

**GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2006
GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL, GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Bloss called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. Board of Education members present were Keith Bishop, William Bloss, Cynthia Cartier, Barbara Dudley, Louis Iorio, Alan Meyers, Naomi Migliacci (arrived late), Kathleen Nolan and Ted Zuse. Administrators present were Tom Forcella, Anne Keene, Gary Endean, Bob Loizeaux, Nancy Bishop, and Marilynn Sturgess. Also present were Business Manager Andy Potochney and Director of Operations Jim Saisa.

Action on Minutes of:

1.1 May 8, 2006 (Finance Subcommittee Meeting)

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mr. Zuse, the Board voted eight in favor of approving the minutes of May 8, 2006. (Ms. Migliacci was not present for the vote)

1.2 May 8, 2006 (Regular Meeting)

Upon a motion made by Dr. Iorio and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted eight in favor of approving the minutes of May 8, 2006. (Ms. Migliacci was not present for the vote)

1.3 May 22, 2006 (Working Committee Meeting)

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Nolan and seconded by Mr. Zuse, the Board voted eight in favor of approving the minutes of May 22, 2006. (Ms. Migliacci was not present for the vote)

1.4 May 24, 2006 (Joint BOE/CTFSF Meeting)

Upon a motion made by Dr. Iorio and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted eight in favor of approving the minutes of May 24, 2006. (Ms. Migliacci was not present for the vote)

1.5 May 31, 2006 (Policy Subcommittee)

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Dudley and seconded by Mrs. Cartier, the Board voted two in favor of approving the minutes of May 31, 2006. The remainder of the Board abstained from the vote as they were not present at the meeting.

The review and approval of expenditures for the month of May was moved to later in the agenda (following item 7.11) as Ms. Migliacci arrived late.

3. Public Forum for Topics on the Board Agenda Only (three minute limit)

Prior to the public comments, Chairman Bloss explained that there will be a second public meeting on the proposed Wellness Policy and additional work and review done on the Policy before the Board will be ready to vote on its acceptance. He reminded the public that federal law mandates that the district have a Wellness Policy in place by the fall of 2006.

Bill Dwyer expressed his concerns regarding the proposed Wellness Policy. He stated that he believes that many of the proposed responsibilities of the Health Advisory Committee should be Board responsibilities including the implementation of district nutrition and physical activity standards; the integration of nutrition and physical activity in the overall curriculum; and the pursuance of contracts with outside vendors.

Mr. Dwyer also expressed his support of the POS Cash Register System that would support a pre-payment program and develop a confidential system for managing the eligibility of students participating in the free/reduced-price lunch program and extend the ability of families to restrict and monitor the purchase of food items in the school cafeteria.

Lisa Fiala thanked Mrs. Cartier and Mrs. Dudley for coming to A.W. Cox and discussing the proposed policy with parents. She stated that she agrees with the section of the policy that states that staff members shall not deny participation in recess or other physical activity opportunities as a form of discipline or punishment. She also stated that parental involvement in the creation of the policy is important.

Linda Sanacora stated that she agrees with the content in Section A of the policy. She asked the Board how they will ensure that staff members' nourishment and activity needs are met and how they will determine what those needs are and the needs of the students. She also asked how it will be determined that food purchased from food service is more nutritious, of better quality and meets students' and staff members' needs than what parents can provide for special occasions and celebrations in school. She expressed her concern that there are currently several opportunities throughout the school year to share in food related activities.

Mrs. Sanacora addressed the nutrition policies stating that families should be provided with real-life examples of acceptable snacks including those that may not agree with these numbers even though they are nutritious, such as fresh fruit. She also said that she disagrees with the content of the Other Food-Related Events section of the policy stating that it would be wiser to make a list of suggestions or acceptable snacks and allergy precautions that parents should consider when bringing food into the school.

Mrs. Sanacora also stated that offering before or after school activities is not a substitute for providing physical activity during the school day. She agrees that recess should never be denied or used as a form of punishment. She questioned who will administer the health fitness assessments and follow up to determine the program's effectiveness.

Lisa Carbone expressed her concern with section B of the proposed policy. She stated that the food service department does not supply the nutritional content of the foods they serve and is concerned that the foods served are not as nutritious as some of the foods that parents may supply for special occasions.

Dee Jacob stated that she is concerned about giving an advisory board the oversight responsibility that should be taken on by the Board of Education. She stated that the policy's main focus should be on the district's lunch program. She believes more choices should be offered to enable children to have nutritious lunches. She proposed that children be involved in the planning of the school lunch program.

Mrs. Jacob expressed her concern about the removal of all food related events and celebrations where the food is supplied by parents. She suggested that complete ingredient lists can be provided to guard against food allergies, and that these events provide opportunities for parental and community involvement in the schools. Mrs. Jacob concluded by expressing her interest that children be taught how to make good choices and to learn moderation versus prohibiting certain foods completely.

Graham Mason asked if children were still allowed to bring a lunch to school. Chairman Bloss responded that they are.

4. Communications

Mr. Bishop asked Dr. Forcella to look into the final exam schedule to make sure that football practice does not interfere with exams and that CIAC practice regulations are adhered to.

5. Student Representatives

None

6. Superintendent's Report

6.1 Melissa Jones Principal Search Update

Dr. Forcella stated that 38 applications were received for the position of Melissa Jones Principal, including three internal candidates. 14 applicants were male and 24 female. 32 of the 38 applicants were Connecticut residents. Ten individuals were selected by the interview team based on a careful screening process following a specific rubric, for interviews. He explained that the interview team included Board representation, teachers, parents and administrators. The interview team selected two finalists as a result of the ten first interviews. Those interviews are being completed and Dr. Forcella stated that he anticipates presenting a recommended candidate to the Board by the end of June.

6.2 Pandemic Influenza Planning (exhibit)

Dr. Forcella presented a white paper to the Board from the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) on School District Pandemic Influenza Planning Guidelines. He explained that the report offers suggestions on forming a committee and the process a school district should follow in establishing a plan. He noted that the Health Advisory Committee (HAC) currently has members with the expertise suggested by CAPSS.

Mr. Bishop suggested that the Board ask HAC to be responsible for the Pandemic Influenza Plan. Mrs. Cartier stated that she thought this would be a reasonable request. Dr. Meyers and Dr. Iorio stated their support of moving forward with the planning process.

Mr. Zuse asked that the Superintendent consider adding more parents to HAC. Chairman Bloss stated that individuals interested in serving on the committee should contact Dr. Forcella. Dr. Forcella offered to contact the PTOs and the PTA to make them aware of the opportunity to serve on this committee.

6.3 Fuel Bids Update

Dr. Forcella reviewed the fuel bids awarded by the Board of Selectman at its May 1, 2006, meeting. The prices are fixed beginning July 1, 2006, and lasting through June 30, 2007. Bid #18-0506 for diesel fuel was awarded to Buckley Energy Group for \$2.5288 per gallon. Bid #19-0506 for unleaded gas was awarded to Buckley Energy Group for \$2.4051 per gallon. Bid #20-0506 for heating fuel was awarded to Dime Oil Company for \$2.3477 per gallon. All bids exclude CT gross tax receipt.

6.4 Action Plan Implementation Schedule

Dr. Forcella explained that the Action Plans scheduled for implementation through 2010 will require further discussion and planning with the Board. He presented the Board with a list of impact areas scheduled for implementation in 2006-07. The Action Plan Implementation Impact Areas are as follows:

K-12 Philosophy of Discipline/Behavior – Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior
Social development program consistency
Community cooperation for those working with young people to share a common vision with the school system

Local Assessment System Defined
Evaluate student progress
Assess curriculum implementation

School Improvement Teams at Each School
Establish school goals based on mission and data
Recommend professional development

Focus on student achievement

Observe and Evaluate Curriculum Implementation

“Walk-through” process
Benchmarks established

Initiate a Plan to Address Teacher Time Related Issues

Teacher collaboration
Professional development needs
Calendar adjustments
Recommendations/implementation schedule

Implement Uniform Hiring Procedures

Certified and non-certified staff

Investigate and Adjust School Arrival/Dismissal Times

Resolve bussing issues to alleviate down time waiting for buses and create a more positive start and end to school day

Community Education Foundation

Guilford Public Schools Communications Plan

Redesign GPS website
Publications
Annual report
Public access television, etc.

Technology Recommendations

Hardware
Training
Financial implications

Support Staff Recommendations from Program Review

The utilization of para educators and other support staff in the system
Implement program reviews for other district departments

Class Size Investigation and Policy

BOE policy
Research
Options

Leadership Expectations

This summer leaders and administrators in the district will identify expectations
District Leadership Team will participate in professional development and training

Dr. Forcella summarized that there are other initiatives identified in the Strategic Plan that will also be implemented or have already been implemented.

Mrs. Nolan observed that the implantation plan reflects the interests of the teachers as they expressed them to the Board.

Chairman Bloss asked that the impact areas presented by Dr. Forcella be posted on the district's website.

Mrs. Cartier asked to meet with administrators individually during the summer to hear about progress and issues at each school.

Dr. Forcella reminded the Board that there will be a team of diverse people serving on a committee meeting annually to review the progress on the identified action steps.

Mr. Zuse asked if the superintendent expects to adjust the arrival and dismissal times for the fall of 2006 including the high school. Dr. Forcella explained that the arrival and dismissal times for the other schools will be analyzed and potentially adjusted slightly. The high school schedule is a larger issue and will take more time to address.

Mr. Zuse asked if there will be any adjustments to the Class Size Policy prior to the start of the 2006-07 school year. Dr. Forcella explained that there may be some adjustments made in the use of interns, particularly at the Kindergarten level, and that the discussions and decisions regarding the Board's policy on class size need to take place prior to the 2007-08 Budget process.

Dr. Iorio asked what effect changing arrival and dismissal times will have on our current transportation contracts. Dr. Forcella responded that he will be meeting with the district's transportation coordinator and a representative from the bus company. He stated that he does not anticipate the potential changes to impact the current contracts unless an additional bus is required. Dr. Iorio asked that a thorough review be conducted of the current contracts to ensure the district is receiving all services agreed to.

7. Board Agenda

7.1 ACT ON Personnel Items (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Nolan and seconded by Dr. Iorio, the Board voted unanimously in favor of ratifying the resignation of Donna Kessler, Adams Middle School special education teacher, effective August 31, 2006.

Dr. Keene reviewed the qualifications of the proposed new faculty members. She stated that Domenica Santoro has taught elementary Spanish for three years. Her credentials and references are excellent. Laura Anderson is currently teaching Spanish at the middle school level. She has six years of experience, is very interested in curriculum development and has traveled world-wide.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously in favor of ratifying the appointments of Domenica Santoro and Laura Anderson, elementary Spanish teachers, effective September 1, 2006.

7.2 ACT ON Approval of Budget Transfers 2005-06 (exhibit)

Andy Potochney presented the recommended Budget transfers. He recommended transferring \$154,000 to the Salary Accounts to cover the cost of retirement pay for unused sick days for employees hired prior to 1999. The transfer also covers the overexpenditure in the Substitutes account. He explained that funds are available in the Benefits category as a result of higher contributions from employees and retirees.

Mr. Potochney explained that the transfers to Supplies and Materials in the amount of \$40,000 and Transportation in the amount of \$50,000 are the result of higher fuel costs. The transfer to the Capital account in the amount of \$155,000 will cover the cost of acquiring five vehicles for the Maintenance Department, refinishing the gym floors at Adams and Baldwin and completing the high school bleachers. These transfers will be covered by funds available in the Tuition account.

Mr. Zuse asked if the high school bleachers had originally been part of a bond issue. Mr. Potochney explained that the bond included work on the roofs at Baldwin and the high school and they were over budget. Mr. Zuse asked if the reimbursement expected from the State is included in the figures. Mr. Potochney explained that the reimbursement is separate.

Mr. Potochney responded to Mr. Zuse's question regarding the \$154,000 transferred from the Benefit category, explaining that these funds are available as a result of higher contributions from employees and retirees.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Zuse and seconded by Mrs. Cartier, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the Budget transfers as presented by Mr. Potochney.

7.3 ACT ON Bid Recommendation for Custodial Supplies for 2006-07 (exhibit)

Chairman Bloss asked Jim Saisa if any of the recommended vendors have any relationship with members of the school system or Board. Mr. Saisa responded that he was not aware of any relationships with school system employees or Board members.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Cartier and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the bid recommendation for custodial supplies to the 17 vendors presented by Mr. Saisa.

7.4 ACT ON Bid Recommendation for Boiler Cleaning for 2006-07 (exhibit)

Mr. Saisa explained that the bid was awarded to Air Dynamics. The company worked for the district this year as well.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Cartier and seconded by Mr. Bishop, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the bid recommendation for boiler cleaning to Air Dynamics.

7.5 ACT ON Bid Recommendation for Repair and Refinishing of the Adams and Baldwin Middle School Gym Floors (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mrs. Cartier, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the bid recommendation for repair and refinishing of the Adams and Baldwin Middle School gym floors to Class A Floors.

7.6 ACT ON Bid Recommendation for Trash Services for 2006-07 (exhibit)

Mr. Bishop asked if the Board should consider requesting new bids for Trash Service in light of recent public controversy about the industry potentially overbidding on contracts.

The Board discussed the issue and determined that, despite receiving only two bids, the results would likely be the same if the contract were rebid. Chairman Bloss added that, based on his knowledge of the waste management industry, he is not aware of any controversy involving the recommended vendor, All Waste, Inc.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Dudley and seconded by Dr. Meyers, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the bid recommendation for trash services to All Waste, Inc.

7.7 ACT ON Bid Recommendation for Energy Management System at GHS (exhibit)

Gary Endean explained that the energy management system at the high school is over 25 years old. He explained that while 14 companies requested bid packages, only two submitted bids. The company awarded the contract, Tradesman of New England, included a provision stating that they would bill 97% of the job upon completion and also included a check for 10% of the bid amount to be held until the completion of the job. Additionally, the company provided five references that were all very positive.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the recommendation for the energy management system at GHS to Tradesman of New England.

7.8 ACT On Recommendation for Symantec Gateway Security 5640 at GHS (exhibit)

Mr. Endean explained that the high school has had the same firewall for the internet since it's inception. The Windows-based server the district uses supports the software provided by Symantic. They will supply the docks and all of the updates to these devices remotely as well as expand the capability of keeping threats at bay. The configuration of the firewall has been an ongoing, involved process over several years. Symantic will enable the district to

continue with all of the work that has been done and the district will not have to start from scratch.

Mr. Endean further explained that the funding for this service is provided in the infrastructure grant from the State of Connecticut. He explained that the labor for this work will be done in house.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Migliacci and seconded by Dr. Iorio, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the recommendation for Symantic Gateway Security 5640 at GHS as presented by Mr. Endean.

Dr. Meyers asked Mr. Potochney if the bids approved tonight will have an impact on the 2006-07 Budget. Mr. Potochney responded that the bids are in line with the amounts budgeted.

7.9 RECEIVE FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Quotes from State Contracts for Truck Purchases (exhibit)

Mr. Saisa presented two sets of prices from the State for the purchase of five maintenance vehicles, two sanders and three plows. One set of prices totaled \$123,751 for 2007 GMC vehicles and the other totaled \$108,798 for two 2006 and three 2007 Ford vehicles.

Mr. Saisa recommended the purchase of the Ford vehicles adding that there is a Ford dealership in Branford that will service them.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Dr. Iorio, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the purchase of Ford vans and trucks, plow mounts and sanders for \$108,798 as provided by the State contract vehicle pricing quote supplied by Mr. Saisa.

7.10 ACT ON ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Program Signature Authorization (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Cartier and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the signature authorization of the ED-099 Agreement for the Child Nutrition Program.

7.11 ACT ON GPS Educational Technology Plan: July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2009

Dr. Forcella stated that he has worked with Mr. Endean on the development of the plan. He reminded the Board that there is a Technology Committee that will continue to be involved in the process of updating the plan.

Mr. Zuse suggested that there are not enough community members serving on the Technology Committee. Dr. Forcella stated there can be changes and additions to the

committee and he recognizes that there are many community members with expertise in technology.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Cartier and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the GPS Educational Technology Plan: July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2009.

**2. Review and Approval of Expenditures for the Month of May
Reviewer for the Month: Naomi Migliacci**

Ms. Migliacci reviewed the expenditures for the month of May totaling \$3,104,460.88. She explained that expenditures for this month were 80.81% as compared with 81.14% at this time last year. She reviewed the warrants dated May 3, 2006, May 17, 2006, and May 31, 2006, totaling \$864,449.14, \$189,976.57 and \$191,639.28 respectively.

In the warrant dated May 3, 2006, Ms. Migliacci noted expenses of \$585,821 for medical, life, and disability insurance and \$60,316 in special education costs. The warrant dated May 17, 2006, included heating costs of \$16,121, special education costs of \$54,788 and electricity expenses of \$15,073. The warrant dated May 31, 2006, included electricity totals of \$39,240.50.

Ms. Migliacci also noted that under Other Contracted Services there was a return of \$307.89. She also noted the expense of \$819.95 for bid advertisements.

Dr. Meyers asked about the contracted service for a psychologist in the amount of \$6075. Mr. Potochney explained that these are consultations recommended as a result of PPT meetings. Dr. Meyers asked the Board at one point the district should consider adding a psychologist to the staff rather than pay to outsource the services. Mr. Potochney suggested that Dr. Meyers discuss the subject with Pupil Services Director Pat Brett.

Dr. Iorio stated that there are many special situations that require very specific evaluations by individuals qualified in certain areas.

Mr. Bishop asked if the \$3200 cost for waste hauling was a consistent amount. Mr. Potochney explained that the average monthly cost is approximately \$3500.

Mr. Bishop asked what piece of new equipment was purchased for \$7,037. Mr. Potochney explained that the district purchased a mower after receiving quotes.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Dudley and seconded by Mr. Zuse, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the expenditures for the month of May as presented by Ms. Migliacci.

7.12 RECEIVE Social Studies Curriculum (exhibit at meeting)

Dr. Keene explained that the curriculum document will be available at the Central Office for review. She stated that the goal is to begin implementing the curriculum, once approved by the Board, in the fall 2006.

Marilynn Sturgess presented an overview of the social studies curriculum. She introduced the members of the curriculum committee including Dennis Cullerton, Erin Tuttle, Anne Verzella, Maureen Shields, and Leslie Krumholz. She commended the dedication and thoughtfulness of the committee in revising the curriculum.

Ms. Sturgess explained the process of revising the K-11 curriculum beginning in 2004. The committee mapped out the curriculum including interviewing all of the social studies teachers in the district. They compared the existing curriculum with the State frameworks. The committee identified overlaps in the curriculum and gaps. She noted that some of the areas that needed improvement and were addressed in the revision process included the study of economics, geography and nonwestern cultures.

The committee reviewed the curriculum in detail by grade. The most significant change in the curriculum is the introduction of the study of nonwestern cultures in grade 7. The curriculum document includes an overview of each grade and details of the content based on 14 State content standards.

Mr. Zuse asked about the current curriculum for grade 7. Mr. Cullerton responded that currently the curriculum consists of a study of the early Colonial period through the Revolutionary War. The change will move this area of study down to the 5th grade and the 7th grade will begin their studies with the 1850s. Mr. Cullerton explained that there was some redundancy identified in the review process regarding the teaching of the Civil War and other concepts. Many of these will be eliminated by the revision of the 7th grade curriculum.

Mr. Zuse asked if history is currently taught sequentially. Mrs. Sturgess noted that within a time period the subject is taught chronologically, but some events and time periods are revisited and approached differently in later grades as students are able to handle more sophisticated concepts. Dr. Keene added that the age of the child must be considered when determining the time periods to teach. For example, third graders begin learning about history during the Colonial times because it would not be appropriate to introduce concepts such as government structure during Greek and Roman times.

Mr. Zuse asked if the curriculum revisions will require the purchase of additional materials and/or textbooks. Mrs. Sturgess noted that there is a textbook proposal on the agenda for the 7th grade. Mrs. Dudley noted that there are textbooks and resources that will be examined in other grades.

Mrs. Nolan asked if there will be professional development for teachers particularly in grade 7. Mrs. Sturgess responded that there will be professional development opportunities.

Chairman Bloss asked how the curriculum will be communicated to parents. Dr. Keene explained that curriculum overviews are available on the district's website. The overview of the social studies curriculum will be posted on the district's website for review.

7.13 RECEIVE RECOMMENDATION for Grade 7 Social Studies Textbook (exhibit)

Dr. Keene explained that this modular textbook will support the new social studies curriculum. The titles of the text series are "World Studies – Europe & Russia, Asia & the Pacific, Latin America, and Africa" (4 volumes). Dr. Keene explained that the series integrates authentic reading and writing strategies, and meets the State frameworks and national standards. The cost for the 4 volumes is approximately \$66 per student.

Mr. Cullerton summarized the process of evaluating textbooks. The committee reviewed several books and agreed that this modular series best matches the needs of the curriculum and the needs of the students. He noted that the publisher, Prentice Hall, provides free on-line access to the text so students may choose not to carry their book home. The company also provides on-line updates to the text.

Mrs. Dudley expressed her approval of the textbook recommendation based in part on the modular design of the texts. She stated that not only are the modules easier for students to transport back and forth to school, but this approach also allows the district to purchase only those modules needed.

Mr. Zuse asked which state's standards the text's content was based on. Mr. Cullerton did not know but he will find out. He added that he requested and received several positive reviews of the text from other school districts in Connecticut currently using the series.

Mr. Zuse asked what resources are available for students to allow for differentiated instruction of the curriculum. Mr. Cullerton explained that the company has on-line resources for special education students. He will find out the specific resources and support materials the company may provide for accelerated studies.

The modular series will be on display for 30 days at Lathrop House.

7.14 ACT ON Recommendation from Policy Subcommittee to Remove:

- **Policy #1410 Law Enforcement Agencies (exhibit)**
- **Policy #1414 Fire Department (exhibit)**
- **Policy #1500 Relations Between Area, State, Regional, and National Associations and the Schools (exhibit)**
- **Policy #1610 Relations Among Non-Public and Other Educational Organizations and the Schools (exhibit)**
- **Policy #1614 Relations With Parochial and Private Schools (exhibit)**

Mrs. Cartier explained that the Policy Committee began a review of the Policy Manual for relevancy, accuracy, and compliance with current state and federal guidelines. The policies

recommended for removal primarily addressed behavior of the superintendent that the committee felt was not necessary to regulate. Policy #1614 was deemed irrelevant as there are no private or parochial schools in Guilford.

Mr. Zuse asked if the Board should have the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) review the policy manual. Dr. Forcella explained that there is a cost associated with the service. Mrs. Cartier explained that there are resources that will be accessed from CABE as needed during the policy review process.

Dr. Forcella, responding to Mr. Zuse's comment that the district should look to the policy manuals of other districts rather than duplicate the process, stated that the process the Board is going through to directly review each policy ensures a complete understanding of each policy and is recommended by CABE.

Dr. Forcella recommended that CABE review the manual, once complete, for accuracy of citations.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the recommendation from the Policy Subcommittee to remove the following policies: Policy #1410 Law Enforcement Agencies; Policy #1414 Fire Department; Policy #1500 Relations Between Area, State, Regional and National Associations and the Schools; Policy #1610 Relations Among Non-Public and Other Educational Organizations and the Schools; and Policy #1614 Relations with Parochial and Private Schools.

7.15 RECEIVE Wellness Policy (exhibit)

Mrs. Cartier explained that the Health Advisory Committee (HAC) has emailed a draft of the Wellness Policy to all of the PTO presidents. HAC also had a public forum on May 31, 2006, attended by three members of the public. Mrs. Cartier has attended PTO meetings at Guilford Lakes and Cox schools.

Mrs. Cartier explained that there were some concerns expressed at the Cox PTO meeting regarding the policy. She believes that there is misinformation about the content of the policy and she is attempting to clarify this to individuals and groups.

Mrs. Cartier stated that the overall intent of the federally mandated policy is wellness, nutrition, and physical fitness. She stated that she believes the policy allows parents to have more control over what their children consume before and during the school day. She also stated that the policy does not govern the activities of PTOs regarding food-related fundraisers and events.

Mrs. Cartier explained that the policy states that parents may no longer bring in food from home to serve to children other than their own. Food served for celebrations, cultural events and other school day activities must be purchased from the district's food service. She added that HAC encourages non-food celebrations and events.

Mrs. Cartier stated that HAC will plan another public forum as well as a GCTV broadcast to further educate parents and the public about the Wellness Policy. She added that it is important for parents to understand and embrace the policy for it be effective.

Mrs. Cartier explained that she is working with Mr. Saisa regarding a la carte lunch choices for children to satisfy diverse needs and tastes.

7.16 DISCUSS for Consideration: Authorizing the Next Steps in the CTFSF Process

Chairman Bloss explained that there was a joint meeting with the Board and the CTFSF on May 24, 2006, to discuss expectations.

Dr. Forcella explained that the consensus is to move forward with the next two tasks of the CTFSF recommended actions for Adams and the high school. Task one is to develop a space needs program and review the existing educational specifications. The proposed cost is \$19,500. Task two is to complete a facility evaluation and inspection to determine the condition of the facilities. The proposed cost for task two is \$29,000.

Mrs. Cartier asked about the status of a demographic study. Chairman Bloss has sent a letter to First Selectman Carl Balestracci and has not heard back from him yet. Mr. Bishop explained that the study would be valuable to other Town organizations and Boards and the expense for such a study may be shared.

Responding to Mr. Zuse's question, Dr. Forcella explained that the time frame to complete steps one and two would be two to three months beginning in the fall of 2006.

Chairman Bloss explained that the work for tasks one and two should be performed by Fletcher Thompson as recommended by the Standing Building Committee.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Cartier, the Board voted unanimously in favor of authorizing the CTFSF to proceed with the next two steps of their recommended actions and continue to utilize Fletcher Thompson Architects. These steps include feasibility planning and budget determination for facilities improvements at GHS and Adams.

8. Unfinished Business

Mr. Bishop asked the Board members to review the action steps developed by the Board during their retreat.

Mr. Bishop asked that Dr. Forcella investigate the purchase of furniture that would create a better seating arrangement at Board meetings. He also noted the poor acoustics in the high school library and asked that a new public address system be considered.

9. Reports of Committees

10. Public Questions (four minute limit)

None

11. New Business

Mr. Bishop noted that the introductory meeting of the high school's new robotics club is being aired on GCTV. He also referenced Dr. Iorio's earlier request to review the transportation contracts. He asked that the transportation coordinator review the transportation contracts to be sure that equipment supplied is appropriate and that mileage records are accurate.

Mr. Bishop requested that a Finance Committee meeting be scheduled at 6:00 p.m. prior to the July 10, 2006, Board meeting.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Zuse and seconded by Mrs. Cartier, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorri L. Hahn
Clerk to the Board of Education

