

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

**TIME:** February 15, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** International School at Dundee

**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  
Mr. William G. Kelly  
Mrs. Nancy Weissler

**Absent:** Ms. Virginia L. Gwynn

**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  
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. Janice Richards, President, Mrs. Sue Rogers, Mrs. Kristen Kratky, Mrs. Gerri Fleming, Mrs. M. J. Foti, PTA Council; Mrs. Jeannine Madoff, Mr. Mark Yin, Mrs. Angela Schmidt, Mrs. Terri Ricci, Mrs. Rachelle Fitzgerald, Mrs. Michele Regan, Mrs. Karen Kelly, Mrs. Maura Imperatone, International School at Dundee; Mrs. Cathy Delehanty, GEA; Mr. Bill Robbins, Mrs. Stacy Loveless, Mrs. Jackie Welsh, Mrs. Joanne Gorka, Mrs. Donna Berzolla, Mrs. Amy Yu, ALP; Mr. Tom Conelias; representatives from Greenwich Time 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 7:00 p.m.

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

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to return to public session at 7:25 p.m.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

The following people spoke at the Public Hearing:

Mrs. Janice Richards, PTA Council President, advised that the school calendar, as proposed, will be problematic for working parents and that most parents want the February vacation restored. In reference to Whole Student Development, she commented that many students discontinue their participation in activities because they are cut from a team or because some of our performing arts programs are extremely competitive. She commented that the Executive Summary of the E-003 Math was excellent. Regarding the school budget, it is incumbent on all parents to support appropriate funding for the schools operating budget, in spite of skepticism expressed by the BET Budget Committee.

Mrs. Cathy Delehanty, GEA President, expressed her disappointment with not having a delayed opening today given the inclement weather. She expressed her positive feelings about a meeting held with Dr. Sternberg and Dr. Flanagan to discuss teacher concerns. She noted that work on the Teacher Evaluation and Professional Development (TEPD) plan is underway; and she commended the committee and Dr. Flanagan for their hard work.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to limit the time for speakers to two minutes, and for their comments not to be repetitive.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Ms. Elisa Martinez, a former ISD student, spoke on the benefits of the IB program in promoting an international perspective and providing strong foreign language and music instruction.

Mr. Guillermo Perez, a fifth grader at ISD, advocated for an IB program at the middle school level.

Mrs. Christina Russell also spoke on the merits of the IB program in promoting whole student development and encouraging diversity; she would favor the introduction of IB at all grade levels.

Mrs. Bianka Cox spoke on the same issue and how it would enhance whole student development. She suggested the IB committee be allowed to work with the RISE committee to develop solutions that would include the expansion of IB. She noted that six of the top 10 high schools in the U.S. have IB programs.

Mr. David D'Andrea spoke regarding changing the name of Hamilton Avenue School to the Renaissance School at Hamilton Avenue. He had three questions: 1) What was the Board's involvement in the naming process; 2) Did the Board take a vote on formal naming to register it with the state; and 3) Does the Board recognize that this is a community school? He felt that there was a lack of community involvement in the process. He urged the Board to take a second look at naming the Hamilton Avenue School.

Mr. Nino Sechi also took issue with the renaming of Hamilton Avenue School. He suggested either The Hamilton Avenue Renaissance School or Renaissance Program at Hamilton Avenue School. In any case, he requested that Board take a second look.

Mr. David Micik passed.

Mrs. Lisa Harkness, PTA Co-Present, Glenville School, thanked Dr. Sternberg and Mrs. Giambo for their support of the Glenville renovation. She discussed the asbestos in the building, the leaking roof, the broken boiler and mechanical systems, and the outdated carpeting.

Mr. Frank Gaul spoke on the music and auditorium facilities at Greenwich High School. He stated the renovation process would take three years, and requested that the \$910,000 that had been set aside for the Havemeyer building be reallocated by the Board for architectural and engineering studies (A&E) for the upgrade of the GHS music and auditorium facilities to move it up on the timeline.

Mrs. Genevieve Krob spoke on the same issue, requesting the same consideration for the \$910,000. She noted that there was no requirement within the CIP process to separate the feasibility and A&E phases of projects; and she requested that the Board consider appointing a building committee for the project in July.

Mrs. Rebecca Balikci, Parkway PTA president, and Mrs. Alison Burns, Parkway PTA Treasurer, stated that closing a school is not a good long-term solution to the RISE issues. They hope everyone can work together toward the best possible solution for all students.

Mr. Tom Conelias spoke on the renaming of Hamilton Avenue School; he felt that community input should be considered.

## **BOARD DEVELOPMENT/SHARING INFORMATION**

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

Mrs. Giambo commented on the naming of Hamilton Avenue School. She indicated that at the end of the meeting the Board would recommend an approach to address community concerns.

Dr. Ellis, our CES representative, advised that Nancy Ceterelli, their Director, will be retiring on June 30, 2007.

Dr. Sternberg advised the Board that the names of the RISE Committee members would be released tomorrow; they were selected from the applicant pool to represent various areas of town and various constituencies. Mrs. Moriarty and Dr. Ellis will represent the Board on this committee. She also advised that the first meeting of the Committee will be on February 27<sup>th</sup> at North Street School. She advised that she has scheduled monthly meeting with our Principals for information sharing. Hamilton Avenue School has been selected for a site visit from Vanguard Schools, which is a very prestigious accomplishment. She advised that she and Kathy Greider went to an in-service program on Policy Governance in Atlanta, Georgia.

### **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **a. Success System Arena: Improving Teaching and Learning**

Mr. Curtin gave an overview of the Success System Arena of Improving Teaching and Learning. Dr. Sternberg commented that some of indicators for teaching are means, not ends, and asked the Board to consider whether they should be included in the Success System.

The Board had an extensive discussion of this issue and ultimately concluded that it is appropriate to include indicators for this arena. It then proceeded to vote on the merits of including the following as measures for “professional practices promotes student learning:” 1) staff using data; 2) individual student intervention plans; 3) teacher evaluation plans; and 4) teacher retention. The majority of the Board was in favor of including all of these measures with the exception of the teacher evaluation plans, which are being updated. One Board member suggested that we instead include the Administrator Evaluation Plan.

Regarding the proposed indicators for students having access to educational opportunities, the Board majority approved the inclusion of 1) advanced placement enrollment; 2) number of students completing algebra by the end of grade 8; and 3) time with now disabled peers (though Board members recommended that the baseline level be increased). Board members voted 4 to 3 in favor of deleting the racial balance indicator because it did not seem to yield meaningful information.

Board members also recommended that subsector participation in ALP be included as a measure.

Regarding the proposed indicators for stakeholder satisfaction with the quality of teaching, Board member approved the proposed measures and suggested including a teacher satisfaction measure as well.

**b. Monitoring Reports**

**i. E-003 – Assessment Standards, Math**

Mr. Curtin and Mr. Southworth presented the Monitoring Report for Assessment Standards in Math. Mr. Southworth noted that at both the elementary and middle school levels, teachers have indicated that additional instructional time should be devoted to the implementation of the new math curriculum. Mr. Curtin suggested that this is a governance issue because of its potential implications for other academic areas. Mr. Southworth and Mr. Curtin also stressed the importance of staff development to the successful implementation of the curriculum. One Board member asked about how we are measuring the achievement of our math students at the advanced level; Mr. Curtin indicated that we would look at year-over-year individualized student growth.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Anderson to accept the report E-003 – Assessment Standards, Math.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Weissler and seconded by Mr. Kelly to move E-020 – Financial Management, ahead of E-002 Whole Student Development.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

**ii. E-020 Financial Management**

Dr. Wallerstein was joined at the table by Janice Richards and Kristen Kratsky, PTA Council, and Mr. Calcavecchio. Mrs. Richards explained to the Board that the Gift Report reflected a collaborative effort between the Administration and PTA Council. She highlighted some of its key findings:

- **Equity:** Equity should be defined not only in terms of dollars, but also in terms of programs and experiences. She also noted that the current gift reporting understates some of the funds available to some of the smaller schools, which receive grants and gifts.

- **Current practices:** Their research indicated that at the school level, PTAs and principals are working very closely to ensure that funding is directed appropriately and to meet the specific needs of the schools. School PTAs fund a wide variety of enrichment programs, and not all of the schools are interested in the same type of programs.
- **Future plans:** She also noted that the PTA Council is committed to working as a group to develop ideas to better share resources among the schools. One such existing practice is where schools with Classical Cafes have used their “buying leverage” to share this experience with other schools that do not have the same level of resources to fund these experiences. On an ongoing basis, PTA Council plans to appoint a Vice President to monitor and update the gift report.

Board members commended PTA Council and the Administration for the excellent, in-depth report and expressed the importance of providing adequate funding for assured experiences.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to approve E-020 Financial Management Monitoring Report.

VOTE: 7 in favor none opposed MOTION CARRIED

After the vote was taken, there was discussion about shared services. It was noted that the substantial increase in them was primarily due to employee benefit cost escalation. The Administration indicated that it plans to develop a multi-year financial plan in the next six months.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Bodson to extend the time of the meeting until 10:30 p.m.

VOTE 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**iii. E-002 – Whole Student Development**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Dr. Ellis to approve E-002 – Whole Student Development Monitoring Report.

Ms. Mary Forde, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, discussed the difficulty in obtaining an accurate assessment of students’ participation in extracurricular activities. Her concern lies in the fact that there may be duplicates – students participating in more than one sport. She stated 19-25% of students participate per season, and that the percentage would be higher, but there is a lack of facilities. With regards to Social, Emotional, Learning (SEL), she indicated that all School Improvement Teams have SEL goals and that the SEL rubric will be piloted. She reviewed suspension data, observing

that 88% of student suspensions are at the high school and 53% of those are for attendance. The Board expressed an interest in developing alternatives to suspension for attendance-related infractions. Ms. Forde noted that there is a disproportionate number of Special Education students being suspended or expelled. One Board member noted that the report shows only five thefts, and he wanted the information regarding how many thefts there actually were.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

### **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Action on Month End Financial Report – 1/31/07**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to approve the Month End Financial Report 1/31/07.

Mr. Calcavecchio advised that the BET refused to appropriate \$475,847 for electrical expenses and we were advised to bring it back to the April Meeting.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**b. Action on Transfers Exceeding \$10,000**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the Transfers Exceeding \$10,000.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**c. Action on Hamilton Avenue Mural Donation**

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the Hamilton Avenue Mural Donation.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**d. Action on PreSchool Tuition Rates 2007-2008**

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the PreSchool Tuition Rates for 2007-2008, as submitted.

There was discussion about market prices for preschool and the actual cost per pupil to run the program. There was no vote taken on this motion. It was

tabled until the Board could be supplied with market prices for preschools in the area.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Dr. Ellis to extend the time of the meeting by 12 minutes.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**e. Action on 2008-2009 School Calendar**

The Board discussed the 2008-2009 proposed school calendar. The Board recommended: 1) shortening the December break; 2) maintaining a week-long February break; and 3) eliminating the long weekends in October and May. This item will be brought back to next month's meeting.

**BOARD CONSENT AGENDA**

**a. Action on Secretary's Request to Approve Minutes of January 11, January 18, and January 26, 2007.**

**b. Acceptance of Monitoring Reports**

- i. E-051 – District Administrative Operations**
- ii. E-050 – Management of Human Resources**
- iii. E-080 – Public Involvement in Schools**
- iv. E-004 - Graduation Requirements**
- v. L-002 – Contracts and Agreements**
- vi. L-020 – Professional Personnel Practices**

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve all of the Consent Agenda Items.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

**BOARD OPERATIONS PLANNING**

**a. Agenda Planning**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Bodson to approve the Revised Agenda Plan.

Mr. Kelly requested that a discussion take place in April regarding the offering of IB in the middle schools.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Bodson to add a discussion in April on the offering IB in middle schools.

VOTE: Mr. Kelly, Mr. Bodson & Mr. Anderson  
For, Four against MOTION FAILED

The Board decided to move the Curriculum Format discussion to the March 29<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Dr. Ellis to approve the Agenda Plan, as revised.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. Giambo discussed the issue regarding the Hamilton Avenue School name change. The Board agreed that it would be helpful to revisit this issue with additional community input. Mrs. Greider and Mr. Bodson will go back to the community for discussions and will report back to the Board.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Mr. Kelly to have the Chairman advise the BET Budget Committee that pursuant to the Board of Education's stated priorities, we would ask the BET to consider reprogramming the \$910,000 for Architectural and Engineering for a new Central Office building to the GHS Music and Auditorium facilities projects, with whatever conditions they deem applicable.

The Board held an extensive discussion on whether or not to take this action. The Board agreed that the sense of this motion was very much aligned with the Board's position that the GHS project is its second highest priority for major capital projects after the Glenville School renovation. Dr. Wallerstein recommended that any possible reprogramming should also take into account those capital projects that had originally been included in the 2007-2008 CIP and which were cut to accommodate the BET's recommended spending limitations. In the end, Mr. Bodson withdrew the motion and asked that Administration advise them how to proceed.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Weissler  
Secretary