

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

TIME: June 18, 2003, 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
Mr. Paul A. Toretta

Administration:

Dr. Larry Leverett, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Maria M. Melendez, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. John P. Curtin, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services
Mr. Frederick Baker, Director of Operations
Mr. John Spang, Asst. Director, Business

Other:

Mrs. Linda Loftus, Mrs. Laura Downes, Mr. James Capparalle, Mr. Rick Novakowski, Cos Cob School; Mrs. Lorraine Smario, Mrs. Denise Dreskin, Mrs. Ashley Carihfield, Mrs. Patte Nussbaum, Mrs. Kathy Rizzo, PTA Council; Mrs. Joanne Zammit, GEA; Mr. Bob Stone, BET; Mrs. Leslie Moriarty, Mrs. Jennifer Meredith, Mrs. Miranda Plunkett, North Street School; Mrs. Christie Hipp, ISD, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Carroll, Hamilton Avenue School; Mr. Lindy Urso, 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

The following students/staff were recognized at the meeting.

Courtney Hawes	Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program Representative
Alexander Mittal	Selected as a member of the USA Today's 2003 All USA High School Academic Team, as well as being invited to the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering dinner recognizing his Accomplishments
Erika Kameko	Selected as a semifinalist in the 2003 Presidential Scholars Competition.
Joia Ramchandani	Invited to the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering dinner recognizing her accomplishments
Jeremiah Lowin	Selected as a semifinalist in the 2003 Presidential Scholars competition

The following students were recognized as being invited to the Johns Hopkins State Celebration of Talent:

Nicole Carroll	Hamilton Avenue
Benjamin Wilbanks	International School at Dundee
Jack Appelbaum	North Street
Alexander Coburn	"
Zachary Coburn	"
Ryan Giannotto	"
Adam Nussbaum	"
Oliver Plunkett	"
Alexander Berner	Parkway
Perry Minella	"
Isabella Rolla	"
Max Spector	"
Carly Shapiro	Riverside
William Stark	"
Jessica Blanton	Eastern
Kristen Eng	"
Eliana Carmona	Western
Kristen Kinnear	"

The following students received recognition for the State Poetry Recitation Contest presented by the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers (COLT):

Julianne Ongoco	Gold Medal	Spanish Grade 7
Kotoya Tadakoro	Gold Medal	Japanese Native
Jhan Del Rosario`	Gold Medal	Beginning ESL
Rean Yamson	Gold Medal	Advanced ESL
Shadi Kareb	Silver Medal	German Native
Giuliana Candiotti	Bronze Medal	Spanish Native
Riddhima Hinduja	Bronze Medal	Spanish Grade 8
Anna-Lee Stafford	Bronze Medal	French Native

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Giambo and seconded by Mrs. Anderson to approve the minutes of April 24, May 22 and May 29 (2), 2003.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARING

The following people spoke at the Public Hearing:

Russell Smith	Local 100, Transportation Union regarding support of Bus Drivers' Contract
Lynn Chamberlain	Local 100, Transportation Union regarding Support of the Bus Drivers' Contract
Linda Loftus	Cos Cob PTA election results and moving forward.

ORGANIZATIONAL COMMENTS

Mrs. Joanne Zammit, GEA President, in her last speech as President of the GEA, thanked everyone for the experience of four years she has had as GEA President and the experiences this position has brought her. She introduced Lillian Perrone, the new GEA President.

Mrs. Lorraine Smario, PTA Council President, thanked Joanne Zammit for all of her assistance over the past year and also spoke in support of the Board and Dr. Leverett in their authority to make the decision of the Principal for Cos Cob School.

She also thanked the Board for all the hours they have dedicated to the children of Greenwich.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, SUPERINTENDENT AND COMMITTEES

Board Chairman

Mrs. Waters discussed the need for an accountability system in the District and the desire to have the highest quality education for our students. She also addressed the Freedom of Information Request submitted by Mr. Lindy Urso and the Public Hearing request from Mr. James Passarelle.

Curriculum Study Committee

Ms. Gwynn discussed the June 2nd public hearing on the ALP Program and the progress at the June 11th meeting when they discussed the Science curriculum. A staff committee will work on the K–8 Science curriculum over the summer to streamline content and increase hands-on science instruction, keeping in mind the issue of balancing instructional time in the elementary schools. There was a brief meeting on June 18 to approve minutes of several prior meetings.

Facilities Committee

Mr. Carey advised that at the May 28th meeting they discussed Phase II of the engineering report that is now completed, the cladding at Dundee School, and the auditorium at Western Middle School.

They met again on June 25th to discuss the Glenville conceptual presentation and to discuss what can be done at Glenville. They also reviewed the capital projects ten-year plan. He advised that the buildings tour will be on July 16th.

Long Range Planning Committee

Mrs. Anderson advised that the Committee met on May 27th to discuss the status of the GHS Long Range Plan. They discussed the Fifth House assignment of students and staff to the house. They discussed the Indicators of Success and the fact that in the Fall there will be a report on those Indicators.

The Committee met again on June 17th to discuss the Greenwich High School indicators of success and Dr. Leverett discussed the need for a District-wide accountability plan.

Policy Committee

Mr. Kelly advised that at the June 5th meeting, the Committee almost completed the 5000 series. They are awaiting legal clarification on some issues. They are giving a look to the business policies. Next year they hope to do the 4000, 3000 and 2000 series.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Leverett explained that it has been a difficult few weeks for everyone with regard to the Cos Cob School situation. He thanked the organizations that have come together to help with communication and to support efforts to resolve the situation. A committee has been formed to reach out to members of the community, which is comprised of a diverse representation of community members, staff, support staff, PTA and others. The primary focus is on the students and teachers and meeting their needs and strengthening the fragmented community.

He also advised that a BOE/BET meeting has been scheduled to discuss preparation of the budget for the next fiscal year. He discussed the need for a District-wide accountability system that reflects the expectations of the community.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Action on Policy 0300, Goals and Indicators of Success for 2003-2004

Mr. Curtin discussed the Learner goals and Dr. Melendez discussed the Operations goals.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Toretta and seconded by Mrs. Anderson to add this year's goals to Policy 0300, Goals and Indicators of Success for 2003-2004.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

There were a number of comments by Board members regarding the Goals and Indicators. Board members discussed the need to restructure the Goals into a more streamlined document that's less complicated and supports the overall mission of the District. There were questions regarding the impact of the No Child Left Behind Act on the goal-setting process. There was dissatisfaction expressed regarding the omission of math indicators for the percentage of students studying Geometry and Algebra in the 8th grade. There was a discussion regarding baseline data for Greenwich High School, and whether the goals included, based on that data, adequately reflected the Board's expectations for the High School.

The Board is considering a revision of its system of goals in conjunction with choosing and adopting an accountability model. It was decided that the current goals and indicators of success model would be approved for now, until such discussion are held with the Board to design a goals document which encompasses the mission of the District and offers guidance to the staff and public as to what the expectations are and how they will be measured.

B. Action on Greenwich High School ESL Biology Textbook

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the Greenwich High School ESL Biology Textbook.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

C. Action on Application for Early Reading Success Competitive Grant Program for Priority Schools

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Toretta to approve the application for Early Reading Success Competitive Grant Program for Priority Schools.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

**D. Action on Policy 5120, Students, Progress/Records (deletion)
Action on Policy 5122, Assignment to Teachers**

Action on Policy 5121, Examination/Grading/Rating
Action on Policy 5124, Report to Parents (deletion)
Action on Policy 5126, Awards for Achievement (deletion)
Action on Policy 5127, Graduation Exercises (deletion)
Action on Policy 5000, Concept and Roles in Student Policy

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

AMENDMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mr. LoParco to withdraw Policy 5121, Examination/Grading/Rating.

VOTE: 7 in favor, Mr. Carey
Abstained MOTION CARRIED

VOTE ON MOTION AS AMENDED

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

E. Action on Policy 5121, Examination/Grading/Rating

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Giambo to approve Policy 5121.1, Examination/Grading/Rating.

AMENDMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mrs. Waters to change the wording in the first sentence to read "The Superintendent of Schools shall recommend a system of annual evaluation of student performance to the Board of Education for its approval".

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

VOTE ON MOTION AS AMENDED

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

K. Action on Policy 5131.7, Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

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

AMENDMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Giambo and seconded by Mrs. Anderson to add "of a" in the first line of the second paragraph after the word "facsimile".

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

VOTE ON MOTION AS AMENDED

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

L. Action on Policy 5131.8, Out of School Misconduct

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mr. LoParco to approve Policy 5131.8, Out of School Misconduct.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

M. Action on Policy 5141.21, Administering Medication

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Carey to approve Policy 5141.21, Administering Medication.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

N. Action on Policy 5145.14, On-Campus Recruitment

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Anderson to approve Policy 5145.14, On-Campus Recruitment.

AMENDMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Anderson to add the following language at the end of the second paragraph:
“Directory information means one or more of the following:
student’s name, address, telephone number, gender and/or year of
study.”

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

VOTE ON MOTION AS AMENDED

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

O. Action on Approval of Members to Greenwich Continuing Education Advisory Council

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Toretta and seconded by Mrs. Anderson to approve the people whose names are listed below as members of the Greenwich Continuing Education Advisory Council: Millicent C. Scrivan, Neclum Amin, Karin Crooks

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

There was a great deal of discussion regarding the Greenwich Continuing Education department. Mr. Toretta, liaison to this committee, advised the Board of his recommendation that the Adult Learning Program should be separated from the Greenwich Continuing Education department. He advised the Board that there are differences in management and budget process that make the two programs more different than similar, and the leadership has been unable to give the Adult Learning Program proper direction. Mr. Baker, who is responsible for the Greenwich Continuing Education department, will report back to the Board in September or October on this situation.

P. Action Establishment of Naming Committee

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Giambo to approve the establishment of a Naming Committee regarding the media center at the International School at Dundee.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Concern was expressed by Board members regarding the procedure for naming facilities. The policy and regulation will be referred to the Policy Committee for further review.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. First Reading, Policy 2400, Superintendent Evaluation

A first reading was held on this Policy.

B. First Reading, Policy 3280, Gifts, Grants, Bequests

A first reading was held on this Policy.

C. First Reading, Policy 5144, Suspension/Expulsion; Student Due Process

A first reading was held on this Policy. After discussion, Mr. Kelly stated that there are many changes needed in this Policy and it will be brought back for a first reading to another meeting.

D. First Reading, Policy 5145.1, Patriotic Ceremonies (delete)

A first reading was held on the deletion of this Policy.

E. First Reading, Policy 5145.9, Silent Meditation (delete)

A first reading was held on the deletion of this Policy.

F. First Reading, Policy 5156, Research Involving Students (delete)

A first reading was held on the deletion of this Policy.

G. Quarterly Gift Report

The Policy Committee is currently reviewing the policy regarding gifts to the schools. Some Board members have requested changes to improve the quality and accuracy of the reporting of gift information to the Board. These changes will be reflected in future reports.

H. Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Spang advised the Board that he expects we will be returning approximately \$500,000 to the Town.

A discussion ensued regarding the BET's assurances that the schools would be given credit in the following fiscal year for whatever amount of money was returned to the Town. The Board unanimously agreed that this assurance was given. Mr. Baker explained that his understanding was that the funds returned above an amount already anticipated in the Town's projections would be credited to the school budget as savings. Mr. Baker will research and advise the Board the correct information.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no speakers at the second Public Hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Anderson discussed the fact that it had been previously determined that for this fiscal year, money would be put into the budget for participation in sports for more students. It appears as though this was not done and now with the new house and the increased enrollment, she saw a pressing need to increase the budget allotment for student participation in sports. Mr. Baker assured her that there would be something sent home in the Board Notes packet some time soon to address this issue.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Gwynn, the meeting was adjourned into Executive Session at 9:58 p.m., to discuss a personnel matter.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Executive Session was moved back into Public Session at 11:20 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Giambo
Secretary