

**GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
MONDAY, JULY 14, 2008  
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, Keith Bishop, Kathleen Nolan, Mary Beeman and Ted Zuse.

Administrators present were Tom Forcella, Nancy Bishop and Paula McCarthy. Also present was Director of Facilities Cliff Gurnham, Business Manager Andy Potochney and Accounting Manager Linda Trudeau.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Nolan and seconded by Dr. Meyers, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing Agenda Item 13.1 Negotiations and 13.2 Superintendent's Evaluation.

The Board reconvened for the Regular meeting at 7:55 p.m.

**2. Action on Minutes of:**

- 2.1 June 9, 2008 (Finance Subcommittee Meeting)**
- 2.2 June 9, 2008 (Regular Meeting)**
- 2.3 June 11, 2008 (Joint BOE/BOS/BOF/CTFSF Meeting)**
- 2.4 June 23, 2008 (Facilities Subcommittee Meeting)**
- 2.5 June 30, 2008 (Policy Subcommittee Meeting)**
- 2.6 June 30, 2008 (Workshop Meeting)**

Dr. Iorio noted corrections to the June 23 Facilities Subcommittee Meeting minutes. He requested that the discussion of the slate from Adams roof to be used for fund raising be added. He also asked that Dr. Forcella's upcoming conversation with SBC regarding AIA standardized contract be noted. Dr. Iorio also asked that it be included that Mr. Gurnham was to get as built for Adams drainage project and the cost of 3rd floor window ac units.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the minutes of June 9, 2008, (Finance Subcommittee Meeting), June 9, 2008, (Regular Meeting), June 11, 2008, (Joint BOE/BOS/BOF/CTFSF Meeting), June 23, 2008, (Facilities Subcommittee Meeting), June 30, 2008, (Policy Subcommittee Meeting), June 30, 2008, (Workshop Meeting).

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

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the expenditures for the month of June as presented by Mrs. Beeman and reviewed at the Finance Subcommittee Meeting earlier in the evening.

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

None

Chairman Bloss requested a motion be made to add Item 7.2 Electrical Contract Bid Review to the agenda. Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mr. Zuse, the Board voted unanimously in favor of adding Agenda Item 7.2 Electrical Contract Bid Review.

**7.2 Electrical Contract Bid Review**

Mr. Potochney explained that the district accepted the recommendation of Bay State Consulting to enter into a four-year contract with TransCanada. He noted that, while their current prices are slightly higher than CL & P, electrical prices are expected to increase industry-wide.

Chairman Bloss asked that item 8.3 RECEIVE Word Work/Spelling Textbook Request, be moved up in the agenda to accommodate audience members present for this discussion.

**8.3.1 RECEIVE Word Work/Spelling Curriculum Resource Request (exhibit)**

Dr. Forcella explained that a selection committee with representatives from each of the four elementary schools evaluated potential resources to be used for Spelling and Word Work in Grades 1 – 4.

Mrs. McCarthy noted that Melissa Jones Elementary School piloted the recommended teacher resource this past school year. Teacher feedback was very positive. They found the books to be very helpful and noted that it is important to have a consistent spelling program throughout the elementary grades.

Dr. Forcella noted the major reasons for choosing “Sourcebook Series for Teaching Spelling and Word Skills:”

The program provides a consistent approach to word work and spelling across all elementary schools. It ensures students’ transfer of spelling words to writing; develops essential skills that can be applied to all words; uses formative assessments to guide instructional choices for different students; provides ways to differentiate for all learners; teaches proofreading accountability in writing; and is closely aligned with Guilford Public Schools Language Arts Curriculum.

The program includes choices of activities, parent introductory letters, take-home tests and online resources.

Mr. Zuse asked why this resource is better than the other programs evaluated. Faith Hamilton, Reading teacher from Melissa Jones, explained that the program is more diversified than others and also include Grade 4 while the other options considered did not.

Dr. Forcella noted that a sample of the text will be available at the GPS Central Office for review.

## **5. Communications**

Chairman Bloss reported that the Board has been receiving communications regarding the facilities.

Mr. Zuse reported a communication from a University of New Hampshire professor expressing concern over the decrease in interest in French in school.

Mrs. Beeman reported that the Standing Fields Committee expressed concern about the impact a school facility building project would have on the existing fields. She noted that the committee has begun to investigate alternatives for fields.

### **7.1 Summer Facilities Project Update**

Mr. Gurnham reported that the steps and brickwork is underway at Adams and the roof work will begin on schedule. He noted that the high school roof, Baldwin paving, Adams drainage, and Jones well projects are all on schedule. He noted that the settlement claim on the Cox roof is currently under review by the Standing Building Committee.

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

Upon a motion made by Dr. Iorio and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously in favor of ratifying the resignations of Jill Culler, Grade 1 at Calvin Leete; Stephanie Speicher, Social Studies at Guilford High School; and Kristen Valenti, Mathematics at Guilford High School, all effective August 31, 2008.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Nolan and seconded by Dr. Iorio, the Board voted unanimously in favor of ratifying the appointments of Margaret Ardito, World Language at Adams Middle School; Mary Guarnieri, Grade 2 at Guilford Lakes; Leah Goldreich, Special Education at Baldwin Middle School; and Jessica Gellert, Mathematics at Adams Middle School, all effective September 1, 2008.

### **8.2 RECEIVE FOR POSSIBLE ACTION Awarding of Bid for SmartBoards and Training (exhibit)**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Zuse and seconded by Mrs. Nolan the Board voted unanimously in favor of awarding the bid for SmartBoards and Training to CBS of Newington, CT.

### **8.4 ACT ON Recommendations from Policy Subcommittee**

#### **8.4.1 Revisions to Policy #1118: Access by News Media Personnel to Board of Education Meeting (exhibit)**

Chairman Bloss suggested that Policy #1118 be renamed "Reporting by News Media Personnel of Board of Education Meetings." This item will be included on the August agenda as an ACT ON item.

**8.5 RECEIVE Recommendations from Policy Subcommittee**

**8.5.1 Revisions to Policy #1124: Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property (exhibit)**

**8.5.2 Revisions to Policy #1130: News Conferences, Interviews, and Appearances of Administration, Staff, and Students (exhibit)**

**8.5.3 Revisions to Policy #0300: Equal Opportunity Plan (exhibit)**

**8.5.4 Revisions to Policy #1110: Communication with the Public (exhibit)**

**8.5.5 Revisions to Policy #5135: Foreign Students Attending Guilford Schools Tuition Free (exhibit)**

**8.5.6 Revisions to Regulation #5135: Foreign Students Attending Guilford Schools Tuition Free (exhibit)**

**8.5.7 New Policy #4150: Employee Acceptable Computer Use (exhibit)**

**8.5.8 New Regulation #4150: Employee Acceptable Computer Use (exhibit)**

Chairman Bloss asked that the recommended policy revisions and additions from the Policy Subcommittee be included on the August agenda as possible ACT ON items.

**9. Unfinished Business**

None

**10. Reports of Committees**

None

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

None

Upon a motion made by Dr. Ioro and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lorri Hahn  
Clerk to the Board of Education