

GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Announcement

SUPERINTENDENT WILL NOT SEEK RENEWAL OF CONTRACT

(For immediate release: Wednesday, October 15, 2008 – Greenwich, CT)

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Betty J. Sternberg, announced today that she will not pursue a renewal of her contract with the Greenwich Board of Education. Dr. Sternberg will remain in the District through the end of her contract, June 30, 2009. Dr. Sternberg wrote in a letter to the Board of Education, “After careful consideration, I have decided not to seek renewal of my contract. During my tenure I have led the education community in difficult conversations about declining enrollment, building utilization and racial balance. I have pushed forward metrics that expose student achievement and tell us how the system is faring in areas that affect it. I have put programs in place that, if sustained, will ultimately change the way administrators supervise, teachers teach and students learn -- all in service of increasing student achievement for those at the top, middle and bottom of the achievement spectrum. I did not do this in a vacuum; I did it with the advice, assistance and collaboration of a talented group of professional educators whom I will miss.”

The Superintendent will continue to focus on the strategic directions of the District - *Transforming Classroom Practices* and *Building Relationships* – as well as the development of the 2009-10 Budget, throughout the school year. She urges the District to, “stay the course and to remain committed to the goals and initiatives supporting the strategic directions.”

Board of Education Chairman, Nancy Weissler, said, “The Board would like to thank Dr. Sternberg for her contribution to the District since her arrival in August 2006. During her tenure, Dr. Sternberg has sharpened the District’s focus on, and programs devoted to, improving the academic achievement of each child. She has brought to the District a systematic and research-based approach to improving the effectiveness of our

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professional staff in every school and every classroom. In addition, she and the rest of the District's staff responded effectively to the challenges arising from the discovery of mold at the modulars and the unfortunate delay in the construction of the new Hamilton Avenue School, which is being overseen by the independent Town building committee.”

Bio Brief for Dr. Betty J. Sternberg

After 26 years with the CT State Department of Education, in July 2006, Dr. Sternberg was appointed Superintendent of the Greenwich Public Schools, the first woman to hold this position in the Town. Her vision has been to continue to improve achievement for *each* student in the Greenwich Public Schools. To that end, under her leadership, the District has focused on *transforming classroom practices* and *building relationships*. The District has been dedicated to providing professional learning, strategies and support for administrators to enable them to have more time in classrooms providing feedback and support to teachers to strengthen classroom instruction. In addition, the District has made great progress in the development and implementation of the new Teacher Evaluation and Professional Learning (TEPL) Plan, a plan that clearly outlines the expectations that the District has for each of its teachers and a process for supporting teachers in continuous improvement. Dr. Sternberg has led the District in its focus on teaching and learning for the 21st Century – developing an awareness of the need to prepare students for a rapidly changing future, launch of the Secondary School Review, and support for the SmartBoard implementation plan.

Dr. Sternberg led the District and the community through a process to address fluctuations in enrollment that resulted in imbalances in facility utilization and racial balance in the schools. The RISE Task Force (Racial Imbalance, Space Utilization and Declining Enrollment) proposed, and the Board ultimately approved unanimously, the decision to designate New Lebanon School as a magnet school in order to begin to address fluctuations in enrollment. New Lebanon School will open as a magnet school in 2009-10, pursuing authorization in the International Baccalaureate's Primary Years Programme. Dr. Sternberg led the District through a transparent 2008-09 budget development and adoption process over eight months, 750plus pages of budget

documents, and numerous presentations to the Board, Town Officials, and the Community – resulting in the approval of a \$125 million dollar budget from which only \$15,000 was deducted. Dr. Sternberg also coordinated the work necessary to present a comprehensive case to the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) to address a complaint, resulting in insufficient findings to support the complaint’s assertions.

Prior to Dr. Betty J. Sternberg’s appointment as Superintendent of the Greenwich Public Schools in 2006, she was the Commissioner of Education for the Connecticut State Department of Education (SDE) from 2003-2006. She dedicated much of her career in education to the State as Associate Commissioner in the Division of Teaching and Learning for over 12 years (1992-2003); as Director in the Division of Curriculum and Professional Development from 1985-1992; and as Bureau Chief in Curriculum and Staff Development from 1980-1985. As Commissioner of Education and Chief Executive Officer of the State Board of Education, Dr. Sternberg was responsible for over 350 employees at the central office and approximately 2000 staff members in the State’s technical high schools. She supervised public education in the State’s 166 local public school districts, 17 regional technical high schools, 3 endowed and incorporated academies, 12 charter schools and 39 full and part-time magnet schools. She was also responsible for developing, recommending and implementing the components of a \$2.0 billion state education budget.

As the first woman to serve as Commissioner since the inception of the position in 1838, Dr. Sternberg continued to promote programs and strategies for improving teaching and learning in the state. She is the key author of the standards piece of the Education Enhancement Act of 1986, nationally recognized legislation designed to attract and retain high-quality teachers to Connecticut. She directed the development of the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT), considered the most effective in the country. She was instrumental in developing the first school-by-school database in the nation in the form of the Strategic School Profiles and

she is responsible for the development of *The Connecticut Framework: K-12 Curricular Goals and Standards* in 11 core curriculum areas.

Dr. Sternberg has authored numerous articles, publications, monographs and reports on best practices for teaching and learning, accountability and assessments, and the obligation we have as educators to maximize achievement for all learners. She has been responsible for attaining and/or oversight of millions of dollars in grants over the last 10 years or more. She has been a speaker at multiple major conferences including the Harvard Law School, Advocates for Education forum this year as a panel participant with former Secretary of State, Rob Paige on the topic, “Judging No Child Left Behind: Is It Helping U.S. Children?” Dr. Sternberg is the recipient of the Columbia University, Teachers College (TC) 2003 Distinguished Alumni Award and taught a graduate level course at TC on federal, state and local policy in 2007-08. She has been an Adjunct Professor at the University of New Haven (1975-1979 and 1981-1982), a Lecturer at Western Connecticut State College (1977) and a Consultant for The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (1992).

Dr. Sternberg began her career as a Math Resource Teacher in the Franklin-McKinley School District in San Jose, CA (1972-1975). In 1975 she moved to Connecticut and began her work with RESCUE, the Regional Educational Services Center Through Unified Effort, currently known as Education Connection in Bridgewater and Litchfield, CT. Her first position at RESCUE was as Coordinator for Instructional Services and after 2 years she became the Assistant Director for Personnel and Instructional Services, before moving to the SDE in 1980.

Dr. Sternberg received her B.A. in Philosophy from Brandeis University in Waltham, MA in 1971; her M.A. in Mathematics Education, K-12 from Columbia University’s Teachers College in 1972; and her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Staff Development from Stanford University, Stanford, CA in 1978.

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