

WORK SESSION OF GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION

TIME: September 14, 2006

PLACE: Havemeyer Board Room

PRESENT:

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

Administration:

Dr. Betty J. Sternberg, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Mary Capwell, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. John P. Curtin, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Mary P. Forde, Director, Pupil Personnel Services
Dr. Susan Wallerstein, Asst. Supt., Business Services
Ms. Kim Eves, Director, Communications
Dr. Ellen Flanagan, Director, Human Resources

Other:

Mrs. Janice Richards, PTA Council, Dr. Damaris Rau, Principal, Hamilton Avenue School; Mr. Patrick Cassidy, Old Greenwich; Mrs. Genevieve J. Krob; Mr. John Brice, Mr. Ken Borsuk, Greenwich Post; Ms. Keach Hagey, Greenwich Time. An attendance list is on file in the Superintendent's Office.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Giambo, Chairman, at 6:57 p.m.

1. Hamilton Avenue Magnet School Update

Mrs. Capwell, Deputy Superintendent gave an overview of the Hamilton Avenue Magnet School. During the discussion, the size of the preschool and the draw of the small class size in preschool was discussed, and centered around funding and whether transportation should be offered when the preschool expands. They also discussed other issues, i.e. the cost, the class size, early and late classes, partnerships, impact on Julian Curtiss School. It was agreed that administration would develop costs and priorities and come back to the Board with this information. It should also include a discussion of solving the racial imbalance at both schools.

2. Budget Assumptions

Dr. Wallerstein lead a discussion of the budget assumptions in forming the 2007-2008 budget. Mrs. Giambo stated that she had formed a Budget Advisory Committee, to work with Dr. Wallerstein on the “selling points” of the budget. The Committee consists of Mrs. Moriarty and Mrs. Weissler, and Mrs. Moriarty would chair the committee. She stated that the Committee would disband after approval of the budget.

Other issues discussed were the response to MGT, the mentoring program, consequences of cuts, benefits of expenses, and tuition and opportunities offered in preschool programs that already exist.

Questions centered around class size guidelines, high school initiatives and NEASC regulations, teacher retention, high school assessments, students not succeeding in CAPT, refine the analysis of these issues.

3. Discussion of Havemeyer Relocation Options

Following a discussion of the options for the Havemeyer relocation, the Board asked several question of Mr. John Brice, from Peter Gisolfi, our architects. The Board seemed to be leaning toward looking at the renovation of the current Havemeyer building as a more economical decision. Mr. Brice was asked if the building could be renovated for less money than the other options. He was also asked to consider that option without the additional classrooms included in the building. He will bring this information back to the Board at their September 28th meeting.

4. Agenda Planning

Ms. Eves discussed the Agenda Plan. Mrs. Giambo recommended that the preschool discussion be held off until the linkages are held. She also advised that she had set up a Linkage Advisory Committee, consisting of Dr. Ellis, Ms. Gwynn and Mrs. Moriarty. She has named Dr. Ellis to chair the Committee. Mr. Kelly informed Ms. Giambo that he would like to be a member of that Committee as well.

They also discussed the Greenwich Alliance, budget transfer discussion, the Harris Survey (which was transferred to the Executive Committee). The Alliance and budget transfer discussion will be added to the agenda.

Dr. Sternberg advised that we are bringing in two experts on high quality PreSchool to run a forum on October 4th from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Kelly, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Moriarty
Secretary