

**GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2008  
ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**1. Call to Order**

Chairperson Bill Bloss called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. Board members present were Bill Bloss, Barbara Dudley, Linda Sanacora, Mary Beeman and Lou Iorio.

Also present was Tom Forcella, Andy Potochney and Linda Trudeau.

Chairman Bloss explained that the purpose of the meeting was to hold a preliminary discussion on the 2009-2010 Budget for public input. He noted that there were no members from the public present.

Chairman Bloss requested that Dr. Forcella summarize the Board's Workshop Meeting on Monday, October 27, 2008.

Dr. Forcella explained that the Board met with the District Leadership Team of administrators to discuss the 2009-2010 Budget. Dr. Forcella stated that the Budget will be zero-based and developed based on close examination of the programs and initiatives that will impact student learning.

Dr. Forcella explained that due to the current economic conditions, both the Board and the Administration recognize the need to be particularly conservative in developing the 2009-2010 Budget. He noted that the district has focused in recent years on increased resources for certain areas including textbooks, supplies and staffing. He noted that because the needed resources have been spent on line items previously considered to be under-funded, and because enrollments are projected to remain stable, the increases in the new Budget will be conservative.

Dr. Forcella noted that the following three key areas have been identified as priorities in 2009 – 2010:

1. Interventions: Dr. Forcella noted that the collaborative efforts of teachers will increase the ability to intervene when children are unable to learn and when children need to be challenged. He noted that developing immediate interventions for these children will keep the achievement gap from widening and should also decrease the need for special education and therefore, the expenses associated with these services.
2. Facilities: Dr. Forcella stated that in addition to a foreseeable referendum for a new high school in Spring 2009, the immediate health and safety needs at Adams must be addressed in this new Budget. He noted that the GPS Business Manager and Facilities Director are developing a list of the specific needs at Adams and will present this list to the Board's Facility Subcommittee.

3. Professional Development: Dr. Forcella noted that the Board has been supportive of new professional development opportunities for staff, recognizing that improved instruction and increased student effort will result in all students learning at high levels. Dr. Forcella explained that professional development is directly linked to increased intervention as the collaborative environments created by understanding and implementing professional learning communities will foster conversations about and lead to the creation of new methods of intervention.

Dr. Forcella noted that the Board also meets with sample groups of teachers for their input regarding program and classroom needs.

In response to a question from Chairman Bloss, Dr. Forcella explained that examples of interventions for students needing to be challenged would include the use of technology including virtual classrooms and online courses. He noted that some of Baldwin's 5<sup>th</sup> graders will participate in a science exchange program with students in Madison.

Mrs. Dudley noted that it is important for the Board to remain committed to important initiatives already achieved including small class sizes.

Dr. Forcella reviewed the Budget timeline emphasizing the dates for public input.

Chairman Bloss invited comments from the public on the Budget via phone and email.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Iorio and seconded by Mrs. Beeman, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lorri Hahn  
Clerk to the Board of Education