

**GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2007  
GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL, GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT**

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Bloss called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Board of Education members present were Keith Bishop, William Bloss, Cynthia Cartier, Barbara Dudley, Louis Iorio, Alan Meyers, Kathleen Nolan and Ted Zuse. Administrators present were Tom Forcella, Anne Keene, Michael Biddle, Anne Snurkowski, Catherine Walker and Merry Leventhal. Also present were School Business Administrator Andy Potochney and Accounting Manager Linda Trudeau.

Chairman Bloss stated that the purpose of the meeting was to hear public comments about the proposed 2007-2008 Board of Education Budget. He stated that the Board is considering the Budget and the public's input with open minds and that the Budget is not finalized.

**Public Speakers:**

Doug Newman spoke in support of replacing the windows at Adams Middle School as proposed in the Budget. He stated that the ventilation system should also be updated as this need has existed for a number of years. He stated that it is important for the district to provide healthy environments for students and teachers. He also stated that updated facilities would help the district attract top-notch teachers.

Mr. Newman further stated that the district is behind our peers in technology. He is glad to see the technology plan and would even "ramp it up a bit."

Suzanne Carlson addressed four points in the proposed Budget. First, she stated that it is important that the proposed technology plan be implemented as Guilford is far behind other communities in this area. Second, Mrs. Carlson stated her support for professional development for teachers. Third, she supports an increased budget for substitute teachers, particularly at the high school where knowledge of specific subject areas is important. Lastly, Mrs. Carlson expressed her support of increasing the number of social workers in the district.

Dr. Forcella explained the proposed substitute teacher training program. He stated that the district would provide in-house training to subs. Those subs that participate in the training would realize an increase in their daily pay rate. He added that Guilford's daily rate for substitute teachers is among the lowest in the area.

Dr. Forcella stated that the proposed technology plan targets teaching and learning. Technology is being considered as an instructional tool for students. Professional development will be provided to teachers.

Dale Bishop, para educator at Guilford High School, addressed the proposed elimination of two para educators and two special education teachers at the high school. She stated the importance of the special education program and it's effectiveness in helping students "

make great strides.” She urged the Board to look at the success of the program when considering making any cuts.

Chairman Bloss thanked the public for their input and asked the Board to be prepared to discuss issues pertaining to the Budget following public input on Tuesday, January 30.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Cartier and seconded by Dr. Meyers, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorri L. Hahn  
Clerk to the Board of Education