

Our vision is a professional learning community where instruction invites effort and supports academic rigor for all students and educators.



From the Desk of  
Superintendent Thomas A. Forcella

Guilford Public Schools • *Focused on Learning*

# Charting the Course

March 2010

## 2010-2011 BUDGET - FOCUSED ON INSTRUCTION

Due to the current economic situation, a different approach to developing the 2010-11 budget was implemented by the Guilford Public Schools Leadership Team. The process began with a Board of Education workshop that identified classroom instruction as the primary focus of our work and the 2010-11 budget. It was the consensus of the Board members and the Leadership Team that in this time of economic crisis, the development of the 2010-11 budget should be viewed as a time to reduce costs wherever possible while at the same time, the current crisis should be viewed as an opportunity to also create change and focus our efforts to an even greater extent on classroom instruction.

With the above charge in mind, the Leadership Team initiated a budget development process that examined with a critical eye all current programs, initiatives, staff assignments, and supply and equipment needs that support our vision and instructional focus. At the same time, opportunities for change were investigated that would continue to move the District forward in terms of student achievement.

In all cases a collaborative approach was utilized to accomplish our budget goals. Special faculty meetings were held at each building to specifically address doing more with less and innovative approaches that would continue us moving in a direction of high level student learning. Obviously, difficult decisions were made in order to arrive at the 2.8% increase that reflects the elimination of 13 positions that are a reduction from the current budget. At the same time, funding for one Administrative position has been reallocated in order to provide for highly trained Instructional Coaches that will work closely with K-4 teachers in the area of literacy instruction. It is our hope that with an even greater emphasis on instruction at the early grades, students will be challenged at high levels and not one student will fall between the cracks.

## STAFF REDUCTIONS

Prior to staff changes and reductions, salaries were to increase by \$1,746,858. This increase was a reflection of the current staffing levels with negotiated salary increases included. After a thorough review of all positions and enrollment projections, the salary line item was reduced by \$686,000 to reflect a revised increase of \$1,060,858 or 3.05% over the current year. Throughout the conversations regarding staff reductions, maintaining current class size and programs were a priority. The following staff reductions were initiated in an effort to meet the budget target proposed by the Board of Finance:

- 2 Maintenance/custodial positions
- 7 Para educator positions
- 6.1 Certified staff
- 1 Administrator
- 1 Secretary
- 2 Technology positions reduced from full year to school year

## **BOARD OF FINANCE SUPPORTS PROPOSED BUDGET**

The Town of Guilford Board of Finance unanimously supported sending the proposed \$50,021,963 education budget on to referendum. After a thorough presentation to the BOF by the Superintendent and Board of Education and two additional public meetings, the BOF felt that every effort was made by the Board of Education to submit a budget that would continue the work of educating the children of Guilford at a high level while at the same time recognizing the extreme economic difficulties of the times.

The Board of Education budget reflects a 2.8% increase over the current year's spending. This increase along with the 1.02% increase last year represent one of the lowest two year increases in recent years for the Town of Guilford.

### **View the Proposed 2010-2011 Education Budget Online**

The Guilford Public Schools proposed 2010-2011 education budget is available at [www.guilford.k12.ct.us/~gpsbudget/budgetpa.pdf](http://www.guilford.k12.ct.us/~gpsbudget/budgetpa.pdf)

## **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Tuesday, April 6  
7:30 p.m.  
Guilford Community  
Center

## **BUDGET REFERENDUM**

Tuesday, April 20

Voting will take place at  
all five district  
polling locations.

[Voting District Street List](#)

