

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Strategic Plan Leadership Sub-Committee**

**DATE:** March 17, 2016

**PLACE:** Havemeyer Board Room

**PRESENT:**

**Board:** Ms. Laura Erickson, Chairman  
Ms. Barbara O'Neill, Vice Chairman  
Ms. Debbie Appelbaum  
Mr. Peter Sherr  
Ms. Jennifer Dayton

**Administration:**

Dr. William McKersie, Superintendent  
Dr. Ellen Flanagan, Deputy Superintendent  
Ms. Irene Parisi, Assistant Superintendent, CIPL  
Mr. James Hricay, Managing Director of Operations  
Ms. Mary Forde, Director of Pupil Personnel Services  
Ms. Kim Eves, Communications Director  
Mr. Phil Dunn, Chief Information Officer

**Other:** Dr. Gaetane Francis, BOE member  
Mr. Steve Kutno, Public Consulting Group

The meeting convened at 9:30 a.m.

In advance of the meeting, a document was circulated to the Board and Cabinet with a working definition of personalized learning. The working definition was distilled from the elements of personalized learning and seven proposed definitions as developed from various meetings with teachers and administrators.

The proposed working definition read: "Personalized learning is the provision of customized learning paths for each child that gives students meaningful choice in what, where, how and at what pace they learn based on their individual strengths, needs, motivations, goals and cultural background. "

A discussion took place on the important elements that should be contained in the definition without undergoing a wordsmithing exercise. A consensus was reached that the following elements should be included in the next version of a working definition:

- The definition should be viewed in the context of a standards-based curriculum

- Students are held to appropriately clear, high expectations, while meeting all academic learning objectives
- Progressively student-driven model
- Competency-based progression
- Student interests should be taken into account
- Acquisition of skills

A discussion followed on how personalized learning is currently being practiced in the district. There was consensus that PL needs to be optimized and systemized across the district. The conversation progressed to how personalized learning would look over the continuum of K-12 and over time.

It was agreed that the Superintendent and Cabinet would refine the definition and the revision would be discussed at the next SPLC meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

A concern was raised that the definition not be too dense as it needs to be easily understood and explainable to all constituents.

The next topic on the agenda was a recap of the deliverables from the ECRA workshop on March 14<sup>th</sup>. There is consensus on academic targets, outcomes and methodologies to measure the outcomes. More work needs to be done on the personal/interpersonal and system operations benchmarks. The Superintendent will ensure that a report outlining status and next steps will be compiled and circulated as soon as possible.

The approval of the minutes from 2/18/16 was postponed to the next meeting.

A written update on Strategies 2, 3 and 4 was circulated.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Erickson  
Acting Secretary

Approved 4/21/16 – 4-0