

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

**TIME:** March 27, 2003, 7:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** Julian Curtiss 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:**

Ms. Nancy Carbone, Principal, Mrs. Sally Dodd, Mrs. Roberta Feld, Mrs. Susan Proto, Ms. Leslie Pearson, Ms. Jayne Pitt, Mr. Ed Wachowski, Ms. Karen Nagy, Christina Sotos, Mrs. Kerry D'angelo, Ms. Kelly Brewer, Julian Curtiss School; Ms. Laraine Pirie, Mr. John Yoon, Greenwich High School; Mrs. Joanne Zammit, President, Mrs. Rae Baczek, GEA; Mrs. Lorraine Smario, Mrs. Patte Nusbaum, Mrs. Dora Williams, Mrs. Eve Barron, PTA Council; Mr. Steve Anderson, 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 7:35 p.m.

### **STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION**

Dr. Jeff Spector, Program Coordinator for Art and Music, presented awards to the following Connecticut Scholarship Art Award recipients:

J. C. Hay	Photography
Darren Ornitz	Photography
Azumi Nishizawa	Drawing
Ed Myder	Ceramics
Vincent Cheung	Painting
Marie Larsen	Photography
Charlie Nicols	Photography
Erica Alicea	Ceramics

Dr. Spector introduced Mr. John Yoon, whose Jazz Band was selected as one of 15 finalists across the country to perform in the Duke Ellington performance at Lincoln Center.

Dr. Melendez recognized Ms. Nancy Carbone, Principal of Julian Curtiss School for being selected by the YWCA as a Brava Award Recipient.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no speakers at the Public Hearing.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL COMMENTS**

Mrs. Lorraine Smario, PTA Council President, spoke on free tuition rates for teachers and thanked Dr. Melendez for her extraordinary service as our Interim Superintendent of Schools.

Mrs. Joanne Zammit, GEA President, spoke on the non-renewal of non-tenured staff and recommended free tuition for teachers. She stated strong support on behalf of the teachers for Option C of the proposed 2004-2005 school calendar options under discussion, and for changing the staff development day from January to March to be less disruptive to the high school schedule. She also thanked Dr. Melendez and read a poem in her honor.

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

### **Board Chairman**

Mrs. Waters' presentation was to Dr. Melendez, in which she expressed heartfelt thanks from the entire Board for Dr. Melendez' efforts in her role as Interim Superintendent of Schools for the past four months. Her challenges were numerous and her handling of all of the complex and difficult issues, including the preparation and presentation of the budget, was at the highest level of ability and professionalism. The Board is very grateful to her for all of her assistance. Mrs. Waters presented Dr. Melendez with a gift of appreciation from the Board.

### **Curriculum Study Committee**

Ms. Gwynn advised that the Committee has begun a review of the ALP program. In that regard, three meetings have been scheduled, including a meeting on June 2 which is slated as a public hearing. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, there will be a presentation by Joyce Van Tassel Baska, discussing ALP programs throughout the country.

### **Facilities Committee**

Mr. Carey advised that the Committee met on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Glenville School. A presentation was made regarding Glenville School and the educational philosophy for which the building was designed, as opposed to how it is used today. Also discussed at the meeting was the fact that the First Selectman's Capital Improvement Committee had approved eleven of the fifteen Board of Education projects submitted. The next meeting of the Committee will be on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:45 a.m. On the agenda will be a discussion of the second phase of the engineering study, a discussion of ISD by David Chin, and a brief update on air conditioning in elementary schools.

### **Long Range Planning Committee**

The Long Range Planning Committee did not meet.

### **Policy Committee**

Mr. Kelly advised that the Committee met on March 13<sup>th</sup> in a continuation of the 5000 series review, which should be completed by the end of this year. The

Committee also began reviewing some 3000 series (business) policies and discussed the policy regarding tuition payments for non-resident students, including Town employees' children. The policy gives the Board the responsibility for setting tuition rates.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Melendez expressed her gratitude and appreciation to the Board and to all staff members who assisted her in succeeding in the most difficult challenges presented to her during her tenure at Interim Superintendent of Schools.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Action on Tuition Rates K-12**

The Interim Superintendent's first recommendation regarding tuition rates had to do with continuing the moratorium on non-resident students due to increasing enrollments and the high rate of building utilization, with the exception of Town employees' children. It is her recommendation to continue the moratorium.

Mr. Curtin presented additional information supporting Dr. Melendez' recommendation on the setting of the tuition rate. Mr. Curtin also presented information regarding various neighboring towns' policies regarding tuition charged for children of town employees and certified staff, to inform the decision regarding the level of tuition charged to Town employees' children. The Board had asked for a recommendation from the Interim Superintendent regarding a tuition rate that would support the Board's strategic goal of recruiting and retaining an excellent teaching staff, with as minimal an impact to an already tight budget as possible. The Board had a discussion regarding the Interim Superintendent's recommendations.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Carey and seconded by Mrs. Anderson to place a moratorium on accepting non-resident students in the Greenwich Public Schools unless they are children of Town of Greenwich employees.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

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

set the non-resident tuition rate at \$10,836.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mr. Toretta to set the non-certified Board of Education and Town of Greenwich employee rate at 25% of the non-resident tuition rate and to set the certified employee rate at 10%.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. LoParco to Act on Items B through M (with the exception of J) all together.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**B. Action on Policy 5131.21, Violent & Aggressive Behaviors**

**C. Action on Policy 5131.81, Use of Beepers**

**D. Action on Policy 5132, Personal Appearance**

**E. Action on Policy 5141.3, Health Assessments**

**F. Action on Policy 5141.23, Students with Special Health Care Needs**

**G. Action on Policy 5141.24, Prevention of Disease Transmission**

**H. Action on Policy 5141.25, Accommodating Students with Special Dietary Needs**

**I. Action on Policy 5142, Student Safety**

**K. Action on Policy 5142.1, Relations with Non-Custodial Parents**

**L. Action on Policy 5131, Conduct**

**M. Action on Policy 5141.5, Prevention of Youth Suicide**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. LoParco to approve the above listed policies.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**J. Action on Policy 5142.01, Student Safety Patrols**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Giambo to delete Policy 5142.01, Student Safety Patrols.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**N. Action on Revised Tuition Rates for PreSchool**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Carey to approve the recommended tuition rates for PreSchool at \$3,500 per year.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. First Reading, Theatre Arts Curriculum**

Dr. Jeff Spector presented an overview of the Theatre Arts Curriculum to the Board members. This was followed by questions from Board members, summarized as follows:

- a. What is the sequence of Theater Arts courses?
- b. Are there honors courses – what are they?
- c. Can these courses be used in lieu of English courses?
- d. Where does Dance fit into the arts programs and who is responsible for the dance program?

Answers to these questions will be provided to Board members before the next Board meeting. The Theater Arts learner goal will also be included. Regarding honors courses, Dr. Spector will provide the answer as the program now stands, but also stated that a high school committee is reviewing the issue of honors courses in the arts programs, including comparability and equity of offerings between various arts programs.

**B. Mid-Year Progress Report on Operations Goals**

Dr. Wallerstein made a presentation on the status of progress on Operations goals. This was followed by a question and answer period.

**C. First Reading, Policy 5141.21, Administering Medication**

A first reading was held on this policy. It was referred back to the Policy Committee to address students carrying medications.

**D. First Reading, Policy 5142.2, Students, Theft**

This policy is proposed for deletion. There were no comments.

**E. First Reading, Policy 5131.7, Weapons & Dangerous Instruments**

It was decided to hold this policy to be reviewed in conjunction with the policy on expulsions.

**F. First Reading, Policy 5145.12, Search and Seizure**

There was no discussion on this policy.

**G. First Reading, 2004-2005 School Calendar**

There were three versions of the calendar presented for discussion. There was unanimous agreement among Board members that Version C would be the best calendar to use. It conforms most closely with the Board's School Calendar Policy. It was suggested that the staff development day in January be moved to March in order not to conflict with the GHS exam schedule. It was also suggested that staff and students all begin at the same time, either before or after Labor Day. Revisions to Version C will be made and presented for action at the April meeting.

**H. Monthly Financial Report**

There were no questions asked regarding the Financial Report.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no speakers at the second Public Hearing.

Upon motion made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Gwynn, the meeting was moved into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters at 9:45 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Executive Session was moved into Public Session at 10:32 p.m.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mr. Carey to approve the non-renewal of non-tenured staff, as submitted.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Public Session was adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Giambo  
Secretary