

**GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2008
LATHROP HOUSE, 55 PARK STREET
GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT**

EXECUTIVE SESSION – CONTINUED FROM DECEMBER 18, 2007

1. Call to Order

Chairman Bloss called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Board of Education members present were Mary Beeman, Keith Bishop, William Bloss, Barbara Dudley, Louis Iorio, Kathy Nolan (joined the meeting at 6:30) and Ted Zuse. Alan Meyers was absent. Superintendent of Schools Thomas Forcella was present as well as Diana Colcord, Doug Newman and Lisa Faila.

2. Discussion

Chairman Bloss asked members of the Board if they wished to make any comments before continuing deliberations. Mr. Zuse stated that he has reviewed decisions of the Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC) which indicated that selection criteria ought to be public. The Board reviewed the referenced decision of the FOIC, which involved the criteria for investigation of state court judges upon comments to the Judicial Selection Commission (JSC). Chairman Bloss stated that, from review of the very limited excerpt that Mr. Zuse had with him, it appeared that the context of that decision was that the JSC had actually adopted procedures but declined to make them public. Here, on the other hand, the chairman publicly announced the procedures to be followed before starting, asked for questions and comments from the candidates and the public present, and no one suggested proceeding differently. Further, Chairman Bloss stated that no candidate has commented during or after interviews that the process was not clear to them. Chairman Bloss stated that it was his understanding that the process followed all requirements of state law, and specifically the decision of the FOIC in Lowenstein v. Westport BOE, #FIC2005-148, which approved the process that was used by the Board here, and nothing in that decision suggested that anything done by the Board was in any way improper.

Mr. Zuse also stated that we still should publicly disclose the criteria to be used by the board in making the appointment. Chairman Bloss said that neither state law nor the town charter refer to specific criteria, apart from the party affiliation requirement in the town charter, and in the absence of criteria specific to this decision, the general criteria applicable to duties of boards of education members would appear to apply. Mrs. Dudley stated that if these questions about process and adoption of additional criteria were significant, they should have been raised at the beginning of the process, when there was an opportunity to do so, not the end. Mr. Bishop stated that the process used was consistent with that outlined as a suggestion by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education. Chairman Bloss asked if anyone wished to make any motions relating to the appointment process; no motions were made.

3. Public Comment

Chairman Bloss asked the members of the public present if they wished to make any comments. Diana Colcord asked what board members believed were important criteria for the appointment. Chairman Bloss initially stated that in his view no board member was happy to be making an appointment to the vacant seat, and these issues are better resolved by voters who can choose candidates based on the criteria that each voter concludes is important. Chairman Bloss stated that in his opinion his criteria included, based on the defined duties of board members within the general statutes, demonstrated commitment to maintaining and improving public education, clear

willingness to make the required time commitment, and a likely ability to work collaboratively on a nine-person board, with an overall goal of furthering the best interests of educating children in the district.

Dr. Iorio noted that he agreed generally, but noted that different people might weigh factors differently, just as might be the case involving any selection in any context.

Lisa Fiala then raised issues relating to process that were discussed by the board previously at this meeting and at the meeting of December 18, 2007. Chairman Bloss again noted that no issues about process were raised by anyone present at the meeting on December 17, 2007, the process was the same as that used by the Board in 2005, no comments about the process were received by the Board before or after that appointment (involving Naomi Migliacci), and in his view the process fully complied with state law. No one else present wished to make any comments.

4. Executive Session

At 6:50, Dr. Iorio moved, seconded by Mrs. Nolan, that the board returned to executive session to discuss the appointment. The motion carried 8-0.

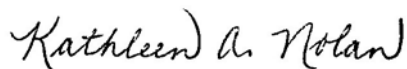
5. Public Session

At 7:20, Bishop moved, seconded by Mrs. Beeman, that the Board return to public session. The motion carried 8-0.

In public session, Mr. Bishop moved, Mrs. Dudley seconded, that the Board appoint Linda Sanacora to the vacant seat. The motion carried 5-0. Mrs. Nolan and Mr. Zuse abstained from the vote. Chairman Bloss stated that he had received a communication from Dr. Meyers in which he stated that he would have abstained had he been present, which Dr. Meyers wished to have included in the minutes. No Board member objected.

At 7:25 p.m., Dr. Iorio moved, Mrs. Beeman seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried (8-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen Nolan
Secretary, Guilford Board of Education