

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

**TIME:** December 19, 2002, 7:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** Greenwich High School

**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

**Absent:** Mr. Paul Toretta

**Administration:**

Dr. Maria M. Melendez, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. John P. 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. Leslie Moriarty, PTA Council; Mrs. Joanne Zammit, President, Mrs. Rae Baczek, GEA; Mr. Ray Hamilton, Dr. Elaine Bessette, Principal, Mr. Alan Capasso, Assistant Principal, Mrs. Deborah Loebelsen, Mrs. Patty Aser, Greenwich High School; Mr. George Von Tobel, Mrs. Kathy Derene, Hamilton Avenue School; Ms. Nancy Carbone, Mrs. Patricia Miatas, Mrs. Jill Kelly, Mrs. Catherine Ingalls, Mr. Tim Callahan, Julian Curtiss School; Mr. Bob Stone, BET; Mr. Steve Anderson, New Lebanon School; 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 7:36 p.m.

### **STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION**

The following students were recognized as National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists:

Julie S. Hunter  
Anne Waters  
Giancarlo Nucci  
Michelle Sages  
Sarah Colombo  
Christopher Lawler  
Jeremiah Lowin  
April Nizlek  
Rebecca Wilbanks

The following students were recognized as AP Scholars:

Clifford Horton  
Erika Kaneko  
Benoit Lamairesse  
Eve Land  
Christopher Lawler  
April Nizlek  
Javed Qadsun-Din

Ms. Julie Hunter was recognized as an AP Scholar with Honor and Alexander Mittal was recognized as an AP Scholar with Distinction.

Craig D'Andrea was recognized for placing fourth in the nation in the Electronic Music Competition at the Music Educators 2002 National Conference.

Mr. Ray Hamilton, Science Teacher at GHS, was recognized for being placed on USA Today's 2002 Second Academic Team for achievement in Science.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Due to the length of the agenda and the number of other issues that the Board has been dealing with, Mrs. Waters recommended that the Election of Officer be put off until the January meeting.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Giambo to move Election of Officers to the January Agenda.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Giambo and seconded by Mr. Carey to approve the Minutes of November 7, 13, 14, 19, 21 and 25, 2002.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Mrs. Jill Kelly, PTA Co-President of Julian Curtiss School, spoke in support of implementation of the Elementary Foreign Language Plan, including Julian Curtiss becoming a magnet school and offering two foreign languages.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL COMMENTS**

Mrs. Joanne Zammit, GEA President spoke on the new Superintendent of Schools, and budget cuts.

Mrs. Lorraine Smario, President of the PTA Council, spoke on the new Superintendent of School, the Elementary Foreign Language Program with thanks to Dr. Melendez and Chris Winters, and the budget cuts.

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

### **Board Chairman**

Mrs. Waters stated that in light of the hiring of the new Superintendent of Schools, and that fact that the proposed 2003-2004 budget and the Elementary Foreign Language Proposal are on the agenda, she had nothing further to report.

### **Curriculum Study Committee**

Ms. Gwynn gave a recap of the last two meetings of this committee, indicating the status of the music curriculum review. The next meeting of this committee will be on January 9<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon.

### **Facilities Committee**

Mr. Carey gave a recap of the Facilities Committee meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup> and the discussion on turf for Cardinal Stadium. The next meeting will be on January 16<sup>th</sup> and the Facilities Committee expects to make a recommendation to the Board shortly thereafter.

### **Long Range Planning Committee**

Since the Long Range Planning Committee has not met, Mrs. Anderson had nothing to report on this Committee.

### **Board Naming Committee**

Mrs. Giambo reported that on December 16<sup>th</sup>, this committee had its organizational meeting. She explained the process the to name the Fifth House at GHS had been publicized and informed the Board that nominations for names were due to the committee by January 10<sup>th</sup>. The Committee hopes to make a decision by January 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Policy Committee**

Mr. Kelly informed the Board that the next Policy Committee Meeting will be held during January. The December meeting was cancelled.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Melendez thanked the Board for their support and the parents' support over the past few months. She thanked the Board for finding an excellent Superintendent of School and wished everyone a happy holiday.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Action on Adoption of Board of Education 2003-2004 Budget**

In response to the Board's request to continue to look for efficiencies in the budget, Dr. Melendez presented an explanation for each of the proposed budget reductions that her research has uncovered that can be made without too much disruption in the services provided. Concerns were raised and questions were asked by the Board as follows:

Ms. Gwynn questioned the elimination of the late bus one day per week and was concerned about the reduction in the number of PPS staff. She also questioned postponing special needs and computer hardware.

Mr. Kelly voiced concerns about the elimination of the late bus at the middle and high schools from four to three days a week.

Mrs. Giambo had questions about the special education cuts.

Mrs. Anderson addressed the issue of the elimination of the late bus one day per week and the reduction of \$400,000 that is considered a cushion because of anticipated staff turnover.

Mr. Carey addressed the possibility of adding \$96,000 to the current budget for capital improvements.

Mrs. Giambo requested a fuller explanation of how new teachers would be supported if reductions are made in stipends for coaches and the numbers of learning facilitators.

Mr. Kelly recommended no cuts from special needs.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Gwynn to approve the proposed reductions in the Superintendent's budget as listed by Dr. Melendez in the Budget Questions and Comments handout for the December 9, 2002 Meeting, with exception of the following reductions: The middle and high school late buses, the stipends/staffing of teacher coaches and learning facilitators, special education instructional aides, the PPS certified staff and certified support staff. Those five proposed reductions are to be discussed and voted on separately.

VOE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. LoParco and seconded by Mrs. Anderson to approve a reduction of the middle and high school late buses of \$40,888.

VOTE: Mrs. Waters in favor,  
6 against MOTION FAILED

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Giambo and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve a reduction in Stipends/Staffing for Learning Facilitators and/or Teacher Coaches of \$90,000.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Giambo and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve a reduction in staffing for Special Education Instructional Aides of \$181,108.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve a reduction in PPS Certified Staff of \$131,888.

VOTE: 6 in favor, Ms. Gwynn  
Opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. LoParco and seconded by Mrs. Anderson to approve a reduction in Certified Support Staff of \$184,642.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Carey and seconded by Mrs. Giambo to reinstate \$96,000 to the 2003-2004 budget for capital improvements.

VOTE: 5 in favor, Mrs. Anderson and  
Mrs. Giambo opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Carey and seconded by Mr. LoParco to approve the 2003-2004 Budget of \$98,711,285, creating a 3.5% increase over the 2002-2003 budget.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. LoParco to consolidate ten part-time positions for savings in health care benefits.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

While the savings resulting from this consolidation would have no effect on the School Budget, it would result in savings to the Town of Greenwich.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Gwynn to seek approval of the BET to transfer line item accounts within the Operating Budget.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

### **B. Action on Elementary Foreign Language Proposal**

Dr. Melendez presented the Elementary Foreign Language Proposal and Implementation Plan to the Board for action.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mrs. Anderson to approve the Elementary Foreign Language Proposal and Implementation Plan.

### **AMENDMENT**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Carey that the Board of Education adopt the Elementary Foreign Language Implementation Plan with a statement of commitment by the Board of Education to agree to pursue future funding for the elementary foreign program as a top priority. The Board of Education would also direct the Superintendent to work with the Curriculum Study Committee to accelerate the review of this program. This review will include the development of curriculum objectives as well as program goals that will reflect its significant investment in this program.

VOTE: Mr. Kelly and Mr. Carey in favor,  
5 against MOTION FAILED

Board members opposed stated that the amendment was not necessary if the Plan was approved.

### **AMENDMENT**

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mrs. Anderson to amend the Plan by replacing a phrase that reads "Enhance elementary foreign language objectives" with "Develop specific elementary foreign language objectives through the Curriculum Study review process".

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION, AS AMENDED**

7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**C. Action on Request From Riverside PTA for Fund Raising for Air Conditioning and For Exemption from the Gift Cap**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Giambo and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the request from Riverside PTA for fund raising for air conditioning and for exemption from the gift cap.

VOTE: 5 in favor, Mrs. Waters and Mr. LoParco opposed MOTION CARRIED

**D. Action on Board Meeting Calendar for 2003-2004**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Giambo to adopt the Board Meeting calendar for 2003-2004.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Review of GHS Profile**

Dr. Elaine Bessette, Headmistress at Greenwich High School and Mr. Al Capasso, Assistant Headmaster, gave the Board an overview of the GHS Profile for the Class of 2002. Their presentation was followed by a question and answer period.

**B. Review of CAPT Test Scores**

Mr. John Curtin, Assistant Superintendent, reported to the Board on the CAPT scores. These scores will be available on the Board of Education website tomorrow.

**C. Review of Strategic School Profiles**

Mr. Curtin also provided a report on the Strategic School Profiles to the Board.

**D. Personnel Report**

Due to the lateness of the hour, the Board decided not to have Mrs. Klar present the Personnel Report but that the Board should submit their questions, if any, to Mrs. DeSalvo, Board Secretary.

**E. Monthly Financial Report**

There were no questions on the Financial Report.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no speakers at the second Public Hearing.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Giambo  
Secretary