

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

TIME: February 27, 2003, 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: North Mianus 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:

Mr. Brian Callahan, Mrs. Lorraine Kelly, Mrs. Danielle Blaine, Mrs. Loretta Nolan, Mrs. Jane Sims, Mrs. James Case, Ms. Leslie Alfano, Mrs. Carol Coughlin, Mrs. Bonnie Butera-Teacher Leader and Mr. Frank Arnone, Principal, North Mianus School; Mr. Tom Conelias, Mrs. George vonTobel, Mr. Michael Marzulla, Dr. Carol Sarabun, Mrs. Janice Carroll, Hamilton Avenue School; Mr. Bob Stone, BET; Mrs. Lorraine Smario, President, PTA Council; Mrs. Joanne Zammit, GEA President; 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 7:31 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Giambo and seconded by Mrs. Anderson to approve the Minutes of January 22 and January 23, 2003.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Richard Cantor spoke on the honor of having the Fifth House at Greenwich High School named after his late wife, Phyllis Cantor.

Mr. George von Tobel thanked the Board and Dr. Melendez for the efforts put forth to solve the environmental problems that developed at Hamilton Avenue School.

Ms. Nellie Miquel spoke on the importance of offering free tuition to certified employees of the Board of Education.

ORGANIZATIONAL COMMENTS

Mrs. Joanne Zammit, GEA President, thanked the Board and Dr. Melendez for the work in getting the budget passed. She also spoke on consideration of free tuition for teachers, non-renewal of certain non-tenured teachers and snow days.

Mrs. Lorraine Smario, PTA Council President, thanked the Board, Dr. Melendez and other administrators for their work in getting the 2003-04 budget passed.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, SUPERINTENDENT AND COMMITTEES

Board Chairman

Mrs. Waters thanked Dr. Melendez and staff for their work on the budget. She thanked Mrs. Giambo, Mr. LoParco and Mr. Kelly for their work on the Board Naming Committee. She advised everyone that Dr. Leverett will be begin in Greenwich as our Superintendent of March 31st and he has been chosen to receive an award as an Outstanding Advocate for Children by the Children and Youth National Association and will be traveling to Toronto to receive this award. She addressed the issue of field trips and Board policy in relation to them. Ultimately, the Board gives authority to the Superintendent to make decisions relating to possible cancellation of field trips in light of the current situation in Iraq.

Curriculum Study Committee

Ms. Gwynn told the Board that the Committee met in February and reviewed the Health Curriculum Objectives. Both Bea Walko and Colleen Morey did an excellent job. The Health curriculum is expected to come back to the Board in April for a first reading with some revisions. Their next meeting will be in late March and they will discuss the Business curriculum objectives at GHS.

Facilities Committee

Mr. Carey told the Board that the Committee met four days earlier and also on February 13th. They have developed a plan for possible renovation of Glenville School. They are continuing the review process and are waiting to hear from Ellen Flanagan. They have discussed the extensive renovation to the front plaza at Old Greenwich School and received an update on Hamilton Avenue and Dundee environmental issues. The next meeting is March 20th.

Long Range Planning Committee

The Long Range Planning Committee met on January 28th. They received a report from Elaine Bessette on the current status of the Fifth House and a report from Maria Lyons regarding the strategic goal of hiring, retaining quality staff. The Committee advised Mrs. Lyons the importance of acknowledging every single application that is received. Mrs. Lyons will begin sending out these acknowledgements immediately. The next meeting is March 29th.

Board Naming Committee

Mrs. Giambo explained that the task was difficult but wonderful. The entire experience was overwhelmingly positive. All nominees were very well qualified and it was a difficult decision to select one. The Committee was unanimous in its recommendation to the Board.

Policy Committee

Mr. Kelly reported that the Policy Committee met on February 13th. They are working on the 5000 series and expect to complete it by the end of the year. They have 20 policies of the agenda this evening. They will then attack the 3000 series on Business Management.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Melendez gave the Board an update on what has been taking place at Hamilton Avenue to address the mold spore situation and at International School at Dundee to address the lead paint issue. She advised them about what information she is gathering and from what sources regarding determinations on field trips and with the assistance of Paul Connelly, the Town's Emergency Management Director, they are in the process of upgrading each building's emergency plans.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Action on Policy 5131.3, Student Driving and Parking

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Carey to move this item to Information Item IX. A.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

B. Action on Policy 5131.7, Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Giambo to approve Policy 5131.7, Weapons and Dangerous Instruments.

AMENDMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Toretta to remove this Policy and bring it back next month.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

C. Action on Policy 5134, Pregnant Students

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Giambo to approve Policy 5134, Pregnant Students.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

D. Action on Tuition Rates K-12 and PreSchool

After much discussion, it was decided to take another look at this item at the next Board Meeting in March. The Board asked Administration to supply the following information:

1. What do other towns do?
2. Does this materially affect our ability to retain teachers and should we change policy?
3. Have a discussion with the Town Finance Dept. regarding the change in revenue.
4. If a policy change is in order, have it added to the Agenda in March.
5. Why don't other towns charge tuition? Is it part of collecting bargaining?
6. What is the cost to the District/Town?

E. Action on Naming of Fifth House at Greenwich High School

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Giambo and seconded by Mrs. Gwynn to Name the Fifth House Cantor House.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

F. Action on Approval of Request to Raise Funds Outside of Gift Cap for Greenwich High School Sailing Team

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Giambo to approve the request to raise funds outside of the gift cap for Greenwich High School Sailing Team.

There was much discussion about this item. The Board brought up several points:

1. Why was this item submitted by a staff member?
2. Why is it presented as outside the gift cap when there is plenty of room within the gift cap?

3. What are the costs involved and who is responsible for upkeep and insurance costs?

AMENDMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. LoParco to remove the words, "outside of the gift cap" from the motion.

VOTE: 6 in favor, Mrs. Waters
and Mrs. Gwynn opposed MOTION CARRIED

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION, AS AMENDED

VOTE: 6 in favor, Mrs. Waters
and Mrs. Gwynn opposed MOTION CARRIED

Ms. Gwynn stated that although she was in favor of the purchase of the boats, she voted in opposition because the voting procedure was unnecessary due to the provisions of the gift cap.

G. Action on Approval of Five Year Capital Plan Draft

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Carey and seconded by Mr. Toretta to approve the submission by the Facilities Committee to the Comptroller's Office, the estimated/projected Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan herewith submitted.

VOTE: 7 in favor, Mr. Kelly
abstained MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Carey and seconded by Mr. LoParco to approve the resumption of the School Rehabilitation Program, to commence with the rehabilitation of Hamilton Avenue School.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. First Reading, Policy 5131.3, Student Driving & Parking

A first reading was held on Policy 5131.13, Student Driving & Parking.

B. Report on Progress on June 2001 Approved Indicators of Success

Mr. John Curtin gave a report on the progress to date on the June, 2001 Indicators of Success. He reported on CAPT and CMT scores. In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Curtin advised that he would supply the Board with the ALP results. Marie Jordan Whitney, Coordinator for Language Arts, explained the strategies that were initiated at North Mianus School to improve the writing scores. Frank Arnone, Principal of North Mianus School, addressed the school's reaction to the recommendations and the phenomenal results from this joint venture.

Mr. Curtin agreed to report on:

- a. Sixth grade scores by feeder school.
- b. Additional data and executive summary.

C. First Reading, Policy 3541, Non-Instructional Operations, Transportation

A first reading was held on Policy 3541, Non-Instructional Operations, Transportation. The Board commented that this Policy needed Regulations.

D. First Reading, Policy 5131, Students, Conduct

A first reading was held on Policy 5131, Students, Conduct.

E. First Reading, Policy 5131.6, Students, Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco

A first reading was held on Policy 5131.6, Students, Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco. A request was made by Mrs. Gwynn to include a definition of the word "harmful". Mrs. Giambo asked that language regarding Expulsion be included in this Policy.

F. First Reading, Policy 5131.21, Students, Violent and Aggressive Behaviors

A first reading was held on Policy 5131.21, Students, Violent and Aggressive Behaviors. The Board pointed out that this was another Policy that required Regulations.

G. First Reading Policy 5131.81, Students, Use of Beepers-Paging Devices/Cellular Telephones

A first reading was held on Policy 5131.81, Students, Use of Beepers-Paging Devices/Cellular Telephones. The Board pointed out that this was another Policy that required Regulations.

H. First Reading Policy 5132, Students, Personal Appearance

A first reading was held on Policy 5132, Students, Personal Appearance.

I. First Reading, Policy 5140, Students, Welfare & Safety

A first reading was held on Policy 5140, Students, Welfare & Safety. It was recommended by Mrs. Giambo that the second paragraph of this Policy be removed.

J. First Reading, Policy 5141.3, Students, Health Assessments and Immunizations

A first reading was held on Policy 5141.3, Students, Health Assessments and Immunizations.

K. First Reading, Policy 5141.4, Students, Child Abuse

A first reading was held on Policy 5141.1, Students, Child Abuse.

L. First Reading, Policy 5141.5, Students, Welfare

A first reading was held on Policy 5141.5, Students, Welfare. A question was raised regarding the last paragraph of this Policy.

M. First Reading, Policy 5141.22, Students, Communicable/Infectious Diseases

A first reading, Policy 5141.22, Students, Communicable/Infectious Diseases. A typo in the first paragraph, a change from “Board” to “Administration” in the first paragraph. A question in the second paragraph regarding who is responsible and referred back to Policy for change.

N. First Reading, Policy 5141.23, Students, Students With Special Health Care Needs

A first reading was held on Policy 5141.23, Students, Students with Special Health Care Needs.

O. First Reading, Policy 5141.24, Students, Prevention of Disease Transmission in Schools

A first reading was held on Policy 5141.24, Students, Prevention of Disease Transmission in Schools.

P. First Reading, Policy 5141.25, Students, Accommodating Students with Special Dietary Needs

A first reading was held on Policy 5141.25, Students, Accommodating Students with Special Dietary Needs.

Q. First Reading, Policy 5142, Students, Student Safety

A first reading was held on Policy 5142, Students, Student Safety

R. First Reading, Policy 5142.01, Students, Student Safety Patrols

A first reading was held on Policy 5142.01, Students, Student Safety Patrols.

S. First Reading, Policy 5142.1, Students, Relations With Non-Custodial Parents

A first reading was held on Policy 5142.1, Students, Relations With Non-Custodial Parents.

T. Quarterly Gift Report

There were no questions asked regarding the Quarterly Gift Report.

U. Monthly Financial Report

There were no questions asked regarding the Monthly Financial Report.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no speakers at the second Public Hearing.

Upon motion made by Mr. Carey and seconded by Mrs. Anderson, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Giambo
Secretary