

MINUTES  
JOINT MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEE  
GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GUILFORD BOARD OF FINANCE

JANUARY 16, 2007

IN ATTENDANCE:

GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION – Keith Bishop, William Bloss, Barbara Dudley, Louis Iorio, Alan Meyers, Kathy Nolan and Ted Zuse

GUILFORD BOARD OF FINANCE – Kimberly Brockett, Louis Federici, Ken Gamerman, and James O’Keefe. Michael Ayles and Louis Federici joined the meeting in progress.

BOARD OF EDUCATION STAFF – Thomas Forcella, Andy Potochney and Linda Trudeau.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Mr. Bloss stated that the Technology Plan is a big piece of the 2007-08 Budget that covers five years and will be paid for by leases. Mr. Bloss noted that the continuation of the World Language program is included in the budget with the addition of 2.5 FTE teaching positions. Dr. Forcella stated that prior to starting the budget process District priorities were established which included security and professional development. He noted that the professional development piece did not include an increase in the budget. Dr. Forcella explained the zero based budget process and how it resulted in changes in staffing at Guilford High School to better address the needs of the students.

Mr. Bloss stated that the Board of Education would be meeting with administrators on Wednesday, January 17, 2007 to review their budgets. Dr. Forcella stated that the original 2007-08 Budget requests were an 8.3% increase and that \$800,000 was cut to bring the budget to current 6.42% increase. Dr. Forcella noted that there were staffing requests that are not included in the budget but are included in the Five-Year Staffing Plan.

A discussion of the Technology Plan was held. Dr. Forcella discussed items that are being recommended for a potential bonding package which include replacing windows at Adams Middle School and various roof projects. Dr. Forcella noted that Mr. Zuse has requested the Board of Education also include the ventilation system at Adams Middle School be included in the bond package. Mr. Potochney noted that this is a preliminary budget and that the Board of Education has not discussed

Mr. Gamerman asked if there is an effort to focus on student efficiencies and is there anything in the budget to aid that. Dr. Forcella stated that one of the focuses of professional development is to create a local assessment system to measure our own curriculum. Dr. Forcella stated that the District is looking at a student system and that will also assist in doing our own assessment.

A discussion of the teachers contract negotiations was held. The maintenance vehicles were also discussed. Dr. Forcella discussed the Five-Year Staffing Plan and enrollment in the district. Further discussion of the Technology Plan was held.

Mr. Gamerman questioned the reduction in Special Education Staff and Tuition. Dr. Forcella stated that he was comfortable with the reduction in Special Education because upon review of the plans of the students and the staffing numbers he is confident that the needs can be met with less staff. Dr. Forcella added that the tuition reduction is based on current placements, which is the best information the District has available to them as they complete the budget. He also noted that needs of the District will vary and that the District will continue to adjust to the needs of the students.

Mr. O'Keefe questioned funding for security in the budget and if there were any needs that were not included in the budget. Dr. Forcella explained the plan for address security issues in the schools. He noted that to address points of entries at some schools would require a reconfiguration of the buildings. Dr. Forcella stated that for items not included in the budget, facilities are always an issue and that there are always projects to be done.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Trudeau  
Accounting Manager