concerns about the services provided to SPED students at GHS focusing on what she deemed to be ineffective collaboration and modifications to his individual plans.

Mrs. Lisa Beth Savitz spoke in support of the North Street School Gift Cap Waiver.

Mrs. Philippa Orszulak spoke in regards to SPED and explained that her son had to be out placed because of issues her family had with the delivery of SPED services.

Mrs. Christina Russell and Mrs. Bonnie Novek, ALP Chairs, thanked the Administration and Board for listening to them regarding their concerns over ALP Interdisciplinary.

Mrs. Danielle Rebolino, addressed SPED at GHS and stressed the urgency of implementing the Task Force for SPED as soon as possible.

Mr. Bill Bambrick, District 12 RTM, supports the ALP and IB program and supports the Board moving forward with improvements.

Mrs. Diane Corba addressed SPED at GHS and the method of staffing for paraprofessionals noting that she believed teachers should have more flexibility in staffing.

Mrs. Donna Curtis, address SPED and supported the request to implement the Task Force for SPED.

Ellen Morrison, addressed SPED at the high school citing issues her son, who has dyslexia, had with his interaction with school staff.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT/SHARING INFORMATION

Reports of Officers, Committees and Liaisons

Mrs. Moriarty advised that the GHS MISA Building Committee had met and voted on approval of the schematics and they are now moving into the design development. They have filed the schematics with the Land Use agency.

Mr. Bodson advised that the Glenville Building Committee will meet one more time in January to close out the project finances.

Discussion of Facilities Audit

Dr. Wallerstein and Mr. Byrne, Director of Facilities, presented the Board with a report on the recently conducted Facilities Audit. The audit report is used to update the Administration on both short term maintenance issues and to inform the fifteen year capital improvement plan.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

a. Action on 2010-2011 Board of Education Operating Budget

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Mr. Bodson to approve the Superintendent's proposed 2010-2011 Operating budget of \$131,559,261.

AMENDMENTS

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Ponns Cohen and seconded by Mr. Bodson to amend the budget to eliminate the swimming program at Hamilton Avenue School for a reduction of \$37,832.

VOTE: 7 in favor, Ms. Queen abstained MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Mr. Cohen to amend the budget to increase elementary academic spending by \$37,832 to enhance Science Education at Hamilton Avenue School.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mrs. Ponns Cohen to amend the budget to lower utility expenses by \$285,000 (Account 226).

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Queen and seconded by Ms. Kail to amend the budget to increase funding for additional Smartboard installations by \$100,000 (Accts. 314-1, 405 and 410).

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Kail and seconded by Ms. Queen to amend the budget to increase funding for professional development for expansion of IB training and program by \$135,000.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Mr. Cohen to approve the 2010-2011 Superintendent's Recommended Budget, as amended, in the amount of \$131,509,261.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Action on 2010-2011 Food Services Budget

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Sherr and seconded by Ms. Queen to approve the Food Services Budget in the amount of \$3,854,356.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Action on 2010-2011 Board Meeting Calendar

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Cohen to approve the 2010-2011 Board Meeting Calendar.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

Action on Revision to 2010-2011 School Calendar

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Kail and seconded by Mrs. Ponns Cohen to approve the Revised 2010-2011 School Calendar.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

Action on 2011-2012 School Calendar

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mrs. Ponns Cohen to approve the 2011-2012 School Calendar.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

Action to Authorize Application for School Construction Grant for GHS MISA Project

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Ponns Cohen and seconded by Ms. Queen to authorize the Administration to file a State application for a school construction grant for the GHS MISA Project.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

Action on Use of Hearing Officer for Expulsions

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mrs. Ponns Cohen to approve the continued use of Hearing officers for Expulsion Hearings when a Board panel cannot be convened.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

This decision will be reviewed by the Board at the December Meeting every year.

Action on Gift Cap Waiver for North Street PTA

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Ms. Queen to approve the gift cap waiver for North Street PTA.

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 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 Ms. Queen and seconded by Mr. Cohen to approve the Transfers of \$10,000 or more.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

Action on Secretary's Request to Approve Minutes of November 5 and November 12, 2009

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Ponns Cohen and seconded by Ms. Queen to approve the Minutes of November 5 and November 12, 2009.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Action on Monitoring Report E-003 – Mathematics

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Ms. Queen to approve Monitoring Report E-003 – Mathematics.

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:

Use of Hearing Officer for Expulsions	Reviewed at December Bd. Mtg. Annually
Board Retreat	January 9 th

The Board stated they would like to continue the discussion of issues at Greenwich High School at the March Board Meeting, It was also requested that an overview and status report on the current ALP program be provided in advance of the ALP review. Dr. Freund advised that paperwork would be forthcoming in regard to the January 9th Board Retreat.

Upon motion duly made by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Cohen, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m...

Respectfully submitted,

Michael C. Bodson
Secretary