

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

TIME: December 9, 2002, 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Board Room, Havemeyer Building

PRESENT:

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

Absent: Mr. J. Robert Carey

Administration:

Dr. Maria Melendez, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. John Curtin, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services
Mr. Frederick Baker, Director of Operations
Mr. John Spang, Assistant Director, Business

Other:

Ms. Allison Kural, Ms. Linda Werdmolder, Ms. Hillary Hoffmeister, Ms. Mary Helen Morris, Mr. Donald Van Rhyn, Ms. Susan Foster, Riverside School; Mrs. Leslie Moriarty, Mrs. Lorraine Smario, Mrs. Dora Williams, PTA Council; Mr. Bob Stone, BET; Mr. Medard Thomas, GEA; Mr. Neil Ritter, Mrs. Marlene Gilbert, Glenville School; Mr. Ivan Golden, Greenwich Time; Mr. Ken Borsuk, Greenwich News and others. An attendance list is on file in the Superintendent's Office.

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

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT NOVEMBER 25, 2002 MEETING

Dr. Melendez presented answers to questions from the November 25th meeting. Once question was regarding ways in which the budget might be reduced in order to bring the schools' budget closer to the BET's "capped" budget, designed to limit a mill rate increase to 3%. Dr. Melendez presented a table of proposed reductions,

which fell into two categories: further efficiencies and reductions in service. The further efficiencies included a reduction in “floating” athletic coaches; a change in hiring practices of substitutes for paraprofessionals; a reduction in funds for consultant hires; and a 2.5% reduction in base allocation from all programs and schools. The reductions in service related to a shift in the assignment of special education aides, lowering the number needed; reduced staffing for middle school classroom teachers, increasing the student teacher ratio from 14.5% to 14.7%; a reduction in PPS certified staff by 2.5 people; a reduction in certified support staff by 2.5 people; a reduction in middle and high school late buses from four to three times a week; a further reduction in base allocation; and reduced stipends for learning facilitators or teacher coaches. Included in the budget would be an addition of \$116,000 for the first phase of implementation of the foreign language plan. If the Board of Education were to approve a 2003-2004 that included these proposed reductions, the resulting total budget amount would be below \$98,897,000, which is the amount of the “capped” budget established by the BET.

The purpose of this meeting was for budgetary considerations only. The Board will vote on the budget at its December 19th meeting. The Board members indicated that they would like to have more information on the suggested cuts and directed Dr. Melendez to continue to explore further efficiencies in the budget.

Dr. Melendez included a lengthy discussion about the implementation plan for the elementary foreign language program and an indication that the plan and implementation schedule would be on the December 19th Board Agenda.

Congratulations were given by the Board to Dr. Melendez for her diligence in working with the budget to get the numbers within the BET guidelines.

PUBLIC HEARING

The following people spoke at the public hearing:

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| Mr. Don Van Ryn | Riverside parent in favor of accelerating the elementary foreign language plan |
| Mr. Bob Stone | BET member indicating that the Board should be aware there was still a greater differential between the Superintendent’s budget, including the proposed cuts, and the BET’s “capped” budget, than the Board members thought |
| Mr. John Macri | New Lebanon and WMS parent re cuts in base allocation |

Mrs. Leslie Moriarty Central Middle School parent stating that cutting after-school buses would be counter to parents' wishes for expanded after-school opportunities, according to middle school survey

Mrs. Maureen Smith Riverside School parent, re her support of the FLES program.

ACTION ON APPROVAL OF STUDENT LEARNER GOALS

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Toretta and seconded by Mrs. Giambo to approve the Student Learner Goals for 2003-2004.

VOTE: 6 in favor, none opposed,
Mr. Toretta abstained MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Toretta's abstention had to do with the wording of the Science Goal.

ACTION ON APPROVAL OF FOOD SERVICES BUDGET FOR 2003-04

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Giambo to approve the Food Services budget for 2003-2004.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mrs. Anderson, the meeting adjourned into Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent Search.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Executive Session adjourned into Public Session at 10:30 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Meeting was adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Giambo
Secretary