

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**TIME:** March 29, 2007

**PLACE:** North Mianus School

**PRESENT:**

**Board:** Mrs. Leslie Moriarty, Vice Chairman  
Mrs. Nancy Weissler, Secretary  
Mr. Steven Anderson  
Mr. Michael Bodson  
Dr. Susan Ellis  
Ms. Virginia L. Gwynn  
Mr. William G. Kelly

**Absent:** Mrs. Colleen Giambo, Chairman

**Administration:**

Dr. Betty J. Sternberg, Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Kathleen Greider, Deputy Superintendent  
Mr. John P. Curtin, Assistant Superintendent  
Ms. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services  
Dr. Susan Wallerstein, Asst. Supt., Business Services  
Mr. Richard Calcavecchio, Director of Budget & Systems  
Mr. Anthony Byrne, Director, School Facilities  
Ms. Kim Eves, Director, Communications  
Dr. Ellen Flanagan, Director, Human Resources

**Other:**

Mrs. Janice Richards, Mrs. Jackie Johnson, Mrs. Gerri Fleming, Mrs. Julie Faryniarz, PTA Council; Mrs. Marianna Ponns Cohen, Parkway School; Mrs. Cathy Delehanty, GEA; Mrs. Lisa Harkness, Mrs. Celia Fernandez, Mrs. Patricia Dewitt, Glenville School; Mr. Tom Pastore, Mr. John Wissmann, Mrs. Leonor LoParco, Mrs. Loretta Nolan, Mrs. Fara Lazarus, North Mianus School; Mr. Tom Conelias; Mrs. Genevieve Krob; Mr. Andy Shaw, Greenwich Time, Mr. Ken Borsuk, Greenwich Post. An attendance list is on file in the Superintendent's Office.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Moriarty at 7:05 p.m.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Gwynn to add an Executive Session to the Board Agenda to discuss Personnel Matters.

**VOTE:** 7 in favor, none opposed **MOTION CARRIED**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned to reception at 7:20 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The following people spoke at the Public Hearing:

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| Mrs. Marianna Ponns Cohen                | Spoke on the RISE issues, stating that she is in favor of neighborhood schools, not magnet schools. She expressed her concern about the effect magnet schools would have on both transportation costs and neighborhood cohesiveness. |
| Mrs. Anna Povanelli                      | Asked that all 11 elementary schools remain open. She thought that the RISE Task Force is focusing too much attention on the issue of racial balance and magnet schools as a solution to this issue.                                 |
| Mrs. Gerri Fleming<br>Mrs. Lisa Harkness | Passed.<br>Thanked the Administration and Board for their efforts to keep the Glenville renovation on track and asked the Board to approve Phase 2.  |
| Mrs. Debbie Applebaum                    | Supports a youth officer at Greenwich High School.   |
| Mrs. Cynthia Zizzi                       | Supports a youth officer at Greenwich High School.   |
| Mr. David Rafferty                       | Supported the establishment of an International Baccalaureate program at the middle schools and Greenwich High School. He also suggested making more elementary schools IB schools.  |
| Mr. Tom Conelias                         | Noted that many minority students are graduating from Greenwich High School with inadequate reading skills; asked the Board and Administration to address this problem.  |

Mrs. Janice Richards, President of the PTA Council, spoke on the need for the RISE Task Force to develop new models to address the challenges facing the District. She emphasized the importance of the Task Force's communication strategy. She noted that PTA Council needs to understand the Administration's plan to address the BET's reduction in the BOE budget; she spoke in favor of the class size caps in this year's budget. She expressed hope that the funding issue for the youth officer at Greenwich High School would be resolved expeditiously.

Mrs. Cathy Delehanty, President of the GEA, expressed her appreciation for consideration of teacher input for the following Committees: RISE, Teacher Evaluation and Professional Development, Professional Learning, Social Emotional Learning, and Report Cards. She spoke in favor of a student weighting system for the allocation of teaching resources.

## **BOARD DEVELOPMENT/SHARING**

Mr. Kelly advised that the Negotiations Committee was meeting in relation to the LIUNA contract.

Mr. Bodson advised that the Hamilton Avenue School Building Committee would be announcing by late April or early May a projected completion date for the school.

Dr. Ellis advised that there are two finalists for the CES Executive Director position and that a decision should be announced shortly.

Mrs. Moriarty discussed the BET's \$500,000 reduction in the 2007-2008 Operating Budget. She noted that the revised Budget is extremely tight and that it would not be able to accommodate higher than expected enrollment or utility costs.

Dr. Sternberg advised that the staff was working on determining where to make those cuts with the least impact on programs or services. She advised that she has met with Chief Walters regarding the School Resource Officer. She also advised the Board that the State will be citing New Lebanon School for racial imbalance in addition to Hamilton Avenue School.

She advised the Board that the District is trying to meet several Freedom of Information requests that will require extensive time on the part of our Information Technology staff to address. Because of the tremendous amount of staff time involved in meeting these requests, she is concerned about its impact on our meeting the needs of our students. The Board wholeheartedly supported prioritizing the needs of the children and recommended that the work on the FOI request continue at a pace that does not compromise the effectiveness of the school system.

## **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Dr. Ellis to move Item d on the Action Items to Item a.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

d. **Approval of Plans for Phase II, Glenville School Renovation**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Bodson to approve the Plans for Phase II, Glenville School Renovation.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

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

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Weissler and seconded by Mr. Bodson to approve the 2008-2009 School Calendar.

**AMENDMENTS**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Weissler and seconded by Ms. Gwynn to make December 22<sup>nd</sup> a full day and December 23<sup>rd</sup> a half day,

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Weissler and seconded Dr. Ellis to move the February break to the week of February 16<sup>th</sup>.

The discussion of this amendment focused on its possible effect on the preparations for the State tests to be administered in March.

VOTE: Dr. Ellis, Mrs. Moriarty and Mrs. Weissler for,  
4 against MOTION FAILED

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mr. Anderson to add five snow days to the school calendar instead of four, ending school on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none against MOTION CARRIED

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION AS AMENDED:

7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

b. **Action on 2006-2007 School Calendar**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to approve the 2006-2007 calendar revisions, as presented.

Discussion on this item centered around graduation date, rain date, and end of year staff development.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

c. **Action on Success System**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Bodson to approve the Success System.

The Board commended the Administration for the development of the Success System.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

e. **Action on Tuition Rates 2007-2008**

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Weissler and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the Tuition Rates for 2007-2008 as presented.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

f. **Action on Month End Financial Report 2/28/07**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Dr. Ellis to accept the financial statements for the period ending 2/28/07.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed MOTION CARRIED

g. **Action on Revised Interim Appropriation for Electricity Costs**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Ms. Gwynn to approve the revised amount of \$482,042 for the electrical account interim appropriation.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

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

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to approve the transfers exceeding \$10,000.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

**BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**a. Enrollment, Racial Balance, Facilities Utilization (RISE) Update**

Dr. Sternberg provided the Board with an update on the RISE initiative, including presentation of the data charts that were reviewed by the Task Force on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Wallerstein provided an in-depth review of the facility utilization assumptions; she noted that the updated model included a common standard for special use spaces, e.g., music, art, ALP. This updated model will require a reassessment of the appropriate range for facility utilization. The presentation was followed by a question and answer period with the Board.

**b. Update on Special Education Study**

Ms. Forde provided the Board with an update on actions taken as a result of the Special Education study. Board members raised questions about the following: 1) the trends in mastery of IEP objectives; 2) how long it will take to see the effectiveness of the Hampton Brown reading program in reading test scores and special education identification rates; 3) what improvements have been made in record retention; 4) the impact of Project EVOLVE on future staffing; 5) trends in litigation; and 6) the reasons for the increase in the percentage of identified students from elementary school to middle school and then to high school. To assist the Administration in revising the format of the report, the Board agreed to summarize its recommendations in a Statement of Consultation to the Superintendent.

**BOARD CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Action on Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Staff
- b. Action on Policy E-004 – Graduation Requirements
- c. Action on Secretary’s Request to Approve Minutes of January 25, January 26, February 1, February 13, February 15 and March 8, 2007

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Dr. Ellis to approve all Consent Items.

VOTE: 7 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

**AGENDA PLANNING**

The Board discussed its desire to have a conversation on the Policy implications of the revised capacity numbers at the April 12<sup>th</sup> Work Session.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bodson and seconded by Mr. Anderson to extend the time of the meeting until 10:00 p.m.

VOTE                      7 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. Weissler suggested that the June 7<sup>th</sup> Work Session include a discussion of the mission, vision, and values for the District.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Gwynn and seconded by Mrs. Weissler to move into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters at 9:47 p.m.

VOTE:                      7 in favor, none opposed                      MOTION CARRIED

Upon motion duly made Mr. Anderson and seconded by Dr. Ellis, the meeting returned to regular session at 10:13 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 10.13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Weissler  
Secretary

