

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2015**

PRESENT

David Howe, School Board President
Ed Gooding, School Board Vice-President
David Schwartz, School Board Member
David Smith, School Board Member
Lisa Tane, School Board Member
Francine Vernon, School Board Member
Anthony Gyetua-Danquah, Superintendent of Schools
Marsha Maddox, Deputy Superintendent of Schools
Dorothy Riolo, Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Services
Pamela Budd, School Board Clerk

ABSENT

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mr. Howe.

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 Minutes – December 10, 2014

The motion was moved by Ms. Tane, seconded by Mr. Smith.
The motion was approved: Aye-5 Nay-0 Abstained-1

3.0 DISCUSSION

3.1 2011-2012 Cost Screen Waiver

As part of its lengthy consideration of our request for a 2011-2012 cost screen waiver, the New York State Education Department (SED) has now focused its analysis on District staffing for 2011-2012 and 2014-2015. An initial meeting was held on December 11, 2014 with Ellen Ganon, our SED Regional Associate, to review 2011-2012 staffing, which was found to be at appropriate levels. A second meeting was held on January 7, 2015 to review District staffing for 2014-2015. It is estimated that the report will not be submitted to the Rate Setting Unit until the end of January. We hope that these staffing reviews will provide the final information needed for approval of the cost screen waiver.

3.2 December 2014 Billable Enrollment

Billable enrollment for the month of December was 185.61 FTEs. December enrollment was higher than the billable enrollment for the month of November of 182.13 FTEs, due to the two week recess period in December for which all students were billed. Total average billable enrollment through December was 181.12 FTEs, 14.88 FTEs lower than our planned enrollment of 196 (195 for the regular program and 1 for FCAP). This results in a revenue shortfall of approximately \$785,000 at our current tuition rate. We are increasingly concerned that enrollment remains below planned levels and that we will not be able to reach the enrollment totals included in our budget. The lower enrollment, which results in reduced revenue and severely limited cash flow, means that the District will continue to struggle to pay the approximately \$3 million in outstanding bills from 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

3.3 2014-2015 Contract with Mount Vernon City School District

The contract with the Mount Vernon School District for the provision of educational services to their students this year was reviewed by the Board. The contract format was modified from its previous version and has been reviewed by our General Counsel. We currently have three day students from the Mount Vernon City School District. A resolution is included in the Financial Section authorizing the School Board President to sign the contract.

3.4 2014-2015 Contract with Sewanhaka Central High School District

The contract with the Sewanhaka Central High School District for the provision of educational services to their students this year was reviewed by the Board. The contract has been reviewed by our General Counsel. We currently have one day student from the Sewanhaka Central High School District. A resolution is included in the Financial Section authorizing the School Board President to sign the contract.

3.5 District Plan for Special Education

Mrs. Riolo, Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Services, reviewed the District Plan for Special Education with the Board. This Plan is required by Commissioner Regulations and is reviewed with the Board every two years. A resolution to accept the plan has been included in the Education Report.

4.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

4.1 2014-2015 Fall Book Fair

The 2014-2015 Fall Book Fair was held from December 9-12, 2014 in the Bethune Library. The Book Fair was well supported by students and staff. The following staff were recognized for their efforts: Cecilia DeRosa and Denise Miata, Teaching Assistants; Janine Henry, Librarian; Elton Thompson, High School Principal.

4.2 Parent Involvement Meeting – December 2014

The December 2014 Parent Involvement meeting was held in Harlem at the Adam Clayton Powell Building. The agenda included program updates and a discussion on upcoming school and district events. The meeting was attended by four parents/guardians. Future meetings will alternate between the Bronx and Harlem offices of the Children's Village. The next meeting is scheduled to be held at the Bronx office. The date and time of the meeting will be announced at a later date.

4.3 DTSDE Integrated Intervention Team Review by SED – February 2015

The New York State Education Department will be conducting a DTSDE (Diagnostic Tool for School and District Effectiveness) on-site review of the Greenburgh Eleven Middle School on February 10 and 11, 2015. The Superintendent will update the Board on this item.

4.4 Holiday Concert

The Middle School held a Holiday Concert on December 18, 2014 in the Multi-Purpose room. Students, staff, parents and families were in attendance at the event. The students did an outstanding job performing in the concert. The following staff were recognized for their efforts: Margaret Robstad, Principal; David Demnitz, Music Teacher; Teachers and Teacher Associates who worked with the students in preparation for the event.

5.0 BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2015.
- Ms. Tane reviewed the account status of the Greenburgh Eleven Foundation.
- Mr. Danquah reviewed the notes of the December 18, 2014 Health and Safety meeting.

6.0 BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Vernon recommended the NAACP’s ACT-SO Program (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics) for Greenburgh Eleven students. The ACT-SO Program is a yearlong achievement program designed to recruit, stimulate and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students.

7.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

8.0 FINANCIAL REPORT

8.1 RESOLVED that the Greenburgh Eleven Board of Education authorizes the School Board President to sign the contract with the Mount Vernon School District for the provision of educational services to their students during the 2014-2015 school year.

The motion was moved by Ms. Tane, seconded by Mr. Gooding.
The motion was approved: Aye-6 Nay-0

8.2 RESOLVED that the Greenburgh Eleven Board of Education authorizes the School Board President to sign the contract with the Sewanhaka Central High School District for the provision of educational services to their students during the 2014-2015 school year.

The motion was moved by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Smith.
The motion was approved: Aye-6 Nay-0

9.0 EDUCATION REPORT

9.1 Special Education

RESOLVED that the Greenburgh Eleven Board of Education approves the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education and authorizes the implementation of said recommendations with respect to classification and placement for the following students:

The motion was moved by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Schwartz.
The motion was approved: Aye-6 Nay-0

26740	26906	26995	26779	27425
26161	26942	27413	26446	27429
26331	26142	26204	27340	25091
26087	27421	26944		

9.2 District Plan for Special Education

RESOLVED that the Greenburgh Eleven Board of Education approves the District Plan for Special Education which shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

The motion was moved by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Schwartz.

The motion was approved: Aye-6 Nay-0

10.0 PERSONNEL REPORT*

RESOLVED that the Greenburgh Eleven Board of Education approves the personnel report as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

The motion was moved by Mr. Gooding, seconded by Mr. Schwartz.

The motion was approved: Aye-6 Nay-0

CERTIFIED

Retirement Resignation

Dianne Schirripa, Special Education Teacher, effective 2/1/15

David Demnitz, Music Teacher, effective 2/4/15

Lisa Kaplan, Special Education Teacher, effective 2/24/15

Family Medical Leave of Absence

Anthony Gyetua-Danquah, Superintendent of Schools, effective 1/5/15 – 6/30/15 (intermittent)

Salary Adjustments

Norma Newkirk, Cat. 2 Leave Replacement, \$43,220 per year, prorated, effective 12/11/14-1/2/15

Judy Sugar, Cat. 2 Leave Replacement, \$43,220 per year, prorated, effective 12/11/14

Norma Newkirk, Cat. 3, Per Diem Substitute, \$150.00 per day, effective 1/5/15

Marguerite Warncke, Cat. 3, Per Diem Substitute, \$150.00 per day, effective 1/5/15

CLASSIFIED

Retirement Resignation

Monica Coley, Teacher Associate, effective 1/24/15

Per-Diem Substitute Appointments – As Needed, to Serve at the Discretion of the Superintendent of Schools or the Board of Education, \$10.00 Per Hour, No Benefits, Not to Exceed 7 Hours Per Day

Takiya Melvin, effective 12/10/14 – 6/30/15

Sade Francis, effective 1/5/15 – 6/30/15

11.0 OPENING OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLVED that the Greenburgh Eleven Board of Education enters into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of particular persons, requests to receive legal advice from attorneys that is protected by the attorney-client privilege, and issues involving individual students and staff.

At 7:54 p.m., the motion was moved by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Gooding.
The motion was approved: Aye-6 Nay-0

12.0 CLOSING OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:12 p.m., the motion was moved by Ms. Tane, seconded by Mr. Schwartz.
The motion was approved: Aye-6 Nay-0

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

At 8:14 p.m., the motion was moved by Ms. Tane, seconded by Mr. Schwartz.
The motion was approved: Aye-6 Nay-0

Pamela Budd
District Clerk