

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

**TIME:** October 26, 2006

**PLACE:** Parkway School

**PRESENT:**

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

**Absent:** Ms. Virginia L. Gwynn, Vice Chairman

**Administration:**

Dr. Betty J. Sternberg, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Mary Capwell, Deputy Superintendent  
Mr. John P. Curtin, Assistant Superintendent  
Dr. Susan O. Wallerstein, Assistant Superintendent  
Dr. Ellen Flanagan, Director of Human Resources  
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. Cathy Delehanty, President, GEA; Mrs. Janice Richards, Mrs. Gerri Fleming, Mrs. Anne Miller, Mrs. Jackie Johnson, Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, PTA Council; Mrs. Genny Krob, Mrs. Mary Radcliffe, Mrs. Lillian Eng, Mrs. Debbie Finkelstein, Mr. Neil Bouknight, Mrs. Kitty Garlid, Mrs. Debbie Appelbaum, Mrs. Paige Davis, Mrs. Mary Mediate, Mr. Alan Capasso, Mr. Rick Piotrkowski, Mr. Ken Edwards, Greenwich High School; Mrs. Paula Bleakley, Principal, Mr. Medard Thomas, Asst. Principal, Mrs. Kristen Goldstein, Mrs. Kati Bennett, Mrs. Ondine McBurney, Mrs. Rosa Sullivan, Mrs. Sue Kinnear, Mrs. Laura Brownstein, Mrs. Dawn Coletti, Parkway School; Mr. Tom Conelius; Mr. Robert Brady, RTM; Mr. Ken Borsuk, Greenwich News, and various

community members. An attendance list is on file in the Superintendent's Office.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Giambo, Chairman, at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to adjourn to a reception at 7:10 p.m..

VOTE: 6 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Kelly arrived during the reception.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Weissler and seconded by Dr. Ellis to move back into public session at 7:27 p.m.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Mrs. Janice Richards, PTA Council President, spoke on the many priorities that will add pressure to the budget: facilities usage, class size and solutions to solving racial imbalance issues. PTA Council supports funding for lowering class size limits in kindergarten, first grade, fourth grade and fifth grade. PTA Council also supports the inclusion of renovation and upgrading of the GHS performing arts center in the Capital Plan. She requested the Administration and the Board consider the timetable for parent and community involvement in addressing the facility utilization and racial balance solutions.

Ms. Cathy Delehanty, GEA President, had no comments.

Mrs. Rebecca Balikci, Parkway PTA President, welcomed the Board to the school.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Anderson to allow six minutes for two speakers on the issue of Reading and a limit of three minutes for each of the other speakers.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Clifford Sanden, a student at GHS and a tuba player, spoke on the importance of improving the GHS performing arts area.

Mr. Chip Gawle and Mrs. Genny Krob also spoke on the CIP plan and the improvements to the GHS performing arts area.

Mrs. Maureen Feuerman spoke in support of a reduction in class size caps and the inclusion of a staff reserve funding in the budget.

Mrs. Helen LaSorsa, Cos Cob PTA President, thanked the board for considering a change to class size guidelines and a staff contingency amount. She requested consideration be given to adding another section of fifth Grade at Cos Cob for the 2007-2008 school year citing lower academic performance for these students.

Mrs. Paige Davis and Mrs. Geri Fleming, speaking on behalf of a larger group of parents, indicated problems with the reading curriculum in the areas of decoding and comprehension, a desire to consider more successful reading programs, a need for better and more appropriate assessments (in addition to the DRA and DRP), a need for improved intervention strategies and the need for more communication with parents.

## **BOARD DEVELOPMENT/SHARING INFORMATION**

### **a. Reports of Officers, Committees, Liaisons, and Superintendent**

Mr. Kelly reported that the GOSA contract received RTM approval by a vote of 169 to 2. He also reported that the process to look at alternate pay systems with GEA representatives has broken down. The Board and the GEA will be issuing separate reports.

Dr. Ellis gave a brief overview of the Preschool linkage meetings and indicated that a report will be provided to the Board at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> Work Session.

Mrs. Moriarty reported that the Budget Advisory Committee had met three times – twice with BET representatives to discuss the budget guidelines and other budget issues. The

third meeting was with senior Administration discussing ways to frame the key budget issues throughout the approval process.

Dr. Sternberg discussed the reading program and advised the Board that it will be presented at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> Work Session with a focus on Balanced Literacy. She also said the Adequate Yearly Progress results were received from the State and Greenwich was not cited. She advised the Board that a committee had been formed to review and revise the Teacher Evaluation Plan. A consultant has been hired to help facilitate the committee's work.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Kelly to move Item 6.c, First Reading, New Courses at Greenwich High School, ahead of 6.a, Discussion of Budget Assumptions.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

### **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

c. **First Reading, New Courses at Greenwich High School**

Mr. Capasso presented the new courses, China Today, a new Social Studies course, and Orienteering and Musical Theatre Dance I, both Physical Education courses. There was discussion about the staffing requirement and expected student interest.

a. **Discussion of Budget Assumptions**

Dr. Sternberg and Dr. Wallerstein presented an overview of the assumptions that were used to build the 2007-2008 operating budget. Their presentation was augmented by a collection of slides indicating the goals of the budget and the considerations for cost, staffing, etc. that were considered.

b. **Summer School Report**

Mrs. Capwell presented the Summer School Report giving an overview of the changed program and its successes. She indicated that this program will play a role in addressing the achievement gap. The majority of changes occurred at the offerings for the elementary level, with the combination of the ESY and enrichment programs, review classes for students with ISIPs (individual student intervention

plans), scholarships for students with free or reduced lunch status. Program was funded with a surplus in the summer schools RRR account; however a funding strategy for next year will need to be developed. Board members asked for information about the financial statement, identification of students who were asked to attend, enrollment in some of the secondary classes. The Administration indicated it will supply additional financial information and use the experience from summer 2006 to modify the program for next year.

### **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Action on Fifteen Year Capital Plan 2006-2021**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Moriarty to approve the Fifteen Year Capital Plan 2006-2021.

Dr. Wallerstein and Mr. Byrne reviewed the Fifteen Year Capital Plan with the Board. Dr. Wallerstein revised the estimate for the GHS Music Room and Auditorium project to \$20 million. She indicated that while the plan needs to be submitted to the CIP Committee soon, it can be modified as it proceeds through its evaluation. Questions from Board members focused on the GHS Auditorium, GHS CCTV, changes from last year's plans, accuracy of projections for the out- years, timing of projects. Several Board members indicated a desire to discuss the prioritizing of major projects at a Board Work Session.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**b. Action on Tuition Rates Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 for 2007-2008**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to approve the tuition rates for Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 for 2007-2008 as presented.

A Board member commented that this is a positive proposal for attracting and retaining teachers. Another Board member questioned the suspension on accepting out of town tuition students given that enrollments are declining.

**AMENDMENT**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Dr. Ellis to delete item #4 and add the topic to a Work Session agenda for discussion in the spring.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

**VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION, AS AMENDED**

7 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

**c. Action on Relinquishing Jurisdiction Over North Mianus Community Center**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Bodson to approve the Board Relinquishing Jurisdiction over North Mianus Community Center.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

**BOARD CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of Month end Financial Report, 9/30/06**
- b. Approval of Transfers Exceeding \$10,000**
- c. Action on Secretary's Request to Approve Minutes of August 31, September 14 and September 28, 2006**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Bodson to approve the items on the Board Consent Agenda.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

### **BOARD OPERATIONS PLANNING**

a. **Agenda Planning**

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to approve the Revised Agenda Plan.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

b. **Meeting Debrief**

In discussion with Teamworks International, the Board had determined that going forward, they would like two easels with markers available at all Board Meetings.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Weissler, the meeting moved into Executive Session at 9:52 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting moved back into Public Session at 10:05 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie B. Moriarty  
Secretary