



## Community Planning Council

The Community Planning Council was established by Greenwich United Way to encourage the most effective and efficient health and human service delivery system for Greenwich. Comprised of community leaders, nonprofit service professionals, Greenwich United Way board members, and community volunteers, the work of the Planning Council, particularly through its periodic Needs Assessments, has led to the development of some of the Town's most valued programs and institutions.

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### Community Planning Council Meeting Thursday 9/26, 8:30am, Children and Youth: Greenwich Public Schools

Children and Youth: Greenwich Public Schools  
Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent, Greenwich Public Schools

According to the Greenwich United Way's Needs Assessment, the community and service providers continue to place a very high priority on meeting the needs of our children and youth. Over the past ten years, focus groups have cited the need to close the achievement gap as the most important issue to address. Other critical needs include counseling to address mental health, behavioral, and substance abuse problems; job training, and coordinating services to meet the needs of our youth.

#### Highlights from the Presentation:

The presentation covered topics on future plans for the district, the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan, and the complex education landscape that educators and administrators are working in every day, to meet the needs of its students.

Greenwich Public Schools Profile:

- 9,042 students enrolled as of September 2019
- GPS is the 8<sup>th</sup> largest school district in CT
- Total certified and non-certified staff, 1,392
- 5,500 students eligible for transportation
- 17 schools and programs
- Approximate annual budget, \$163,000,000

The district continues to focus on making learning personal, strengthening academic capacities, personal capacities and interpersonal capacities. New areas of focus for 2019-20 include: The Wellness and Academic Center for GHS, increased preschool sections, behavior support team, a newly designed budget book, new playgrounds and new windows.

The district is preparing to start the conversation on developing a new Strategic Plan and would like to hear from the community on: sustainability and the environment, cultural responsiveness, social justice, school space redesign, future of work and future of school.

Dr. Jones noted the quick pace that the education and work field is moving in and mentioned that educators must embrace the future of change. Educators can support his movement by: believing in the capacity of students, personalizing how they communicate (some children take longer to respond), personalizing encouragement (what works for one doesn't always work for another), supporting our colleagues and growing together.

500 West Putnam Avenue, Suite 415 • Greenwich, CT 06830 • 203-869-2221

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**Next Community Planning Council Meeting:**

Thursday, 10/24, 8:30 am, Greenwich YMCA, Topic: Mental Health and Substance Abuse

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