



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, 10/27, 9am, Education

Speakers:

Julie Faryniarz – Executive Director, Greenwich Alliance for Education
Dr. Toni Jones – Superintendent, Greenwich Public Schools

According to the Greenwich United Way's 2020 Needs Assessment, education was one of the two primary service categories highlighted as critical by our survey respondents. Interviewees communicated a clear concern for students at all levels of education. Their remarks focused on four primary issues: their concern with public education, educational disparities, the opportunity gap among students, and budgetary constraints, especially for early childhood education.

Highlights from the Presentation:

The presentation covered various topics around education in Greenwich.

Ms. Faryniarz provided an overview on the Greenwich Alliance for Education (GAE) and AVID Success. The Greenwich Alliance for Education was launched in 2006 as the local education foundation supporting students in the Greenwich Public Schools. Since their founding they have dedicated \$4.2 million to funding innovation, expanding opportunities, and inspiring educators. While progress has been made, our schools are still challenged by a diverse population, a persistent opportunity gap, and constraints on the ability to respond to a rapidly changing world. They believe it is our shared community responsibility to leverage resources and build partnerships to guarantee all students achieve academic success and a promising future.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a national college readiness system with over 40 years of proven success. AVID's mission is to close the opportunity gap among **diverse and underrepresented demographic groups**. AVID identifies **students in the academic middle** from these underrepresented groups who have great academic potential. AVID delivers a **demanding college-prep curriculum** and facilitates student involvement in extracurricular activities. The AVID program empowers all students to take ownership of their learning, prepare for tomorrow and become leaders.

Dr. Jones provided an update on various happenings in Greenwich Public Schools (GPS).

GPS utilizes a standards-based curriculum that supports all learners (adults and students) in creating and engaging in high impact learning tasks that ensure students develop and demonstrate the Vision of the Graduate capacities. Below, you will find a grade by grade break down of student progress monitors, academic and auxiliary and arts content area curriculum, and links to parent information. Link here for more info: <https://www.greenwichschools.org/teaching-learning/k-8-curriculum>

She discussed social emotional learning. The district utilizes Second Step, a classroom-based, social-emotional learning curriculum for Kindergarten–Grade 8 that nurtures children's social-emotional competence and foundational learning skills. The elementary years are the ideal time to nurture social-emotional competence and develop foundational learning skills. Second Step® Elementary offers an evidence-based approach to social-emotional learning (SEL), with age-appropriate lessons. Second Step Middle School is a first-of-its-kind social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum that's modern, web-based, and

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responsive to the needs of today's students and educators. It's underpinned by the latest research in adolescent brain development and social psychology. Link for more info: <https://www.greenwickschools.org/teaching-learning/social-emotional-learning>

She discussed capital projects happening in the district. Link for more info: <https://www.greenwickschools.org/departments/facilities-rentals/building-grounds-projects>

In addition, she discussed school safety topics. More on the safe school climate can be found using this link: <https://www.greenwickschools.org/teaching-learning/safe-school-climate>

Next Community Planning Council Meeting:

Thursday, 11/17/22, 9am, Legislative Breakfast