

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

TIME: January 23, 2003, 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: Western Middle 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
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

Other:

Mrs. Patte Nusbaum, Mrs. Paige Davis, Mrs. Kathy Rizzo, PTA Council; Mrs. Joanne Zammit, President, Mrs. Rae Baczek, GEA; Mr. Don Strange, Principal, Ms. Karen Mabee, Asst. Principal, Mrs. Joan DeRosa, Mrs. Kim Sitarz, Mrs. Maryann Franchella, Mr. Daryl Alston, Western Middle School; Mr. John Macri, New Lebanon School; Mr. Bob Stone, BET; 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

There were no student or staff recognitions at this meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by MLoParco to waive the submission of nominations and presentation of speeches and to the following officers to the following positions:

Mrs. Sandra N. Waters, Chairman
Mrs. Susan M. Anderson, Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Colleen Giambo, Secretary

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Giambo and seconded by Mrs. Anderson to approve the Minutes of December 9, December 11 (2) and December 19 (2), 2002.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. John Macri spoke on the Educational Specifications for Western Middle School and the need for refurbishing of the auditorium, lights, seats and sound system.

Mr. Steve Anderson, New Lebanon PTA, spoke about the budget process and urged the Board to make no further cuts to the budget.

ORGANIZATIONAL COMMENTS

Mrs. Joanne Zammit, GEA President, spoke on indoor air problems in the various buildings, Tools for Schools and the free training and support from CEA. She indicated the full support from the local and state union in addressing these

concerns. She also voiced support from teachers in making the proposed 2003-2004 budget work, but spoke against further cuts.

There was no speaker for the PTA Council.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, SUPERINTENDENT AND COMMITTEES

Board Chairman

Mrs. Waters told the Board about the coalition that is being formed by the Police Department for underage drinking. She will be the Board of Education representative to this Committee.

She also thanked Dr. Melendez for her Herculean efforts in stepping in to take care of the problem at Hamilton Avenue School and keeping staff, parents, the Health Department and the press informed as to the progress in the building cleanup.

Curriculum Study Committee

Ms. Gwynn told the Board that the Committee met last week and reviewed the Theatre Arts objectives, which will be presented to the Board for a First Reading at the February meeting. They also discussed the Health and Business objectives. There will be a presentation of the current Advanced Learning Program, and a meeting on April 30, 2003 that will present what is happening nationwide on the subject.

Facilities Committee

Mr. Carey told the Board that the Committee met on January 16th and discussed the artificial turf at Cardinal Stadium and the designs for possible renovations at Glenville School. He informed the Board that the Capital Improvement Projects Committee of the town had approved 7 of the 10 projects submitted by the Board of Education for the 2003-04 fiscal year.

Long Range Planning Committee

The Long Range Planning Committee did not meet.

Board Naming Committee

Mrs. Giambo explained that the Committee had solicited nominations of qualified individuals and the names of 12 nominees were submitted. The Committee met on

January 14th when one nominator for each nominee spoke regarding the nominee's contribution to the Greenwich Public School system. They will meet again on January 28th to make a decision.

Policy Committee

Mr. Kelly reported that the Policy Committee met on January 19th and reviewed the School Conduct, transportation and gift policies. They will have completed the 5000 series by the end of the year. The District must have a policy regarding bullying in place by February 1, 2003. Therefore, the Bullying Policy on the agenda will be considered for approval.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Melendez gave the Board an overview of what has been taking place at Hamilton Avenue to address the mold spore situation. She advised them about the environmental firm that has been hired to do the clean up and the parent meetings that have been held, along with Carolyn Baisley, Director of Health, Town of Greenwich. She advised them that once the situation was settled, she would meet with the Facilities people to set an precise monitoring program so that this type of situation will not happen again.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Action on Contract for Superintendent of Schools

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Toretta and seconded by Mrs. Anderson to accept the contract for Dr. Leverett as distributed to members of the Board with slight modifications.

Mr. Toretta went over the provisions of the contract. Dr. Leverett will start on March 30, 2003, and the contract will run for three years. His base compensation will be \$175,000/year. This figure is around the average of Westchester and Fairfield County Superintendents. He will also receive a transportation allowance of \$1,000 per month, a \$24,000 per year annuity, and a housing allowance of \$1,400 per month if he moves to Greenwich. His relocation expenses will be paid and a performance bonus that will be determined against goals that the Board will set up. The maximum performance bonus per year would be \$7,000. He has declined health insurance and has declined payment in lieu of health insurance. We will provide life insurance in the amount of 1-1/2 times his annual salary. He will also receive 25 vacation days, two personal days, and 10 sick days.

VOTE ON MOTION: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

B. Action on PreSchool Summer School Tuition

Mrs. Forde explained that she was looking to increase the tuition rate of Preschool Summer School by \$550.00, an increase from the current \$500 that was in effect for last summer.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Toretta and seconded by Mr. Carey to approve the Preschool Summer School tuition rate for the Summer, 2003.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

C. Action on Approval of Type of Artificial Turf for Cardinal Stadium

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Carey and seconded by Mr. LoParco to approve the concept of artificial turf for Cardinal Stadium, with the proviso that the company put up a five-year performance bond with an eight year guarantee on the turf.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

D. Action on Approval of Educational Specifications for Western Middle School Auditorium

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Carey and seconded by Mr. Toretta to Approve the Educational Specifications for Western Middle School Auditorium with the proviso that in Item 7.1, the first three words "If budget permits" be eliminated entirely.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Toretta, to move Information Item D., First Reading, Policy 5131.91, Bullying, to Action Item E.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Giambo to approve Policy 5131.91, Bullying.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. First Reading, Policy 5134, Pregnant Students

A first reading was held on Policy 5134, Pregnant Students.

B. First Reading, Policy 5131.7, Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

A first reading was held on Policy 5131.7. There were several recommendations from the Board regarding facsimile weapons and adding terminology regarding dangerous instruments.

C. First Reading, Policy 5131.3, Student Driving and Parking

A first reading was held on Policy 5131.3, Student Driving and Parking. There were some questions as to whether or not we needed this policy. It was referred back to the Committee for further discussion.

E. Report on Field Trips

Dr. Melendez presented the report on field trips and the Board discussed several aspects of the report. Questions were asked about the trip to Greece and whether or not there was a possibility of reimbursement for up-front expenses if the situation in the Middle East escalated to a point where the trip would be considered dangerous and cancelled. Dr. Melendez was asked if funds added to the budget for field trips in the past were continued in the proposed budget, to cover expenses of field trips connected with the curriculum. She explained that the funds were not included because the principals felt that their sources of funding for curricular-related field trips would be sufficient. Their sources include base allocation, PTA gifts and parents paying directly.

F. Monthly Financial Report

A question was asked about the Special Education tuition and transportation.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no speakers at the second Public Hearing.

Upon motion made by Mrs. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Giambo, the meeting was moved into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent Search at 9:10 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Executive Session was moved into Public Session at 10:28 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Giambo
Secretary