

# Greenwich Association of Realtors Presentation

September 14, 2007

**GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

# GPS Goals

- Raised academic achievement of ALL students – advanced, middle & below proficiency
- Accelerated academic achievement of students below proficiency
- Strengthened aspects of character that are preconditions to, and consequences of, learning
  - Provide sustained and continuous opportunities to demonstrate aspects of character essential to flourish in today's world
  - Show sensitivity to and respect for the perspectives, opinions, needs and customs of others
  - Learn to judge others on their merits and be understanding, appreciative and accepting of individual differences
  - Understand and appreciate one's own historical and ethnic heritage as well as the heritage of others within the larger community
  - Resolve conflicts peacefully
  - Work cooperatively and collaboratively with others – today's global economy requires the need for global cooperation and collaboration with people who may be different from ourselves.

# Key Focus Areas

Supports and improvements in two key areas known to result in increased achievement:

*Classroom Instruction*

&

*Leadership Development*

# Strategies

- Curriculum Improvements
- Best instructional practices
- Data based decision-making
- Instructional leadership improvements

# GPS Partial Choice Magnet Schools

# Current GPS Magnet School Program

- 3 Partial Choice Magnet Schools:
  - International School at Dundee
  - Julian Curtiss School
  - Hamilton Avenue School
- Definition: A school that offers certain programs or themes to attract students within a school district to apply voluntarily. GPS curriculum, programs and services are offered in addition to a theme.
  - *A Partial choice magnet school guarantees enrollment of students from its neighborhood attendance zone. In addition, students from around the district can voluntarily apply to available magnet seats. Acceptance of applicants into the school is determined by a lottery. Transportation is offered to students who meet the criteria for transportation.*

# The International School at Dundee (2000)

- International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program
- Began in order to address overcrowding in nearby elementary schools (OGS & RS)
- Priority for 'magnet seats' given to siblings and families in Eastern MS attendance area

# Hamilton Avenue School (2001/2007)

- Renaissance - Focus on individual needs of students through academic and social/emotional/cultural offerings
- Began in order to address racial imbalance
- Priority for 'magnet seats' given to siblings and schools in racial balance

# Julian Curtiss School (2003)

- World Languages/International
  - French & Spanish K-5
- Began in order to address racial imbalance
- Priority for ‘magnet seats’ given to siblings and families in Central MS attendance area

# BOE's Charge to RISE Task Force

## Address:

- fluctuations in enrollment, increasing/declining
- imbalances in building utilization
- racial isolation in elementary and middle schools

## In the context of:

- providing enriched educational opportunities, and the
- need to be accountable for allocating limited resources

# Options 1-3 include:

- selecting one present elementary area and re-districting that and the rest
  - run a 10 school elementary district
  - re-purpose one elementary district for preschool and/or alternative secondary ed
  - re-purpose one elementary district for an IB modified “full choice” magnet

# Option 1

RE-PURPOSE ONE ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL AS A PRESCHOOL AND/OR  
ALTERNATIVE SECONDARY  
EDUCATION CENTER

- potential schools NMS, NSS, CCS, GS,  
PS, ISD, NLS & HAS

# Option 2

- CLOSE ONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND RUN A 10-ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT – all sites potential
  - Impact on class size & building utilization
  - Condition of building
  - Impact on racial balance & on minority student groups
  - Cost & impact on currently offered educational programs

# Option 3

- RE-PURPOSE ONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AS AN IB MAGNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
  - Potential schools Cos Cob or North Street

# Options 4 -7 include:

- adding additional elementary schools as partial magnets in addition to those already operating (JC, ISD, Ham Ave)
- expanding Open Choice across the district (priority given to achievement levels)
- monitoring and evaluation of academic achievement, facility utilization, stakeholder satisfaction, racial balance and efficiency through a “monitoring committee” with targets over time
- phased-in implementation over 5 years, with the first year including pre-K, K and Grade 1
- transportation as we currently offer with the addition of allowing transportation for Open Choice to students scoring below proficiency

# Option 4

- Add one additional partial choice magnet school – New Lebanon
  - IB theme strongly recommended
  - First year – 2008 -2009
    - students in pre-K, K & Grade 1

# Option 5

- Add two additional partial choice magnet schools – New Lebanon & Glenville
- First year New Leb – 2008-2009
- First year Glenville – 2009-2010
  - Community chooses theme (dual language immersion and/or 6 to 6 potential considerations)

# Option 6

- Add three additional partial choice magnet schools – New Lebanon, Glenville & OG
  - OG phases in 2009-2010
  - Community picks theme (consideration to complimentary options)

# Option 7

- Add two additional partial choice magnets as sister schools – New Lebanon & OG
  - Complimentary themes
  - Priority given to each other's attendance zone

# Planning for All GPS Magnets

- Centralized, consistent application process
- Centralized lottery process, priorities based on school/district need
- Annual monitoring and evaluation process, based on explicit targets (academic and operational)
- Planning for articulation to secondary schools

# RISE Task Force Next Steps

- Sept. 18 - Task Force Meeting
  - Rank Options
- Sept. 27 - Presentation to Board
- Oct. 11 - Community Forum
  - Discussion of Options with BOE
- Oct. 26 - BOE Action on RISE Option