

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

TIME: May 24, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Central Middle School

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. Janice Richards, President, Mrs. Kristen Kratky, Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, PTA Council; Mrs. Cathy Delehanty, Mrs. Karen Nagy, GEA; Mrs. Marjorie Stone Rodriguez, Mrs. Debbie Applebaum, Mrs. Liz Kaneko, Kyle Kinnear, Catherine DiGennaro, Alicia DeRicco, Mrs. Leslie Cooper, Greenwich High School; Mrs. Marianna Ponns Cohen, Mrs. Anna Saras, Mrs. Rosa Fini Sullivan, Mrs. Leslie Bread, Mrs. Kathy Cummins, Mrs. Mary Ann Farrell, Mrs. Terri Collins, Mrs. Angelique Bell, Parkway School; Mr. Tom Conelias; representatives from Greenwich Time and 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

The following students were recognized for the Laws of Life Essay Contest, presented by Marie Jordan-Whitney:

Rachel Connolly, Eastern Middle School, Grade 6
Jake Palmer, Eastern Middle School, Grade 7
Olivia Manno, Western Middle School, Grade 8
Tori Dobson, Western Middle School, Grade 8

The following students were recognized for All State/All Eastern Music, presented by Patrick Taylor:

Diana Barnes	John Garlid
Cornelius Bouknight	Sara Gordon
Samuel Carihfield	Alex Hagen
Devon Ellis	Donald Haviland
Lauren Feinberg	Wade Islan
Meghan Kerwin	David Lazorowitz
Noah Levy	Evan Marx
John Mazzoli	Michael McKeever
Benjamin Milstein	Samia Mousa
Lizzy Pelgrift	Laura Pincus
Cole Rumbough	Cliff Sanden
Rama Santayana	Megumi Sasada
Will Speer	Marina Weiss
Catherine Chen	Elizabeth Har
Stuart Chessman	Kanako Morimoto
Lisa Romeo	Justin Steinfeld
Peter Day	Ken Kaneko
Emily Smith	Christina Chen
Paul Finkelstein	Christine Goldrick
Sara Haas	Matt Hurwit
Leah Neuberth	Jun Umegaki
Kristen Van Der Kloot	Monica Yasunaga

Mrs. Katy Young, a teacher at Cos Cob School, was recognized as recipient of the Greenwich Books Foundation Great Teacher Award, presented by Marie Jordan-Whitney.

The following staff members were chosen for recognition by the Special Education Services Committee, presented by Diane Corbo:

Rita Clair	Eastern Middle School
Darlene Gerald	Julian Curtiss School
Kristen Goldstein	Parkway School
Megan McNamara	Glenville School
Sue Stoga	Central Middle School

MOTION: It was moved by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Anderson to adjourn to reception at 7:35 p.m.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS MEETING

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the revised agenda and move Item 8D to Item 6B.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARING

The following people spoke at the Public Hearing:

Mrs. Janice Richards, PTA Council President, gave her last speech to the Board, advising that Mrs. Julie Faryniarz will be the new PTA Council President. She addressed the school budget, student achievement, health/wellness, and the secondary school review; and she expressed her gratitude for the experience of working together for the benefit of all students.

Mrs. Cathy Delehanty, GEA President, passed.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Bodson to limit the time for speakers to three minutes.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Ms. Christina Chan, Ms. Sara Haas, Mr. Clifford Sanden, and Mr. Paul Finkelstein, all members of the Greenwich High School Band, spoke about the recent Band trip to China and thanked Mr. Yoon, Mr. Walker, Mrs. Zimmer, the chaperones, and the trip benefactor for their support.

Mrs. Anna Saras, Parkway School parent, raised some questions regarding the projected utilization and enrollment numbers for Parkway School.

Mrs. Marjorie Stone Rodriguez and Mrs. Debbie Applebaum, outgoing Greenwich High School PTA presidents, encouraged the Board and Administration to undertake a review of the needs of the students at GHS, particularly in the Guidance area.

Mrs. Mariana Ponns Cohen, Parkway School parent, spoke regarding resource equity, the proposed review of the mission statement, and charter schools as an option for RISE.

Mrs. Sandra Waters spoke on her experience as a chaperone on the band trip to China and the need for the Greenwich High School auditorium and music facility project.

Mrs. Wendy DiChristina also spoke on the Greenwich High School auditorium upgrade.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT/SHARING INFORMATION

Reports of Officers, Committees, Liaisons, and Superintendent

Mr. Kelly advised the Board that the Negotiations Committee is starting their reopener with the GEA.

Ms. Gwynn advised that the Policy Governance Committee met earlier this month. At its June 15th meeting, it will consider revisions to some of the Ends and Limitations policies. In the fall, when Mr. Winters assumes his new position as Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Staff Development, it will resume its discussion of E001.

Mr. Bodson advised that the Hamilton Ave. Building Committee is trying to get back on schedule. They have requested that the construction company, project manager, and architect staff the project with more senior personnel. Mr. Byrne will attend all Committee meetings.

Dr. Ellis advised that the Affirmative Action Meetings take place the first Thursday of each month and invited the Board to come to the June meeting to meet the new Affirmative Action Officer.

Dr. Sternberg advised the Board that the RISE Task Force is reviewing options and will hold Public Hearings on June 4, 5, and 6 to obtain input from the community. She also advised that as part of RISE, the administration has refined the elementary school facility utilization model.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Weessler and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the Healthy Foods Certification.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Discussion of Status of Capital Projects

Dr. Wallerstein presented the Board with a report on the status of capital projects. Mr. Anderson suggested that a copy of the chart be sent to the RTM Education Committee. Mrs. Giambo requested that it become part of the monthly financial report.

b. Discussion of 2008-2009 Budget Limitations

Dr. Wallerstein presented the Board with a proposal for 2008-2009 Budget Limitations. Several Board members commented on the limitation related to new initiatives, noting that funding them through reallocations should be a priority and that the Administration needs to provide data and research to support consideration of them in a timely manner. Another Board member recommended that the capital budget limitations be revised to take into account the educational needs of students. The Board suggested several wording changes to the limitation; Dr. Wallerstein will revise accordingly and bring it back to the Board for action.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

a. Action on Changes to 2007-2008 Operating Budget

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

Mr. Anderson asked about the Youth Officer at the high school and requested this discussion be taken to a Board Meeting.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

b. Action on Monthly Financial Report 4/30/07

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Weissler and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the Monthly Financial Report 4/30/07.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

c. Action on Transfers Exceeding \$10,000

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

The Board requested that no item go to the BET before notifying the Board.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

e. Action on Adoption of a 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Moriarty and seconded by Mr. Bodson to approve the Adoption of a 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan.

Mr. Kelly requested that the contract be reviewed by the Law Department.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

a. Action on Secretary's Request to Approve Minutes of March 29, April 12, April 26, May 3 and May 8 (3), 2007.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Weissler and seconded by Ms. Gwynn to approve the minutes of March 29, April 12, April 26, May 3 and May 8 (3), 2007.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

BOARD OPERATIONS PLANNING

a. Agenda Planning

There was much discussion about the Board Agenda Plan. It was requested that a conversation be added to the agenda regarding the School Resources Officer and Security in General (June 14th); the Revised Facility Utilization Chart (June 7th); the Delay at Hamilton Avenue School and an Update on Impact to Glenville (June 7th), and the Capital Projects Review (Aug. 30th). A reported on weighted student models will be sent in Board Notes.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Ms. Gwynn to approve the Agenda Plan as revised.

VOTE: 8 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Gwynn, the meeting was moved into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting moved back into Public Session at 9:40 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Weissler
Secretary