

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: May 3, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Armstrong Court

PRESENT:

Board: Mrs. Colleen Giambo, 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

Absent: Mrs. Leslie Moriarty, Vice Chairman

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 of Facilities
Mr. Richard Calcavecchio, Director of Budget

Other: Mrs. Janice Richards, PTA Council/ Mrs. Natalie Queen, Eastern Middle School; Mrs. Dawn Turner, Mrs. Christine Fraioli, Hamilton Avenue School; Mrs. Angelique Bell, Mrs. Marianna Cohen, Parkway School; Mrs. Mary Ann Murray, Julian Curtiss School; Mr. Andrew Shaw, Greenwich Time, and Mr. Ken Borsuk, Greenwich Post. 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. Debrief on 2007-2008 Budget and Discussion of 2008-2009 Limitations

Dr. Wallerstein indicated that the debriefing and feedback from Board members and others will be taken into account in preparing the budget book, the limitations, and timeline for the 2008-2009 budget. Dr. Sternberg indicated that the Administration is considering proposing an additional limitation for the 2008-2009 budget. This limitation would incorporate the weighting of students for special needs in determining teacher resource allocation. The Administration indicated that student weighting has been used successfully in other districts. The Board asked for additional information about the concept of student weighting and noted that a revised model for teacher resource allocation would still have to comply with the 10 students to 1 certified staff guideline. In addition, Board members indicated that it would be helpful to get early feedback from the Administration about proposed reallocations to fund new initiatives.

2. RISE Update and Discussion

Dr. Sternberg indicated that the RISE Task Force has completed extensive work in three areas: 1) facility utilization and enrollment trends (previously reviewed by the Board); 2) boundaries and racial balance; and 3) site and web-based visits to investigate districts that have addressed issues of racial isolation, achievement gaps, and optimal facility utilization. Mr. Curtin discussed the geospatial mapping that has been done that overlays individual student demographic data with school boundaries to assess whether these boundaries can be changed to address racial balance. Ms. Greider summarized the scope and conclusions of the Site Visit Subcommittee.

The Board expressed its appreciation for the time that the members of the RISE Task Force have devoted to this important project for the District.

3. Hamilton Avenue School Building Update

Mr. Bodson indicated that “substantial completion” for the Hamilton Avenue School is now expected to be late fall and that students should be able to move into the new building about 4-6 week after that is achieved. The Building Committee for Hamilton Avenue School expects to have updated information about the likely completion date by the end of May.

4. Agenda Planning: Vision, Mission, Values, Strategic Directions Timeline

Dr. Sternberg presented a proposed timeline for revising the District's vision, mission, values, and strategic directions. The Board indicated that it would be helpful to receive the principals' and coordinators' input on this subject prior to its deliberations. The Board also noted that the proposed timeline would present some challenges in obtaining feedback from the public in the summer and early fall.

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Kelly to move into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters at 8:47 p.m.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Upon motion duly made Mr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Gwynn, the meeting returned to regular session at 9:13 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Nancy Weissler
Secretary