

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

TIME: September 26, 2002, 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: Parkway 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. Paul Toretta

Administration:

Dr. Herbert F. Pandiscio, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Maria M. Melendez, 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. Paige Davis, Mrs. Leslie Moriarty, Mrs. Patte Nusbaum, Mrs. Dora Williams, PTA Council; Mrs. Joanne Zammit, President, GEA; Dr. Sandra Mond, Principal, Mrs. Charlyne Wozniak, Mrs. Lucy Rinaldi, Mrs. Martha Spector, Mrs. Mareta Hamre, Mrs. Gail Cortese, Mr. & Mrs. Phil Marella, Mr. Kevin Oarr, Mr. Roger Pierson, Parkway School; Mrs. Betsy Benenson, Mrs. Debbie Applebaum, North Street School; Mr. Bob Stone, BET; Mr. Steve Anderson, New Lebanon School; Mr. Jack Maloney, Mrs. Linda Turbert, Mrs. Debbie Cahuvah, Greenwich High School; Mrs. Lisa LoParco, Mr. Stephen LoParco, Glenville 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 7:35 p.m.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Anderson to take Item VII. A in the Action Items section of the Agenda first.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

A. Action on Appointment of New Member to Board of Education

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Carey and seconded by Mr. Kelly to nominate Mr. Steven H. LoParco to fill the vacancy on the Board of Education due to the resignation of Mrs. Genevieve J. Krob.

Mr. Toretta provided the Board and the public with background regarding Mr. LoParco in support of his nomination.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. Waters provided the public with the background information on the search for the replacement for Mrs. Krob and the efforts the Board undertook in order to secure the best possible candidate for the position. She indicated that Mr. LoParco will run again in November, 2003 for the full term.

Mrs. Carmella Budkins, Town Clerk, proceeded to swear in Mr. LoParco as a member of the Board of Education and Mr. LoParco, and after a brief acceptance speech, Mr. LoParco took his place on the dias.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Giambo and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the Minutes of August 29, 2002.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no speakers at the Public Hearing.

ORGANIZATIONAL COMMENTS

Mrs. Joanne Zammit, GEA President spoke on school opening and the potential budget cuts the BET is proposing.

Mrs. Lorraine Smario, President of the PTA Council, welcomed Mr. LoParco and the importance of keeping the standard of excellence in education in setting the budget.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, SUPERINTENDENT AND COMMITTEES

Board Chairman

Mrs. Waters welcomed Mr. LoParco to the Board and gave the public a brief overview of his background. She also explained the entire process and the amount of publicity the Board gave the position, hoping to attract the several qualified candidates that they received.

She also gave an update on the Superintendent's Search, noting the formation of a working group to include Mr. Toretta, Mrs. Gwynn, Dr. Pandiscio, and chaired by Mrs. Anderson to provide direction to the recruiting effort. The authority of this committee is limited to recommendation action to the full Board. Advertisements have been running in Education Week since September 11th.

Curriculum Study Committee

Mrs. Gwynn gave a recap of the materials covered in both the August 30th and September 12th Curriculum Study Committee Meetings. The next meeting of the Committee will be on October 10th at 9:00 a.m. regarding assessment guidelines and elementary foreign language.

Facilities Committee

Mr. Carey gave a recap of the Facilities Committee meeting on September 19th. The next meeting will concentrate on review of capital projects for submission to the full Board for a first reading in October.

Long Range Planning Committee

Mrs. Anderson gave a report of the September 17th Long Range Planning Committee Meeting. The next meeting will be on October 8th at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room to consider review of the GHS Long Range Plan and implementation of last year's plan.

Policy Committee

Mr. Kelly gave an review of the September 24th meeting of the Policy Committee. The next meeting will be on October 17th at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. The Committee will be discussing student conduct and alcohol, drugs and tobacco use.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pandiscio reported to the Board on the Town of Greenwich Employee Recognition Program and how Diane Hawreluk, an Administrative Clerical Assistant at Central Middle School and Joan Lowe, a Social Worker at Greenwich High School received Employee Excellence Awards and that Joan Lowe was also selected as the Town of Greenwich Employee of the Year.

ACTION ITEMS

B. Action on Academy of Information Technology and Engineering Governance Agreement

Dr. Nancy Cetorelli, Executive Director of CES, presented the Board with an overview of this program and their interest in having Greenwich become a participant in this program, which is run in Norwalk, Connecticut.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Gwynn to approve participation in the Academy of Information Technology and Engineering Governance Agreement.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

It was discussed and then determined that the Board of Education must pay for transportation costs for this program, and could apply for reimbursement up to \$1,200 per student.

C. Action on Academy for Performing Arts Governance Agreement

Dr. Nancy Cetorelli, Executive Director of CES, also discussed this program with the Board and their request that the Board might be interested in participating.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Giambo and seconded by Mr. Carey to approve participation in the Academy for Performing Arts Governance Agreement in Stamford, Connecticut.

AMENDMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Toretta to add the following paragraph:

“Prior to the start of the school year, the Board reserves the right and CES agrees that the Greenwich Board of Education can withdraw from this program at any time.”

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTON CARRIED

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION AS AMENDED

8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

D. Action on Appointment of Non-Board Members to Facilities Committee

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Carey and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the appointment of Mr. Dik Glass and Mr. Rudy Ridberg to the Facilities Committee.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

E. Action on Approval of Work Plan for Curriculum Study Committee

Mrs. Gwynn amended the Work Plan submitted by adding a sentence at the end of Local Curriculum Assessments to read as follows:

“The committee will also discuss a plan for surveying parents on their satisfaction with curriculum.”

She also explained that the ALP program will be reviewed next year as a two year program.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Gwynn and seconded by Mr. Carey to approve the Curriculum Study Committee Work Plan.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

F. Action on Approval of Work Plan for Facilities Committee

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Carey and seconded by Mrs. Anderson to approve the Facilities Committee Work Plan.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

G. Action on Approval of Work Plan for Long Range Planning Committee

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Carey to approve the Long Range Planning Committee Work Plan.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

H. Action on Approval of Negotiations Committee Work Plan

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Toretta and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the Negotiations Committee Work Plan.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

I. Action on Approval of Policy Committee Work Plan

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Giambo to approve the Policy Committee Work Plan.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

J. Action on Board of Estimate & Taxation Budget Guidelines

Dr. Pandiscio explained to the Board that he needed direction on what the Board was looking for him as far as direction for the budget preparation, and maintaining excellence in the school system with the BET budget cuts looming on the horizon.

Mr. Toretta stated we should move forward with the budget as usual, and cut where we think we can.

Mrs. Anderson stated we should move forward with what we need to maintain excellence in the school system.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Giambo, that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to

prepare a budget that finds efficiencies, maintains excellence in the school system, and moves forward on those initiatives that the Board of Education believes will continue to enhance and improve our school system.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

K. Discussion and Possible Action on Policy 6115(a), Instruction, Ceremonies & Observances

A first reading was held on Policy 6115(a). Some changes, both in the order of the day and in some repetitive sections were changed. These changes include:

Page 1 Delete the phrase "the opportunity" in section 1.
Change the word "my" to "may" in section 2

Part one stays part one.

Page 2, beginning with Religious Ceremonies becomes part 3

Page 3, beginning with Religious Holidays becomes part 4

United States Flag becomes part 2

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Giambo to approve Policy 6115(a), Instruction, Ceremonies & Observances.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. First Reading, New Courses at Greenwich High School

B. First Reading, Course Deletions at Greenwich High School

A first reading was held on the new courses and the course deletions for Greenwich High School.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Giambo and seconded by Mr. Toretta to make the new courses and course deletions action items.

VOTE: 4 in favor, 4 opposed MOTION FAILED

C. Review of Class Size/Enrollment

Mr. John Curtin, Program Coordinator, Research & Evaluation, gave the Board a report on class size/enrollment.

Mr. Toretta requested Mr. Curtin to report back on classes under 12 at the middle schools and the high school.

D. Report on SAT Scores

Mr. Curtin provided the Board with a report on the SAT Scores.

E. First Reading, Policy 6146.1(a), High School Grading/Assessment Systems

A First Reading was held on Policy 6146.1(a).

F. Report on Field Trips

There were no questions on the Field Trips report.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no speakers at the second Public Hearing.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned into Executive Session at 10:20 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent Search.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Executive Session was adjourned into Public Session at _____p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at _____p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Giambo
Secretary