

**MINUTES
GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL
APRIL 27, 2009**

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS: Alan Meyers, Mary Beeman, Barbara Dudley, Louis Iorio, Kathy Nolan and Linda Sanacora. William Bloss and Ted Zuse joined the meeting in progress.

BOARD OF EDUCATION STAFF: Thomas Forcella, Anne Keene, Kevin Mitchill and Linda Trudeau. Andrew Potochney joined the meeting in progress.

Kathy Nolan called the meeting to order at 7:30. Mr. Mitchill presented the CSDE Educational Technology Plan: 7/1/09-6/30/09. Mr. Mitchill noted that the State requires the plan to be updated every three years to be eligible for Federal and State funding, and it must include provisions for the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and an acceptable use policy. The goals include ways for additional integration with the curriculum and appropriate professional development to support the integration. Mr. Mitchill stated that the plan must be certified by the Board of Education and LEARN prior to submission to the state department. A discussion of laptops, smart boards and professional development was held. Dr. Forcella stated that some of the Stimulus funds may be used for hardware and software purchases.

As part of the FY 2009-2010 budget discussion, Dr. Forcella, Dr. Meyers, and Ms. Dudley described the impact of the federal stimulus plan on Guilford Public Schools. The requirement of supplementing the budget versus supplanting the budget made the use of one time expenditures which meet the criteria of the stimulus fund applications more attractive. Dr. Forcella expressed his concern that the money was only available for two years, and so sustainability of any project funded should be thoroughly explored.

Dr. Forcella reported that the Board of Finance was meeting at the same time as this meeting to discuss the 2009-2010 budgets. He has met with the District Leadership Team and with Mr. Potochney to draft a tentative budget reduction plan as a result of the failed referendum. Approximately \$145,000 of budget requests could possibly be taken from stimulus funds and \$66,000 from the medical account reimbursement. Other items that were being recommended for reduction included portions of athletics and extra curricular programs, professional development, transportation, and supplies. The total non-staff reductions would be approximately \$500,000. The remaining reductions would come from staffing. Dr. Forcella reported that approximately 17.4 positions affecting 21 staff from all bargaining units were being discussed.

There was also some discussion of the effect of possible concessions from bargaining groups and the impact of staffing reductions on programs and class size. The costs of unemployment verses the cost of benefits savings would probably be comparable so only salary figures would be included in the reduction plan. Dr. Meyers noted that the referendum date will be May 19, 2009.

Dr. Forcella stated that the joint meeting with the Board of Education, Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance was postponed due to the budget not passing at the referendum and would be rescheduled in the future. Dr. Forcella asked what the Board's preference was in regards to

splitting the High School project into two parts, one for the design and one for the construction, or staying with the project as a whole. Dr. Iorio stated that his opinion is to split the project in two due to the current climate. Mrs. Beeman agreed that splitting in two was the way to proceed. Mrs. Dudley also agreed with splitting the project. Mr. Zuse recommended getting a referendum on the design phase as soon as possible.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Mrs. Dudley the Board voted at 8:30 p.m. to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations. The Board invited Dr. Keene and Mr. Potochney to join the Executive Session.

Mary Beeman made a motion, seconded by Lou Iorio, to return to regular session.

Barbara Dudley made a motion, seconded by Alan Meyers, to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Trudeau