

**GREENWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Greenwich, CT**

**A Summary of June 20th Board of Education Decisions and Timeline  
On Facilities Utilization and Racial Balance Issues**

Introduction

*In October 2012, the Board of Education identified the need to develop a plan to address overcrowded schools, under-utilized schools and racial balance issues in the District. An extensive enrollment and demographic data analysis has been conducted and presented at several meetings. These included nine Public Forums and 14 small group sessions to gather input from stakeholders on the conceptual options.*

**SUMMARY OF DECISIONS**

At its June 20, 2013 meeting, the Board of Education took action on identifying acceptable methods to address the issues and next steps. These next steps will be executed concurrently.

Methods to Address Facility Utilization and Racial Balance

***All Board members indicated a preference for developing plans that relied on choice, giving parents the decision on whether to change from their neighborhood school to attend a different school.***

The BOE approved the development of several detailed plans to address these issues utilizing the following methods, which can be used independently or in combination:

- Partial magnet using only voluntary choice \*
- Partial magnet using voluntary choice and some redistricting \*
- Choice for students attending crowded schools to move to under-utilized schools
- Minimal redistricting for purposes of facility utilization
- Expand New Lebanon School

\* A partial magnet school has a student body comprised of students from the designated neighborhood attendance area as well as students from other attendance areas who apply to attend. Greenwich currently operates four partial magnet schools.

Market Research

The Board voted to engage an outside firm to conduct market research with Greenwich families on what features and elements would attract families to a partial magnet; e.g., transportation policies, themes like IB, STEM, 6 to 6, language immersion.

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Residency Verification

The BOE authorized the residency verification of all students in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2013-2014 school year by October 1, 2013. The purpose is to confirm that all enrolled elementary students are eligible to attend the Greenwich public schools and that the Board is using accurate data to make decisions regarding facility utilization and racial balance.

The Greenwich Public Schools' standard process requires five documents to verify eligibility to register for school – photo ID, notarized affidavit of parent/guardianship, two utility bills, proof of homeowner (mortgage, property tax bill or deed) or lessee (current lease) . The Town's Beach Pass application process only requires two proofs of residency,

This Kindergarten through fifth grade residency verification process will begin on July 1<sup>st</sup> and will be completed by October 1, 2013. Families will be notified with more details via ParentLink (telephone and email.)

Legal Challenge

The Board confirmed it is continuing to evaluate the potential for a legal challenge to the State statute and regulations regarding racial balance. The Board also confirmed its intent to work with the State Department of Education and State Board of Education on alternative ways to implement the regulations in Greenwich, including using the unique schools designation identified in the regulations.

**TIMELINE**

The Administration will develop specific plans for presentation at the BOE's August 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. The plans will include information on description of option, school locations, program elements necessary for success, impact on objectives, number of students impacted, middle school implications, impact on existing magnets, staffing, pros/cons, and costs.

The Board has scheduled the following meetings to address this issue:

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday, July 30 (Site TBD, 7pm):  | BOE meeting to review progress             |
| Thursday, August 29 (GHS, 7pm):    | Public comment, BOE review of options      |
| Thursday, September 12 (GHS, 7pm): | Public comment, continuation of BOE review |
| Thursday, September 26 (GHS, 7pm): | Public comment, continuation of BOE review |
| Thursday, October 10 (CMS, 7pm):   | Public comment; BOE vote                   |

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