

BUDGET MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

TIME: November 14, 2002, 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Greenwich High School Media Center

PRESENT:

Board: Mrs. Sandra N. Waters, Chairman
Mrs. Susan M. Anderson, Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Colleen Giambo, Secretary
Mr. J. Robert Carey
Ms. Virginia Gwynn
Mr. William G. Kelly
Mr. Steven H. LoParco
Mr. Paul Toretta

Administration:

Dr. Herbert F. Pandiscio, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Maria M. Melendez, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services
Mr. Frederick Baker, Director of Operations
Mr. John Spang, Assistant Director, Business

Other: Mrs. Lorraine Smario, Mrs. Patricia Nusbaum, Mrs. Dora Williams, Mrs. Leslie Moriarty, Mrs. Kathy Rizzo, Mrs. Lauren Rabin, Mrs. Paige Davis, PTA Council; Mrs. Joanne Zammit, GEA; Mrs. Kathryn Guimard, BET; Mrs. David Elkind, North Street School; Mr. Robert Brady, RTM; Mrs. Cathy Weisenburger, Central Middle School; Mr. Steve Anderson, Mrs. Sandy Santmanam, New Lebanon; Mrs. Jane Sims, North Mianus, Mrs. Marlene Gilbert, Glenville School; representatives from Greenwich Time and other media services. A complete list of attendees is available in the Superintendent's Office.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Waters, Chairman, at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Pandiscio introduced the Greenwich Public School Superintendent's 2003-2004 budget. He first discussed the Board of Estimate and Taxation's Guidelines for preparation of 2003-2004 budgets, which instruct town agencies to reduce spending, leave open positions unfilled, and not to include new initiatives unless they are offset by reductions in spending. These Guidelines were prepared with the objective of holding the increase in the mill rate to 3% or less. The Board of Estimate and Taxation calculated that if the school budget were prepared on a continuation basis, including additional teachers for enrollment increases and the teachers' contractual salary increase, the school budget increase would total \$101,569,000. Their instructions were to "cap" the budget at \$98,897,000. The difference between the "continuation" budget and the "capped" budget was estimated by the BET to be \$2,672,000.

The Board of Education's instructions regarding the school budget were for Dr. Pandiscio to find efficiencies, maintain excellence in the school system, and to move forward on those initiatives that the Board of Education believes will continue to enhance and improve our school system. The resulting proposed budget totaled \$99,946,881, a 4.8% increase over the 2002-2003 approved budget.

Dr. Pandiscio discussed elements included in the budget regarding Greenwich High School's Long Range Plan, including phasing in a 5th house to maintain the current level of services to incoming high school students. Some other elements called for in the Plan were deferred, although student/teacher ratios remained constant. An addition of elementary foreign language to another elementary school was also included in the proposal.

The curriculum reviews anticipated in 2003-2004 are not expected to require textbook purchases at the prior year's level, resulting in some relative savings. A \$400,000 reduction of salary expense was made to adjust for anticipated retirements of experienced teachers and replacements at a lower salary level. Deferred plans included the remainder of the Greenwich High School Long Range Plan of \$795,506, special needs requests of \$573,242, and capital projects under \$25,000 of \$146,050, totaling \$1,514,798.

Dr. Pandiscio ended his presentation with an analysis of per student costs, including a comparison with other Southwest Fairfield County districts.

Mrs. Waters announced that the Board will discuss the Superintendent's Budget at the next budget meeting, and that questions should be submitted in writing before the meeting. The next budget meeting will be held on November 25. Questions may also be submitted by members of the public. The deadline for submitting questions, which can be faxed or emailed, is Monday, November 18. There will be a public hearing at the meeting after the discussion.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent Search.

The Executive Session was adjourned into Public Session at 9:40 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Giambo
Secretary