

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

TIME: June 14, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Town Hall Meeting Room

PRESENT:

Board: Mrs. Colleen Giambo, Chairman
Mrs. Leslie B. 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
Ms. Kathleen Greider, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. John P. Curtin, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Susan O. Wallerstein, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Anthony Byrne, Director of Facilities
Mr. Richard Calcavecchio, Director of Budget
Ms. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services
Ms. Kim Eves, Director of Communications

Other: Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, President, Mrs. Kristen Kratky, PTA Council;
Mrs. Cathy Delehanty, Mrs. Karen Nagy, Ms. Faith Sweeney,
GEA; Mrs. Marjorie Stone Rodriguez, Mrs. Debbie Applebaum,
Mrs. Leslie Cooper, Mrs. Laurie Heiss, Mrs. Debbie Finkelstein,
Greenwich High School; Mrs. Marianna Ponns Cohen, Mrs. Leslie
Breck, Parkway School; Mr. Tom Conelias, Mrs. Christine
Edwards, RTM; representatives from Greenwich Time, Greenwich
Post, and Greenwich Citizen. An attendance list is on file in the
Superintendent's Office.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Giambo, Chairman, at 7:10 p.m.

STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

Perri DiChristina was recognized for her memoir being chosen for publication by The Connecticut Writing Project from among 1,100 entries.

Eastern’s Sixth and Seventh Grade Teams were recognized for their first place finishes and its Eight Grade Team for its fourth place finish in the Wordmasters-Nationwide Word Challenge. Eastern’s top scorers included: Robert Cheng, Alexandria Edelson, Erick Tack and Klara Zimmerman.

Western Middle Schools’ Kindness Counts team, led by Club Advisor Jonathan Smith, was recognized as the Statewide Winner in the 2007 Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award.

Mrs. Karen Maher-Cochran was recognized as our representative for the 2008 Teacher of the Year State Program and winner of the Kiwanis Club’s Joseph Mitchell Kaye Award.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mr. Bodson to adjourn to reception at 7:15 p.m.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS MEETING

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the revised agenda and move Item 7D to Item 7A.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARING

The following people spoke at the Public Hearing:

Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, PTA Council President, thanked the Board of Education and Administration for their work during the past year. She noted the need to focus on the achievement for all students and PTAC’s support for the Greenwich High School

Auditorium project. She also spoke about the budget planning process and PTAC's interest in providing feedback at an early stage.

Mrs. Cathy Delehanty, GEA President, spoke regarding Dr. Sternberg's open forum for teachers to discuss their concerns and the GEA's request that the pilot of the Teacher Evaluation and Professional Development Plan be deferred.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to limit the time for speakers to two minutes.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Sean Goldrick	Spoke against a School Resource Officer at Greenwich High School.
Mr. Michael Bocchino	Spoke for the Byram Neighborhood Association, the Chickahominy Neighborhood Association, the Pemberwick Community Association, the Northwest Greenwich Association, the King Merritt Community, against the Greenwich Housing Authority's development plan because of its potential impact on open space.
Mr. Steven Walko	Also spoke against the Housing Authority's plan because of its proximity to Western Middle School and its potential impact on open space.
Mrs. Leslie Cooper and Mrs. Laurie Heiss	GHS PTA Co-Presidents, spoke in favor of a School Resource Officer at GHS.
Mrs. Judy Moretti	Spoke for Ms. Jo Conboy, Chairman of Save our Shores, against the Housing Authority's plans.
Mrs. Marianna Cohen	Spoke regarding the RISE initiative and the impact of various magnet alternatives.
Mrs. Claire Padien Mr. Tom Conelias	Spoke in support of the School Resource Officer. Spoke against the Greenwich Housing Authority project.
Mrs. Marjorie Stone Rodriguez	Spoke in support of School Resource Officer at GHS.
Mr. Howard Richman	Thanked the Board, Administration, and teachers for their efforts.
Mrs. Angela Valentine	Spoke on the excessive cost of courses in the summer school program aimed at closing the achievement gap.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT/SHARING INFORMATION

Reports of Officers, Committees, Liaisons, and Superintendent

Mr. Kelly advised the Board that the Negotiations Committee is starting the reopener discussions with the GEA and is continuing its negotiations with LIUNA.

Mr. Bodson noted that the Hamilton Avenue Building Committee has been advised that October 18th is the revised substantial completion date.

Ms. Gwynn advised that the Policy Governance Committee was meeting the next day to discuss proposed changes to the current policies.

Dr. Sternberg noted the reception that had recently been held in recognition of Hamilton Avenue receiving the Vanguard Award. She also advised that she had held a meeting with Glenville parents to address their concerns about the impact of the Hamilton Avenue construction delay.

Mrs. Moriarty stated that the Board had started working on the revision to the vision, mission and core values, and she expects a draft will be available for public comment in the fall.

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Technology Assessment Update

Mrs. Fran Kompar presented the Board with an update on the Technology Plan, which indicated improvements in technology literacy among students and outstanding progress in closing the achievement gap in this arena. The feedback from the Board was very positive.

b. Security at Greenwich High School

Mr. Al Capasso, Mr. Rick Piotrkowski, Mr. Tom Bobkowski and Captain Michael Pacewicz from the Greenwich Police Department presented a report on GHS Security to the Board. The report indicated a reduction in security incidents in the past year. It stressed the importance of communication between the Police Department and the High School, and the benefits of having a School Resource Officer (SRO) on campus. Captain Pacewicz advised the Board that the Police Department would fund the SRO for next year (2007-2008) but would like a commitment from the Board to support the program beginning in 2008-2009. The

Board expressed its support of a continued police presence at GHS and continued discussions with the Police Department regarding its funding.

c. **Achievement Gap Update**

Mrs. Greider reviewed her report on the Achievement Gap Update with the Board. Her presentation was followed by a question and answer period with the Board. She noted that the Individual Student Intervention Plan (ISIP) forms had been revised in response to principal and teacher input and the Administration was working with GHS to modify the form for the secondary level.

d. **Magnet School Update**

Mrs. Greider presented her update report on the Magnet Schools and addressed questions from the Board.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Weissler and seconded by Dr. Ellis to extend the time of the meeting until 10:30 p.m.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

e. **RISE Update**

Dr. Sternberg provided the Board with an update on the RISE initiative, including coverage of the June 12th meeting and the decisions from that meeting. The Board expressed its support for the neighborhood school model.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Weissler and seconded by Mrs. Moriarty to move Item 7 (d), Action on Greenwich High School Music Auditorium Project Limitations, ahead of Item 7 (a).

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

d. **Action on Greenwich High School Music/Auditorium Project Limitations**

The Board discussed this item extensively, including Dr. Wallerstein's recommendation regarding the establishment of a

building committee for this project. They also discussed the naming of facilities insofar as the facility is concerned.

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Anderson to eliminate Item h., "How to maintain the educational program for students during construction," from the planning limitations because it was redundant with Item b.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

a. **Action on Changes to 2008-2009 Budget Limitations**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Weissler and seconded by Ms. Gwynn to approve the changes to the 2008-2009 Budget Limitations.

AMENDMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to make the following changes to the document:

Item #4: Enrollment projections, collective bargaining agreements, ongoing negotiations, and operating expense escalation estimates.

Item #5: A staffing model guided by updated benchmarks.

Item #11: Outcomes and measurable results focusing on improving student performance and other success system indicators.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION, AS AMENDED

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Bodson to extend the meeting by 15 more minutes.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

b. Action on Authorization of the Executive Committee to Approve Transfers from June 15 through August 15, 2007

MOTION: It was moved by Ms Gwynn and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to authorize the Executive Committee to approve transfers June 15 through August 15, 2007.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

c. Approval of Monthly Financial Report

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Weissler and seconded by Dr. Ellis to approve the Month End Financial Report – May, 2007.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

d. Action on Work Force Housing

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve support of the Work Force Housing Plan from the Greenwich Housing Authority.

AMENDMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Ms.Gwynn to support the Work Force Housing Plan from the Greenwich Housing Authority, amended to indicate, however, that support for these efforts should not be construed as support for the use of open space.

This motion was withdrawn.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Ms. Gwynn to amend the statement indicating Board support for the Work Force Housing Plan from the Greenwich Housing Authority to indicate that the Board encourages the Greenwich Housing Authority to work with the community to find the best option.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION, AS AMENDED

8 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **Action on Early Intervention Program Grant**
- b. **Action on Secretary's Request to Approve Minutes of May 24, 2007**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the Consent Agenda.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

BOARD OPERATIONS PLANNING

- a. **Agenda Planning**

There was no discussion regarding Agenda Planning.

Upon motion by Mrs. Weissler, seconded by Mrs. Moriarty, the meeting was moved into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues at 10:46 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting moved back into Public Session at 11:13 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Weissler
Secretary