

**GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION JOINT MEETING
WITH THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN, BOARD OF FINANCE AND
COMMUNITY TASK FORCE ON SCHOOL FACILITIES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2008
GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY, GUILFORD, CT**

Board of Education members present: Bill Bloss, Keith Bishop, Kathleen Nolan, Lou Iorio, Linda Sanacora, Barbara Dudley, Alan Meyers, and Mary Beeman.

Board of Selectmen members present: Carl Balestracci, Joseph Mazza, Salvatore Catardi, Veronica Wallace, and Cynthia Cartier.

Board of Finance members present: Matthew Hoey, Michael Ayles, James O'Keefe, Louis Federici, David Egan, Kimberly Brockett and Ken Gamerman.

Also present were several members of the Community Task Force on School Facilities (CTFSF) including Co-Chairs Mary Jo Kestner and Mauro Rubbo.

Agenda:

- Presentation by Bill Leahy from the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University.
- Continue discussion on Guilford High School and Adams Middle School Facility Options
- Review Future Facility Date Discussions

Summary of presentation by Bill Leahy:

Mr. Leahy talked about High Performance Buildings, discussed life cycle costs, outlined the financial benefits of green schools, noted Connecticut's requirements for qualifying as a green school, provided a list of available resources for school districts, and explained the results of a study done on energy efficiency at Adams and Guilford High School.

Mr. Leahy explained that, based on data provided by the GPS Facilities Department, he determined that Guilford High School's Energy use is 88k BTU/year. The Energy Star Benchmarking system (ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping to save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices) gives GHS a score of 47. Mr. Leahy explained that a score of 50 would save the district \$27,000 per year and a score of 75 would save \$100,000. Mr. Leahy noted that Adams scored a 38 in its energy use analysis.

Mr. Leahy noted that High Performance Buildings create a productive environment, a healthy learning environment, a cost effective investment and an environment for students to learn about energy, the environment and sustainable living. He spoke about the positive impact high quality indoor air and natural daylight have on learning and faculty and student health.

Discussion on Guilford High School and Adams Middle School Facility Options:

Discussion included the timing of information for the proposed facility projects including when more specific plans for the facilities would be needed, when energy cost estimates can be

determined for new or renovated facilities, and when specific plans should be developed for the potential use of Adams if a new school is built.

Mr. O'Keefe stated that he believes the community should know that the Town is facing historic (in scope) building projects.

Mr. Balestracci stated, in response to comments about potential uses for Adams Middle School, that it will be the Town's responsibility to determine which organizations and departments occupy Adams, not the Board of Education's task.

Mrs. Beeman asked for input on the Grade Reconfiguration option from the other Boards. The general consensus was that this option was the most costly one to address the needs at Adams and has not received support from the public. Mr. Ayles noted that if reconfiguring grades were considered, this would need to be determined by the Board of Education.

Mr. Hoey asked Dr. Forcella if a conceptual plan has been developed that meets the educational vision of the school district. Mr. Rubbo responded that the educational program needs have been studied and incorporated in the options proposed by the CTFSF.

Mr. Rubbo explained that a detailed facility plan would be developed once an option(s) is agreed on by the Boards.

Mr. O'Keefe suggested that the Restricted Scope options for each school be removed as they will not meet the educational program needs identified.

Mr. Hoey agreed with Mr. O'Keefe but noted that it may not be feasible to address all of the facility needs at both schools immediately and stated that addressing the most pressing needs (restricted scope) at one school may need to be done in the short term.

Discussion also included potential locations for a new high school. Mr. Bishop provided a list of land parcels in town large enough to accommodate the needs of a high school, but noted that these parcels are not currently available. Mr. Goldberg noted that drawings have been developed to illustrate that it is feasible to build a new high school on the existing high school site, keeping the old facility open while the new facility is being built.

The Board of Education noted that they have developed a schedule of meetings over the summer to discuss the facility options with a goal of making a decision by September 8, 2008, on the option(s) to present to the Boards of Finance and Selectmen. In order to meet the State's reimbursement deadline of June 2009, a referendum would need to be held in late winter to provide time to prepare all of the necessary documentation to the State.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lorri Hahn
Clerk to the Board of Education