

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

**TIME:** November 15, 2001, 7:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** North Street School

**PRESENT:**

**Board:** Mrs. Genevieve J. Krob, Chairperson  
Mrs. Susan M. Anderson, Vice-Chairperson  
Mrs. Sandra N. Waters, Secretary  
Mr. J. Robert Carey  
Mrs. Colleen Giambo  
Ms. Virginia L. Gwynn  
Mr. William G. Kelly  
Mr. Paul A. Toretta

**Administration:**

Dr. Roger J. Lulow, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Karen E. Lang, Deputy Superintendent  
Dr. Maria M. Melendez, Assistant Superintendent  
Mrs. Mary Forde, Director of Pupil Personnel Services  
Mr. John Spang, Assistant Director, Business

**Other:**

Ms. Betty Burfeind, Principal of North Street School; Mrs. Eve Barron, PTA Council; Ms. Karen Nagy, GEA; Mr. John Curtin; Mrs. Barbara O'Neill, ALP; Mr. George Von Tobel; Ms. Leslie Moriarty; Ms. Mindy Cepelewicz; Mr. David Elkind; Ms. Patte Nussbaum; Ms. Debbie Appelbaum; Ms. Beth Krumeich; Mrs. Alice Melly,; Mr. Neil Ritter; Dr. Jim Bulger; Mrs. Janice Carroll; Mr. James Buckley; Ms. Kim Eves; Mr. Ivan Golden, Greenwich Time. An attendance list is on file in the Superintendent's Office.

### I. CALL TO ORDER and the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Krob, Chairperson, at 7:31 p.m.

## **II. PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME**

Prior to Principal Betty Burfeind's remarks, the school's fifth grade band played a number of patriotic songs under the direction of Mrs. Atherton. In her welcome, Miss Burfeind, stating that writing is the school's number one priority, introduced three students who recited their original compositions, which were published in the school's literary magazine. The students were Marty Clarke, Katie Krumeich and Sarah Stallard.

## **SWEARING IN**

Mrs. Carmella Budkins, Town Clerk, was present to swear in the members who were re-elected to the Board. They are: Susan M. Anderson, 4 years; J. Robert Carey, 4 years; Paul A. Toretta, 4 years; and Sandra N. Waters, 4 years. Colleen Giambo, previously appointed to the Board and now elected for a two-year term, was also sworn in.

## **III. STUDENT RECOGNITION**

Greenwich Public School's students were among Connecticut's top scorers in the 2001 John Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY) Talent Search. Deserving special mention, Andrew Williams, Eastern Middle School student, placed second in the Seventh Grade Quantitative subtest of the SAT I Reasoning Test. Copy of names of students on file.

## **IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

MOTION: Mrs. Krob made a motion to nominate Mrs. Waters for Chairman and it was seconded by Mr. Carey

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: Ms. Gwynn made a motion to nominate Mrs. Anderson to continue as Vice-Chairman and it was seconded by Mr. Kelly.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: Mr. Toretta made a motion to nominate Mrs. Giambo for Secretary and it was seconded by Mrs. Waters.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

The voting was done by written ballot with Mr. Toretta counting the ballots.

Chairman: 8 Votes for Mrs. Waters  
Vice-Chairman: 8 Votes for Mrs. Anderson  
Secretary: 8 Votes for Mrs. Giambo

At this time, Mrs. Krob passed the gavel over to the new Board Chairman, Mrs. Waters.

MOTION: Ms. Gwynn made a motion to amend the agenda to add at the beginning of the Public Hearing some Board comments and it was seconded by Mr. Kelly.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

A power point presentation was made in recognition of Mrs. Krob's leadership role as Board Chairperson and a heartfelt thank you was extended to her from all members.

## **V. PUBLIC HEARING**

A. Agenda Items -- None

B. The following people spoke at the Public Hearing on Non-Agenda Items

Ms. Leslie Moriarty	Support of K-5 Foreign Language
Ms. Mindy Cepelewicz	Support of K-5 Foreign Language
Mr. David Elkind	Need for Air Conditioning at North Street
Ms. Florence Phillips	Support of Language Arts Curriculum

## **VI. ORGANIZATIONAL COMMENTS**

Mrs. Eve Barron, PTA Council President, thanked Mrs. Krob and welcomed new officers. Mrs. Barron spoke of the Language Arts K-8 objectives. She also mentioned the Middle School Survey and cautioned all to pay attention to the responses of the 20 questions that were added to the survey by the review committee.

Ms. Karen Nagy, representing GEA, thanked Mrs. Krob for her work as Chairperson and gave her best wishes to the new officers.

## **VII. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES & SUPERINTENDENT**

Mrs. Waters reported on the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Curriculum Study Committee. They discussed the Foreign Language proposal and approved the motion to support the concept of instruction of foreign language at the elementary level and asked the Superintendent to determine how and when the program should be implemented. The K-8 Language Arts Objectives were received with great enthusiasm and will be voted on at the December Board meeting. Next meeting will be on November 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the Havemeyer Board Room. Science curriculum will be on the agenda.

Mr. Carey reported on the November 14<sup>th</sup> Facilities meeting and the capital projects to be presented to the BET, especially the 5-year plan. The committee came to the firm conclusion that the Greenwich Public Schools will require \$2.5 - \$2.7million each year to keep the buildings in repair. Projects under \$25,000 must fall under the operating budget. The committee reviewed a list which totaled \$257,000. The Superintendent will forward his recommendations to the Board. The next meeting will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:45 a.m.

Mrs. Anderson reported on the Long Range Planning Committee meeting of October 30<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion on the format of the budget and per pupil analysis. In addition, Dr. Lulow presented the results of the RFP bidding process for the Administrative Study. SchoolMatch Inc., the lowest bidder, was awarded the contract. Next meeting will be on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Havemeyer Board Room.

Ms. Gwynn reported on the November 8<sup>th</sup> Policy Committee meeting. The committee is in the process of finalizing several policies. There was discussion relating to setting parameters in the school calendar policy with regard to starting and ending dates, as well as vacations and holidays. Some calendar data from other districts is being gathered. Also, the Committee expects to bring groups of policies to the Board for approval in early 2002. They are making good progress on the 6000 series. Ms. Gwynn recognized Dr. Melendez for the terrific job she has done in helping the committee get to this point. Next meeting will be on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Havemeyer Board Room.

Dr. Lulow reported on three things:

1. One of tonight's items regarding CAPT Scores was pulled from the agenda, as the State Department of Education notified us that they are looking into some problems with the validity and reliability of the scores statewide. They have asked that the release of those scores be held until Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.

2. Regarding SchoolMatch: The staff is in the process of gathering information and GOSA members have been contacted, asking them to complete a survey. Tomorrow, 1500 letters are being sent to randomly selected parents, all BET members, all RTM Education Committee members and their Alternates, and randomly selected RTM members. The team will be in Greenwich for the week of December 10<sup>th</sup> to visit with various groups.
3. The departure of Genny Krob as Chairperson of the Board. Dr. Lulow mentioned that she was the first person he spoke to when the Board was searching for a new superintendent. He thanked her for not only making his superintendency possible, but also for her thoughtfulness, insightfulness, intellect and help. He also said he is looking forward to working with Sandy Waters, the new chairman of the Board.

Mr. Toretta wanted to add to Mr. Carey's Facility report that there will be a survey in the Greenwich Post next week on the uses of 9 acres of land where the Cos Cob Power Plant was. He suggested it would be a good opportunity for a soccer field, baseball field, boating facility or sailing facility. One flyer is allowed per family. He stressed the importance of everyone sending in the flyer and also stated that it could be obtained on the website. A Public Hearing will be on November 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. in Town Hall.

## **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Action on New Courses at Greenwich High School (Policy 6240)**

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mrs. Krob to approve all of the courses with the exception of the English courses.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Giambo and seconded by Mr. Toretta to add the English courses.

Discussion followed on the pros and cons of including the two English courses. Some felt that the breadth of high school English course offerings is already sufficient, and that the need for the new courses was not demonstrated. Others felt the new courses were appropriate and would be appealing to a range of students. Mrs. Krob added that the English department had followed the proper procedure for proposing new courses

and therefore the courses should be approved. In the future, perhaps a moratorium should be placed on new course proposals until new criteria for new course approvals are developed.

VOTE: 5 in favor, 3 opposed: MOTION CARRIED  
Mr. Kelly, Mrs. Anderson  
and Ms. Gwynn

**B. Action on Work Plan for Negotiations Committee (Policy 9130)**

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

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**C. Action on Budget Transfer (Policy 3160)**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Krob and seconded by Ms. Gwynn to approve the Budget Transfer.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**IX. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. First Reading, K-8 Language Arts Objectives (Policy 6240)**

Dr. Lang presented a brief overview of the objectives and stated that every teacher who will be implementing this curriculum has had an opportunity to express reactions, opinions and be involved in its development. One of the major leaders in this effort is Regina Paul, working with Marie Jordan-Whitney, who is our new Language Arts coordinator. There were many hours of discussions with all of the teachers in the system about the "State of the Language Arts". According to Dr. Lang, It has truly been a collegial effort of the highest quality and she asked Regina Paul to stand to be recognized and thanked her for all of the outstanding work that she did.

Discussion followed with some questions regarding staff development and reading lists with fiction and non-fiction. Ms. Jordan-Whitney and Mr. Batcheller are working together with non-fiction lists dovetailing social studies. Question raised on how these objectives intercept with the ALP program. Mrs. O'Neill, coordinator, stated there is no conflict with ALP. The Board will be voting on this at the December meeting.

## **B. Report on Middle School Survey**

Dr. Melendez and Mr. Curtin gave a comprehensive report on the survey. One of the major strategic goals deals with accountability. The 1994 Johnston Report assessed the middle schools four years after the district's conversion to middle schools and it hasn't been done again until now. Dr. Melendez commended the committee for their hard work and diligence. The survey has four primary areas. They are: school parent community relations; quality of instruction program; support for student learning and school climate environment for learning. The committee added 20 questions with particular concerns and issues in Greenwich. The scale went from strongly agree to strongly disagree. Mr. Curtin gave a detailed overview of the survey findings and responded to all questions from the Board. Copy of the survey is on file.

## **X. PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no speakers at the second Public Hearing.

## **XI. PERSONNEL MATTERS**

In reviewing the Certified Staff report, Mr. Carey noted that of the 17 new teachers hired, 14 of them live out of town. He asked the Superintendent to find out what percentage of teachers reside outside of Greenwich. The information may be helpful for negotiations.

Upon motion duly made by Mrs. Giambo and seconded by Mr. Kelly, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Giambo  
Secretary