

**GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009  
GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY, GUILFORD, CT**

**1. Call to Order**

Chairperson Bill Bloss called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Board members present were Bill Bloss, Mary Beeman, Keith Bishop, Lou Iorio, Alan Meyers, Kathleen Nolan, Linda Sanacora and Ted Zuse.

Administrators present were Tom Forcella, Anne Keene, and Bea Schipani. Also present were Business Administrator Andy Potochney, Operations Director Cliff Gurnham, Accounting Manager Linda Trudeau, and GEA President Debbi Butler.

**2. Action on Minutes of:**

- 2.1 March 9, 2009 (Special Meeting-Executive Session)**
- 2.2 March 9, 2009 (Finance Subcommittee Meeting)**
- 2.3 March 9, 2009 (Regular Meeting)**
- 2.4 March 23, 2009 (Policy Subcommittee)**
- 2.5 March 23, 2009 (Facilities Subcommittee)**
- 2.6 March 23, 2009 (Workshop Meeting)**
- 2.7 March 25, 2009 (Special Meeting-Executive Session)**

Upon a motion made by Dr. Iorio and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the minutes of March 9, 2009 (Special Meeting-Executive Session), March 9, 2009 (Finance Subcommittee Meeting), March 9, 2009 (Regular Meeting), March 23, 2009 (Policy Subcommittee), March 23, 2009 (Facilities Subcommittee), March 23, 2009 (Workshop Meeting), and March 25, 2009 (Special Meeting-Executive Session). Chairman Bloss noted one correction to the March 9, 2009, Regular Meeting minutes. On page 4, the sentence "Chairman Bloss noted that, providing the budget passes on April 21, letters of reinstatement will be issued to all of the non-tenured teachers" will be reworded. The revised sentence will read, "Chairman Bloss noted that, upon passage of the Town Budget on April 21, 2009, the administration will issue letters of reinstatement to the appropriate non-tenured teachers."

**3. Review and Approval of Expenditures for the Month of March  
Reviewer for Month: Mary Beeman**

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mr. Bishop, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the expenditures for the month of March as presented by Mrs. Beeman.

Mr. Zuse asked about the state of the current budget. Chairman Bloss responded that current expenditures are approximately \$100,000 under budget.

**4. Public Forum for Topics on Board Agenda Only (three minute limit)**

None

**5. Communications**

None

**6. Student Representatives**

Marisa Mohrer and Elizabeth Savrann reported on news from Guilford High School. They noted that 63 students have registered for the new AP Economics class to be offered at the high school in the fall. Dr. Keene noted that the curriculum is currently being reviewed and finalized. She stated that the feasibility of offering three sections of the course is being analyzed and added that priority would be given to seniors. She also stated that two staff members will be trained in teaching AP Economics this summer.

The students reported that the JETS Physics Team placed third in the State and the GHS Math Team placed fourth in the State. They noted that the Senior Capstone project will be implemented next year, Senior art shows are currently underway and 46% of the student body achieved honors or high honors in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

The students reported that 43 intramural volley ball teams are currently competing at GHS. The students thanked faculty advisor Carol Ott and Yearbook Committee Chair Lauren Trotta for their work on the school's first full color yearbook.

The students noted that sophomore Anne Berman attended the Young Writers Conference and Jacob Stern was selected as a Governor's Scholar.

The students noted that the GHS Boys Fencing Team won the State title.

The students expressed their appreciation to Bea Schipani for her years of service to the students in Guilford as she retires this year.

Chairman Bloss asked the students to provide an overview of this report next month due to the lack of a camera at this month's meeting.

**7. Superintendent's Report**

**7.1 Overnight Field Trip Request Report - GHS Music Department (exhibit)**

Dr. Forcella introduced GHS music teacher Mark Gahm to report on the Italy trip for the Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra in April 2010. He noted that fundraising activities are planned to help subsidize the trip. He also noted that the district's Health Coordinator and GHS Nurse Carol Ott will be traveling with the students.

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009

Dr. Forcella noted that this will be the first trip abroad since September 11, 2001. Chairman Bloss suggested that Dr. Forcella consult the school district's attorney regarding any changes to the guidelines for students traveling overseas.

## **7.2 2009-2010 Budget Update**

Dr. Forcella stated that the Town Meeting on the Referendum will take place on Tuesday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

Dr. Forcella noted that money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will be made available to schools. He noted that IDEA grant money will be designated for Special Education.

## **7.3 Preventing Bullying in Our Schools**

Dr. Forcella reported that Dr. Keene has contracted with CIRMA to provide bullying prevention training for GPS administrators and social workers.

Dr. Forcella noted the importance of students receiving a consistent message and value of parental involvement, referencing the K-12 Philosophy of Discipline and Behavior. He also noted that students will be asked to complete an Asset Survey this fall as a part of TEAM Guilford's involvement in the Developmental Assets Program.

## **7.4 Revised Timeline and Benchmarks for GHS Building Project (exhibit)**

Dr. Forcella reported that the concept of first having a referendum for the design phase only was introduced at the March 23 Workshop Meeting. This approach would provide the Board and the public with a clear schematic of what the project will look like.

Dr. Forcella requested that a meeting be scheduled with Chairman Bloss, Mr. Bishop, Mike Ayles and him to discuss and develop timelines for the proposed Guilford High School Building project. The Board requested that two timelines be developed. The first timeline will reflect the steps needed to bring the schematic design phase of the building project only to referendum. The second timeline would incorporate both the design and building project. Dr. Forcella asked that this meeting be scheduled before the April 27, 2009, Workshop Meeting.

Dr. Meyers would like the Board to discuss the pros and cons of two referenda versus one. Chairman Bloss noted that having the completed design work would be valuable for a future high school project even if it weren't implemented immediately.

Chairman Bloss asked audience member Joe Petrowski if he had any input. Mr. Petrowski stated that he was comfortable with the new presentation from Fletcher Thompson on the high school design.

Mr. Petrowski asked if the BOE has jurisdiction over bullying activity occurring in the community, outside of school.

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009

Dr. Forcella responded that the school system is working with TEAM Guilford to establish community-wide behavior norms to provide consistent messages to children whether they are in school, on an athletic field or participating in other community activities.

Chairman Bloss stated that the Board of Education does not have constitutional authority to regulate conduct unless it directly disrupts the educational process.

## **8. Board Agenda**

### **8.1 ACT ON Personnel Items (exhibit)**

Chairman Bloss asked Dr. Forcella to acknowledge the service of retirees Bea Schipani and Tahme Adinolfi at the May 11, 2009, Regular Meeting due to the absence of a camera at this meeting.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Iorio and seconded by Mrs. Beeman, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the resignations of Beatrice Schipani, Guilford High School Dean, effective August 31, 2009, and Tahme Adinolfi, Guilford High School Choral Music, effective August 31, 2009.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Iorio and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the resignation of Melanie Burgess, Baldwin Middle School Health teacher, effective August 31, 2009.

### **8.2 ACT ON Approval of the Calvin Leete Elementary School Roof Replacement Specifications and Plans for Local Review and ED042 Application Process (exhibit)**

Mrs. Nolan commented on the excessive paperwork the Board receives to review for projects such as these. Mr. Zuse asked why such reports are not first given to the Facility Subcommittee.

Mr. Gurnham explained that the State requires the BOE to sign off on these projects to insure they meet educational specifications.

Dr. Meyers questioned how much information individual Board members need to make decisions on roofs. He suggested that the Town's facility experts and the Board's Facility Subcommittee can review the detailed material and make their recommendation to the rest of the BOE.

Chairman Bloss read from the March 3, 2009, minutes of the Standing Building Committee where the group unanimously agreed to move forward with the concept design for the Leete roof.

Dr. Meyers recommended that pdf files be sent to BOE members in lieu of hard copies for reports such as these. Mrs. Sanacora added that she would like to see all hard copies that are included in the BOE packets be double-sided.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Dr. Meyers, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the Calvin Leete Elementary School roof replacement plans and specifications for local review and filing of the the EDO42 application with the State.

**8.3 ACT ON Philosophy of Discipline and Behavior (exhibit)**

Upon a motion made by Dr. Iorio and seconded by Mr. Bishop, the Board voted unanimously to accept the K-12 Philosophy of Discipline and Behavior.

**8.4 ACT ON Request to Name the GHS Press Box (exhibit)**

Chairman Bloss recommended that the administration appoint a committee to discuss the naming of the GHS Press Box. He suggested that the committee members include GPS administration, students and Athletic Department staff.

**8.5 ACT ON Appointment of Committee to Name the GHS Press Box (exhibit)**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Zuse and seconded by Dr. Meyers, the Board voted unanimously in favor of authorizing Dr. Forcella to appoint a committee to include GPS administration, GHS Athletic Department staff, and GHS students to name the GHS Press Box.

**8.6 RECEIVE for POSSIBLE ACTION Recommendation from Policy Subcommittee:**

**8.6.1 Revisions to Policy and Regulation 5005: Bullying Behavior in the Schools (exhibit)**

Chairman Bloss suggested that a discussion of the Board's Policy and Regulation on Bullying Behavior in the Schools be the subject of a future Board Workshop Meeting.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mrs. Beeman, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommended revisions from the Policy Subcommittee to Policy and Regulation 5005: Bullying Behavior in the Schools.

**8.7 RECEIVE Recommendations from Policy Subcommittee:**

**8.7.1 Revisions to Policy and Regulation 1346: Use of School Facilities (exhibit)**

Chairman Bloss asked that action on revisions to Policy and Regulation 1346 be included on the May 11, 2009, Regular Meeting agenda.

**8.7.2 Revisions to Policy 6410: Special Education (exhibit)**

Chairman Bloss asked that action on revisions to Policy and Regulation 1346 be included on the May 11, 2009, Regular Meeting agenda.

**9. Unfinished Business**

None

**10. Reports of Committees**

Mr. Bishop reported from the Facility Subcommittee about the need to coordinate the bid process and timeline to complete the proposed projects for Adams Middle School. He explained the involvement of the Standing Building Committee in the process. He noted that it is recommended that a General Contractor be used to manage all of the projects.

Dr. Forcella explained the importance of prioritizing the proposed projects to insure that work that needs to be completed over the summer is done then. He noted that some projects can be completed during weekends and vacation time.

Mrs. Beeman reported that the Standing Field Committee will be conducting their field walks in the near future.

Dr. Meyers noted that the Health Advisory Committee will study all physical activity available to students throughout the district (not only at Baldwin Middle School) and compare the results with State guidelines.

**12. Public Questions (four minute limit)**

None

**12. New Business**

None

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Nolan and seconded by Dr. Iorio, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lorri Hahn  
Clerk to the Board of Education