

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

**TIME:** November 21, 2002, 7:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** International School at Dundee

**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. Paul A. Toretta  
Mr. Stephen H. LoParco

**Administration:**

Dr. Maria M. Melendez, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
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:**

Mrs. Lorraine Smario, President; Mrs. Kathy Rizzo, Mrs. Dora Williams, Mrs. Paige Davis, Mrs. Leslie Moriarty, Mrs. Patte Nussbaum, PTA Council; Mrs. Joanne Zammit, President, GEA; Dr. Sandra Mond, Mr. John Grasso, Mr. Frank Arnone, Mrs. Geraldine Petrizzi, Principals; Mrs. Amy Denton, Old Greenwich; Mrs. Anne Hoffman, Mrs. Isabel Rodriguez, Greenwich High School; Mrs. Doreen Florence, Mrs. Keiko Hayashida, Mrs. Catherine Goff, Mrs. Connie Figgie, Mrs. Michele Graham, Mr. & Mrs. Rich Catalano, Mrs. Jackie Welsh, Mrs. Mia Weinberg, Mrs. Jeanmarie Sondag, Mr. Doug Fainelli, Principal, International School at ; Mr. Ivan Golden, Greenwich Time and various members of the press. An attendance list is on file in the Superintendent's Office.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Waters, Chairman, at 7:30 p.m.

## **STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION**

Mrs. Barbara O'Neill, Program Coordinator for ALP, presented John Hopkins awards to the following students for their exceptional scoring on the SAT tests:

Katherine Hoffman  
Nashoba Santhanam

Mrs. Waters presented awards from CAFE for the Greenwich Public Schools and for excellence in the Website to:

Kim Eves  
Chris DiAngelo

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no speakers at the Public Hearing.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL COMMENTS**

Mrs. Lorraine Smario welcomed Dr. Melendez to the position of Interim Superintendent of Schools and addressed the hard work done by all of the School Improvement Teams throughout the District. She hoped their work would have some impact on future plans for the schools.

Mrs. Joanne Zammit spoke on the challenges facing Dr. Melendez and the changes in the schools, especially in the elementary schools delivering the new curriculum. She referred to a need for the Long Range Planning and Curriculum Study Committees to call a moratorium on new initiatives, so that the staff, including the new Superintendent, can focus their attention on the current business of the district.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS, SUPERINTENDENT AND COMMITTEES**

### **Board Chairman**

Mrs. Waters expressed her pleasure that Dr. Melendez has agreed to accept the position of Interim Superintendent of Schools during the Board's search for a new Superintendent. Mrs. Waters expressed the Board's complete confidence in Dr. Melendez' ability and integrity and is pleased to have here in this vital role.

Mrs. Waters also stated that the Board is moving forward to facilitate its efforts in the Superintendent search and turned further comment over to Mrs. Anderson.

Mrs. Anderson gave a status report on the work of the working group that was formed to focus on the superintendent search and stated that she is pleased with the progress. The candidates identified through the search have excellent qualifications, verified through Internet research and checking with local newspapers in their areas.

### **Curriculum Study Committee**

Ms. Gwynn advised that the Curriculum Study Committee will be meeting on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at Greenwich High School and will hold a public hearing to receive community input on the Elementary Foreign Language Program proposal and the third elementary magnet school proposal,

### **Facilities Committee**

Mr. Carey gave a recap of the Facilities Committee meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>. The committee approved a list of capital improvement projects to be submitted for review by the Town Capital Projects Committee in conjunction with the review of other Town capital projects. There will be a meeting on December 18 to discuss the proposal of artificial turf at Greenwich High School.

### **Long Range Planning Committee**

Mrs. Anderson stated that the last Long Range Planning Committee had not met since the last Board meeting.

### **Policy Committee**

Mr. Kelly stated that there had been no meeting of the Policy Committee since the last Board Meeting. The next meeting of the Policy Committee will be on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Melendez thanked the Board for their vote of confidence in her as the new Interim Superintendent of School. She is very pleased to serve in this capacity for the Board.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Action on Adjustment to 2003-2004 School Calendar**

The State of Connecticut has changed the CAPT Testing for next year and as a result, the April spring vacation dates had to be changed.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Gwynn to approve the adjustment to the 2003-2004 School Calendar, as presented.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

### **B. Action on Administrative Recommendations**

Dr. Melendez explained to the Board the need to reorganize the administrative structure and combine the position of Assistant Superintendent and Coordinator of Research and Evaluation. This would mean a reduction of one administrative position and one secretarial position.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Toretta and seconded by Mr. Carey to approve the Administrative Reorganization Recommendations, as submitted.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

### **C. Action on Appointment of Assistant Superintendent**

Dr. Melendez made a statement regarding the qualifications of Mr. John Curtin for the newly approved position of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Research & Evaluation.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Anderson and seconded by Mr. LoParco to approve the appointment of Mr. John Curtin to the position of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Research & Evaluation.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

#### **D. Action on Formation of Board Search Committee**

Mrs. Waters explained that the unofficial working group of Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Toretta and Ms. Gwynn, who had been working with the consultant searching for superintendent candidates, needed to become a fully recognized Board Committee.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Toretta and seconded by Mrs. Giambo to approve the formation of the Board Search Committee.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

#### **E. Action on Request to Waive Proposal/Bidding Requirement to Contract for Professional Research Services**

A consultant had been hired on an hourly basis to supplement superintendent search efforts. In order to provide continuity, it was proposed that the consultant continue on the same basis through the remainder of the search and that the bidding requirement to contract for professional research services be waived.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Carey and seconded by Mr. Kelly to waive proposal/bidding requirement to contract for professional research services.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

#### **F. Action on Approval of Fifth House at Greenwich High School**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Toretta and seconded by Mrs. Anderson

to conceptually approve a two-year phase-in of the Fifth House at Greenwich High School.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**G. Action on Formation of Board Naming Committee**

There are several requests on file in the Superintendent's Office with regard to naming of the Fifth House, and for rooms in other buildings. In order to deal with these requests under Board Policy, this committee needed to be formed.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Carey and seconded by Mrs. Anderson to approve the formation of the Board Naming Committee.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. Giambo will chair this committee and Mr. LoParco and Mr. Kelly will also serve, along with various other constituencies, in accordance with the Policy and accompanying Regulation.

**H. Action on Policy 6112, Instruction, School Day**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Toretta to approve Policy 6112, Instruction, School Day.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**I. Action on Policy 6121.1, Instruction, Equal Educational Opportunity**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Gwynn to approve Policy 6121.1, Instruction, Equal Educational Opportunity.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**J. Action on Policy 6130, Instruction, Organizational Plan**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. LoParco to approve Policy 6130, Instruction, Organizational Plan.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**K. Action on Policy 6141.31, Instruction, ESL/English As A Second Language**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Anderson to approve Policy 6141.31, Instruction, ESL/English As A Second Language.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**L. Action on Policy 6144, Instruction, Controversial Issues**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. LoParco to approve Policy 6144, Instruction, Controversial Issues.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**M. Action on Policy 6145.6, Instruction, Travel and Exchange Programs**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Gwynn to approve Policy 6145.6, Instruction, Travel and Exchange Programs.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**N. Action on Policy 6145.51, Instruction, National Honor Society**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Carey to approve Policy 6145.51, Instruction, National Honor Society.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**O. Action on Policy 6146.2, Instruction, Statewide Proficiency/Mastery**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Anderson to approve Policy 6146.2, Instruction, Statewide Proficiency/Mastery.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**P. Action on Policy 6161.3, Instruction, Comparability of Services**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Carey to approve Policy 6161.3, Instruction, Comparability of Services.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**Q. Action on Policy 6162.31, Instruction, Test Exclusions/Adaptations**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Gwynn to approve Policy 6162.31, Instruction, Test Exclusions/Adaptations.

**AMENDMENT**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Giambo and seconded by Mr. Kelly to amend the wording after "Connecticut Alternative Assessment" to say, "most recent edition" and delete the words "7<sup>th</sup> edition, 2000".

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

**VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION**

8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

**R. Action on Policy 6164.11, Instruction, Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Toretta to approve Policy 6164.11, Instruction, Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. First Reading, Board Meeting Calendar for 2003-2004**

A First Reading on the Board Meeting Calendar for 2003-04 was held. The Board consensus is that they would like the first Board Meeting of the year to be held on September 4<sup>th</sup>, which is also the first school day of the year. Also they requested the Board Secretary to determine when and where the CAFE/CAPSS convention would be held next November. They also requested that the meeting calendar be coordinated with the RTM schedule so that Board meetings and RTM district meetings do not fall on the same days during the budget season. Also, they asked for the Board Budget Meetings to be included in the Calendar. The Calendar will be brought back to the Board at the next meeting.

**B. Report on School Improvement Teams**

There was an extended discussion related to the School Improvement Team reports. There were several recommendations and comments from the Board:

1. What action gets taken regarding the recommendations from the School Improvement Team Reports?

2. The format of the reports should be more consistent and accessible through an executive summary, which would include conclusions, goals, and recommendations.
3. There should be clarity in whether recommendations by the SITs should be directed to the administration for action or to the Board for long-term planning.

### **C. Gift Report**

Mr. Baker reviewed the gift report with the Board. Mr. Kelly suggested quarterly reporting of projected numbers was not necessary, but that the projections should be provided at the beginning of the school year, and a year-end report should be provided at the end of the school year with actual numbers.

### **D. Monthly Financial Report**

The Board requested Mr. Spang to provide a report on staff turnover and its impact.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no speakers at the second Public Hearing.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Carey, the meeting was adjourned into Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent Search.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Executive Session was adjourned into Public Session at 11:00 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Giambo

Secretary