

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: June 7, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Board Room, Havemeyer Building

PRESENT:

Board: Mrs. Colleen Giambo, Chairman
Mrs. Leslie Moriarty, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Nancy Weissler, Secretary
Mr. Steven B. Anderson
Mr. Michael C. Bodson
Dr. Susan S. Ellis
Ms. Virginia L. Gwynn
Mr. William G. Kelly

Administration:

Dr. Betty J. Sternberg, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Kathleen Greider, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. John Curtin, Asst. Superintendent
Dr. Susan Wallerstein, Asst. Superintendent
Ms. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services
Ms. Kim Eves, Director, Communications
Dr. Ellen Flanagan, Director, Human Resources
Mr. Anthony Byrne, Director, Facilities
Mr. Richard Calcavecchio, Director, Budget

Other:

Mrs. Sue Rogers, Mrs. Gerri Fleming, PTA Council; Mrs. Cathy Delehanty, GEA; Mrs. Patti Roer, Mrs. Lisa Harkness, Mrs. Celia Fernandez, Glenville School; Mrs. Genny Krob, Mrs. Pam Speer, Mrs. Debbie Finkelstein, FHSPA. An attendance list is on file in the Superintendent's Office.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Giambo, Chairman at 7:03 p.m.

1. Greenwich High School Auditorium/Instructional Space Limitations

Dr. Wallerstein indicated that the revised limitations incorporated input from Dr. Spector, Mr. Capasso, and The Friends of the High School Performing Arts (FHSPA). Board members made the following suggestions for changes: 1) elimination of “h” since the HVAC project at GHS was being undertaken separately; 2) elimination of redundancies between “e” and “f”; 3) the addition of a reference in “l” to input from elected officials; and 4) the addition of a limitation that addresses the need to align the project with the capital planning cycle. The discussion focused on the need to adhere to a timeline that would facilitate inclusion of the project in the Capital Plan for 2008-2009.

2. Greenwich Alliance for Education Update

Ms. Kail, Chair, provided the Board, with an update on the Alliance. The Alliance’s Tuning in to Music Program, which provides free private music lessons to elementary students who could not otherwise afford them, was successfully launched with 37 students in the second half of the school year. Its preschool literacy initiative, Going Places with Books, will start up in the fall of 2007. In June, the Alliance plans to award about \$90,000 in community grants to programs that further its mission.

3. Discussion of Work Force Housing

Mr. Tony Johnson, Executive Director of the Greenwich Housing Authority, and Mr. Jonathan DuBois, Chairman, discussed the Housing Authority’s proposed development plans to build additional housing for the Town’s workforce and the elderly. In response to a question from a Board member, Mr. Johnson indicated that the main opposition to its plans has arisen from concerns about the potential reduction in open space.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mrs. Moriarty to move Agenda item #7 to #4.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

4. Discussion of the Hamilton Avenue Delay and the Impact on Glenville

Dr. Sternberg and Dr. Wallerstein indicated that the revised substantial completion date for Hamilton Avenue is October 18 and that it is expected that a

CO would be issued about 4-6 weeks after that date. It was also noted that there are no realistic alternatives to move the Glenville student population to another site for the first half of the 2007-2008 school year.

5. School Improvement Team (SIT) Process Update

Mrs. Greider indicated that under the revised SIT Process, each school would work to develop and refine its SIT Plan during the year-end staff development day. These plans would be updated upon receipt of the standardized test results to be released this summer and would be submitted to the SIT teams for review in the fall prior to the October due date. A district wide SIT Committee is being formed to review and enhance the SIT process in 2007-2008. Board members stressed the importance of incorporating parent feedback in the work of the SIT teams.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Weissler and seconded by Dr. Ellis to extend the meeting to 9:15 p.m.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

6. Statement of Consultation on Annual PPS Report

Mrs. Moriarty noted that the Statement of Consultation that she had drafted in response to the PPS report submitted in March 2007 incorporated feedback from all Board members. The Board was in agreement with the Statement of Consultation.

7. Discussion of the Revised Facility Utilization Chart

Dr. Wallerstein discussed the revised facility utilization chart and its underlying assumptions.

8. Agenda Planning

Some Board members suggested that an agenda item be added for the fall of 2007-2008 for a "Blue Sky" discussion that would incorporate a future-oriented perspective and feedback from outgoing Board members. It was noted that monitoring report for E-001 Programs, Services, and Curriculum, which addresses the curriculum review process, would come to the Board in the fall.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mr. Kelly to move into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters at 9:13 p.m.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Dr. Ellis, the meeting returned to regular session at 9:50 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Nancy Weissler
Secretary