

**GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2007
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, Lou Iorio, Alan Meyers, Ted Zuse, Keith Bishop, Barbara Dudley, and Mary Beeman.

Administrators present were Nancy Bishop, Rick Misenti, Anne Snurkowski, Anne Keene, and Tom Forcella. Also present was Accounting Manager Linda Trudeau and GEA President Debby Butler.

2. Action on Minutes of:

- 2.1 November 13, 2007 (Finance Subcommittee Meeting)**
- 2.2 November 13, 2007 (Regular Meeting)**
- 2.3 November 20, 2007 (Special Meeting – Expulsion Hearing #1)**
- 2.4 November 20, 2007 (Special Meeting – Expulsion Hearing #2)**
- 2.5 November 26, 2007 (Workshop Meeting)**
- 2.6 November 26, 2007 (Special Meeting)**
- 2.7 November 29, 2007 (Special Meeting)**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Dr. Iorio, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the minutes of November 13, 2007 (Finance Subcommittee Meeting), November 13, 2007 (Regular Meeting), November 20, 2007 (Special Meeting – Expulsion Hearing #1), November 20, 2007 (Special Meeting – Expulsion Hearing #2), November 26, 2007 (Workshop Meeting), November 26, 2007 (Special Meeting), and November 29, 2007 (Special Meeting). There was one correction noted to the November 13, 2007, minutes. Mr. Newman's statement will be revised to reread thirteen *periods* instead of thirteen *months*.

**3. Review and Approval of Expenditures for the Month of November
Reviewer for Month: TBA**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Zuse and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the expenditures for the month of November reviewed at the Finance Subcommittee meeting earlier this evening.

8.5 APPROVE \$7,500.00 Donation of Used Tech Ed Machinery from Buono Industries (exhibit)

Chairman Bloss, with the Board's permission, moved this agenda item to accommodate audience members waiting to speak on the subject. Tom Schaefer, GHS teacher,

explained that 4 grants have been received to cover the cost to move the machinery that has been generously donated by Buono Industries for use in technology classes and by the high school's robotics club.

Chairman Bloss asked that a thank you note be sent to Buono Industries, Inc. in acknowledgement of their donation of a Bridgeport Milling Machine, a Pratt & Whitney Metal Lathe and accessories to the Industrial Arts Dept. at GHS.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Iorio and seconded by Mr. Bishop, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the \$7,500 donation of used Tech Ed machinery from Buono Industries.

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

The following audience members spoke in favor of recess time at Baldwin Middle School: Michelle Raiti, Lisa Carbone, Jonathan Borak, M.D., Doug Newman, Ann Weeden, Cheliaugh Garvey and Ellen Blanchard. Speakers noted the district's Wellness Policy and spoke about the students' needs for exercise, and unstructured time during the school day. Mr. Newman noted the lack of playground equipment at Baldwin. Mrs. Garvey stated that recess provides an opportunity for teachers to observe students in a social setting.

5. Communications

Chairman Bloss noted that he and other Board members had received communications regarding recess time at Baldwin.

5. Student Representatives

Marcus Passay and Jeffrey Cash reported on news from the schools. Marcus reported that Melissa Jones donated books from their book fair and A.W. Cox students visited Maddad Tavern.

Jeffrey reported that the GHS Student Senate blood drive was very successful with 75 pints of blood donated. He also reported that the GHS Math team beat Daniel Hand High School.

8.6 DISCUSS Recess Time at Baldwin

Chairman Bloss, with the Board's permission, moved this agenda item to accommodate audience members present for the topic.

Dr. Forcella noted that the legislature is considering several proposals to address daily physical exercise during school. He stated that a longer school day may have to be considered to accommodate recess at Baldwin.

Baldwin Principal, Anne Snurkowski, explained that currently students have gym three days each week and on the alternate days they may go outside when they are done with their lunch. She suggested that one option to increase the amount of physical activity would be to have gym daily.

Dr. Meyers noted that the American Pediatric Society recommends that children have a minimum of 20-30 minutes of activity each day.

Dr. Iorio asked if it is possible to find the time for daily recess at Baldwin during the existing day, particularly with the need for collaboration time for teachers. Mrs. Snurkowski responded that it would not be possible to add recess every day based on the current schedule.

Mr. Zuse suggested that the Board address the issue of funding playground equipment and whether this should be the responsibility of the Board of Education or parent groups.

Chairman Bloss recommended that Dr. Meyers meet with parents and the administration to gather input and discuss possible solutions to recess issues at Baldwin. Dr. Meyers accepted and encouraged parents to contact him.

7. Superintendent's Report

7.1 CTFSF Update

Dr. Forcella reported that the Community Task Force on School Facilities has met with the Board of Education to have conversations about the needs identified at Adams and GHS and possible solutions. He noted that the task force is evaluating several options including those that are less expensive and may not address all of the needs. The CTFSF is looking forward to dialoging with the community.

Mr. Bishop noted the task force's long history and its long term plan to evaluate the school facilities and identify options to meet those needs.

Dr. Forcella stated that it is important to hear from the community. He noted that some of the key considerations with proposed renovations in the school facilities should be providing opportunity for community use, addressing infrastructure needs in the older buildings and identifying the actual costs for homeowners for various options.

Chairman Bloss stated that when the CTFSF makes its presentation to the Board it should identify all alternatives and include a cost benefit analysis.

7.2 Class Loading Report (exhibit)

Dr. Forcella noted that enrollments are stable and that class sizes have been reduced in the elementary schools, particularly in Kindergarten.

Mr. Zuse congratulated the Administration on its efforts to address class size.

Dr. Forcella explained that a committee of parents, staff, students and administrators has been formed at GHS to discuss scheduling concerns. GHS Principal Rick Misenti explained that the committee discussed what they would like to see in a schedule and what they do not want to see. The general conclusion is that all stakeholders would like classes to be longer.

Joyce Tucker, GHS Spanish teacher and committee member, stated that 45 minute classes are not long enough. She stressed the importance of collaboration among all stakeholders in the education process.

Jody Rabin stressed the importance of lesson planning and assessments and expressed concern that the current structure may not be the best for student learning.

Suzanne Carlson expressed her interest that the school day focus on academics and not parenting issues that can be addressed at home.

Yvette Palumbo stated that she is concerned that her high school freshman may not be able to take all of the classes he will need to be successful in college based on the current high school schedule.

Dan Cavanaugh expressed pleasure at being included in the process and stated that, as a new resident of Guilford, he is inspired by the commitment to embrace change.

Adam Petrone, Co-President of the Student Senate expressed enthusiasm over the possibility of a revised schedule with longer classes, explaining that he believes students will learn more and be able to delve further into the subject matter. Adam added that GHS physics students won four gold medals in recent competition, and the Spanish Honor Society was sponsoring a food drive.

Freshman Luke Zergebel suggested that students currently have a lot of free time during the school day. He also took a moment to remind the public that there is a GHS art exhibit at the library.

Mr. Misenti summarized that the schedule committee was not changing the schedule, but sharing ideas. He explained that the committee does not have a set time frame to develop a new schedule and stressed the importance of all kids having a level playing field on which to succeed and for teachers to have time to collaborate.

Mrs. Beeman asked if the notes from the scheduling committee's meetings might be typed and emailed to Board members.

Mr. Zuse asked Mr. Misenti about the percentage of students who can't get the courses they want. Mr. Misenti responded that more AP classes are needed in the schedule.

7.3 2008-09 Budget Update

Dr. Forcella explained that he, Linda Trudeau, and Andy Potchney have met with all of the instructional leaders and are reviewing their submissions for 2008-09 based on need.

Mr. Zuse requested that a list be developed of those items requested by the administrators that will not be included in the proposed 2008-2009 Budget.

12. Public Questions

Chairman Bloss suggested that this item be moved up on the Board agenda to accommodate audience members who may want to speak.

Doug Newman asked if grade reconfiguration was being considered by the CTFSF during their evaluation of the facility needs. Chairman Bloss replied that there would need to be a compelling reason to make this change. Chairman Bloss noted that the Town's demographic study would be available this week.

Mr. Newman suggested that the Board allocate money in the 2008-09 Budget to survey parents for feedback, particularly at the end of the school year.

8. Board Agenda

8.1 ACT ON Personnel Items (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Dudley and seconded by Mr. Zuse, the Board voted unanimously in favor of ratifying the resignation of Judith Sommariva, Coordinator of Special Education, effective January 31, 2008.

8.2 ACT ON Textbook Request: Level 1 Calculus (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Mr. Zuse and seconded by Mrs. Beeman, the Board voted unanimously in favor of adopting the Level 1 Calculus textbook requested by the GHS math department.

8.3 ACT ON Ratification of Administrators' Contract

Upon a motion made by Dr. Iorio and seconded by Mr. Zuse, the Board voted unanimously in favor of ratifying the Administrators' Contract as outlined by Mr. Bishop.

8.4 ACT ON 2008 Board of Education Meeting Calendar (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Dr. Iorio and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the 2008 Board of Education Meeting Calendar.

8.7 DISCUSS 2006-07 Strategic School Profiles

Dr. Iorio asked if the socio-economic changes reflected in these SSPs are significant and if they will impact the budget. Dr. Keene responded that the changes will not effect the budget.

Mr. Zuse noted that Guilford spends \$100 to \$200 less on Improvement of Instruction and Instructional Supplies than other districts in our DRG.

Chairman Bloss noted that Guilford spent \$724 per student on facilities and debt service versus \$1,866 in the average Connecticut school district.

8.8 REVIEW Process for BOE Vacancy Appointment

Chairman Bloss announced that the Board will meet on December 17 to interview candidates for the vacant Board seat. He stated that those interested in being considered for the seat submit a cover letter and resume to the Board by December 14, 2007. Chairman Bloss noted that the appointment process was reviewed at the most recent Board workshop.

8.9 ACT ON Recommendations from Policy Subcommittee:

- 8.9.1 Removal of Policy 6010: Provisions of Negotiated Agreement –Teachers**
- 8.9.2 Removal of Policy 6114: School Day**
- 8.9.3 Removal of Policy 6234: Driver Education**
- 8.9.4 Removal of Policy 5234: Graduation Requirements**
- 8.9.5 Removal of Regulation 5234: Graduation Requirements**
- 8.9.6 Removal of Policy 6318: Testing Program**
- 8.9.7 Removal of Policy 6322: Statewide Proficient Examinations**
- 8.9.8 Removal of Policy 6327: Student Volunteer for School and Community Service**
- 8.9.9 Removal of Policy 6350: Guidance Services**
- 8.9.10 Removal of Regulation 6350: Guidance Services**
- 8.9.11 Removal of Policy 6522: School Activity Funds**
- 8.9.12 Removal of Policy 6610: Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness**
- 8.9.13 Removal of Regulation 6610: Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness**
- 8.9.14 Revisions to Policy 6110: School Calendar**
- 8.9.15 Revisions to Policy 6122: Released Time**
- 8.9.16 Revisions to Policy 6216: Reduction of Racial, Ethnic and Economic Isolation**
- 8.9.17 Revisions to Regulation 6334(b): New Textbook Approval Form**
- 8.9.18 Revisions to Policy 6510: Extra Class Activities**

Upon a motion made by Dr. Iorio and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the following recommendations from the Policy Subcommittee:

Removal of Policy 6010: Provisions of Negotiated Agreement – Teachers
Removal of Policy 6114: School Day
Removal of Policy 6234: Driver Education
Removal of Policy 5234: Graduation Requirements
Removal of Regulation 5234: Graduation Requirements
Removal of Policy 6318: Testing Program
Removal of Policy 6322: Statewide Proficient Examinations
Removal of Policy 6327: Student Volunteer for School and Community Service
Removal of Policy 6350: Guidance Services
Removal of Regulation 6350: Guidance Services
Removal of Policy 6522: School Activity Funds
Removal of Policy 6610: Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness
Removal of Regulation 6610: Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness
Revisions to Policy 6110: School Calendar
Revisions to Policy 6122: Released Time
Revisions to Policy 6216: Reduction of Racial, Ethnic and Economic Isolation
Revisions to Regulation 6334(b): New Textbook Approval Form
Revisions to Policy 6510: Extra Class Activities

10. Unfinished Business

None

11. Reports of Committees

Mr. Bishop reported that the Land Acquisition Committee meets regularly.

Mr. Zuse asked that the committee chairs be listed on the website in addition to the committee assignments to make it easier to contact them.

13. New Business

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:05 p.m.

Respectively submitted by:

Lorri Hahn
Clerk to the Board of Education

