

**GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2008
GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY, GUILFORD, CT**

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Bill Bloss called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Board members present were Bill Bloss, Barbara Dudley, Linda Sanacora, Keith Bishop, Kathleen Nolan, Mary Beeman and Ted Zuse.

Administrators present were Tom Forcella, Anne Keene, Nancy Bishop, Merry Leventhal and Paula McCarthy. Also present was Business Manager Andy Potochney and Accounting Manager Linda Trudeau.

2. Action on Minutes of:

- 2.1 July 7, 2008 (Special Meeting)**
- 2.2 July 10, 2008 (Special Meeting)**
- 2.3 July 14, 2008 (Finance Subcommittee Meeting)**
- 2.4 July 14, 2008 (Regular Meeting)**
- 2.5 July 28, 2008 (Facilities Subcommittee Meeting)**
- 2.6 July 28, 2008 (Special Meeting)**

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Mr. Bishop, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the minutes of July 7, 2008 (Special Meeting), July 10, 2008 (Special Meeting), July 14, 2008 (Finance Subcommittee Meeting), July 14, 2008 (Regular Meeting), July 28, 2008 (Facilities Subcommittee Meeting), and July 28, 2008 (Special Meeting).

**3. Review and Approval of Expenditures for the Month of July
Reviewer for Month: Linda Sanacora**

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Nolan and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the expenditures for the month of July as presented by Mrs. Sanacora.

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

None

5. Communications

Chairman Bloss noted that Board members received communications regarding the Word Work/Spelling Curriculum Resource and also regarding the school facilities.

6. Student Representatives

None

7. Superintendent's Report

7.1 Summer Facilities Projects Update

Dr. Forcella reported that the Adams roof and front steps as well as the Baldwin parking lots are on schedule. Mr. Bishop asked if there will be new signage at Baldwin directing traffic and Dr. Forcella responded that there is a plan for new signage.

Mr. Zuse asked about the security upgrades to be made in the district and the costs associated with them. Dr. Forcella noted that Mr. Gurnham has compiled the costs associated with the security upgrades that have been discussed. He added that this year's upgrades will focus primarily on school entranceways and providing key fobs to staff, particularly in the elementary schools.

8. Board Agenda

8.1 ACT ON Personnel Items (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously in favor of ratifying the resignation of Jennifer Dahl, English Teacher, Adams Middle School, effective August 31, 2008.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Mr. Bishop, the Board voted unanimously in favor of ratifying the appointments of Darlene Gessert, Special Education Teacher, GHS; Sarah Blum-Smith, Grade 1 Teacher, Cox; Kelly Jensen, Math Teacher, GHS; Jennifer Gallo, Grade 2 Teacher, Leete; and Melissa Yetso, Social Worker, Adams, all effective September 1, 2008.

8.2 ACT ON Word Work/Spelling Textbook Request (exhibit)

Dr. Forcella noted that the committee of GPS faculty and administrators spent much time evaluating, researching and testing the Word Work Spelling Resource prior to making their recommendation to adopt the program.

Dr. Keene explained that the program meets the curriculum guidelines for Grades 1 - 4 and Grade 5 and she added her support for the committee's recommendation.

Joann Corlett, Reading Specialist at Melissa Jones, noting that she is in her 40th year of teaching, explained to the Board that the Word Work program was piloted at her school. She noted that the resource fits well into centers, fits the curriculum, is very flexible and allow teachers to individualize instruction.

Dr. Keene, responding to Chairman Bloss's question about the resource not being available to Kindergarten, stated that it will be available to this group in 2009.

Sarah Triebel, Grade 2 teacher at Melissa Jones, explained that her students loved the program and, as a relatively new teacher, she found the resource easy to use. She noted that students became better spellers and all were reading at or above grade level.

Mr. Zuse asked about the specific data and research available to support the committee's decision. Ms. Corlett noted that author Rebecca Sitton provided research to reviewers. Dr. Forcella noted that the most significant data is the information collected from our classrooms during the piloting of the program.

Chairman Bloss and Mrs. Dudley expressed their support for the spelling resource.

Dr. Keene noted that the committee members and reading teachers will help all teachers implement the new program. She added that the resource's publisher will provide training during the professional development day in October.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Mr. Bishop, the Board voted 6 in favor of adopting the Word Work/Spelling Resource. Mr. Zuse opposed the motion.

8.3 POSSIBLE ACTION: Superintendent's Contract

Chairman Bloss asked that the Board defer action on the Superintendent's contract in the interest of time. He noted that the Superintendent received an outstanding oral evaluation from the Board.

8.4 ACT ON Recommendations from Policy Subcommittee

8.4.1 Revisions to Policy #1118: Reporting by News Media Personnel of Board of Education Meetings (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Nolan and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revisions to Policy #1118: Reporting by News Media Personnel of Board of Education Meetings.

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

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Nolan and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revisions to Policy #1124: Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property.

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

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revisions to Policy #1130: News Conferences, Interviews, and Appearances of Administration, Staff, and Students.

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

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revisions to Policy #0300: Equal Opportunity Plan.

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

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revisions to Policy #1110: Communication with the Public.

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

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Dudley and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revisions to Policy #5135: Foreign Students Attending Guilford Schools Tuition Free.

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

Upon a motion made by Mr. Zuse and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revisions to Regulation #5135: Foreign Students Attending Guilford Schools Tuition Free.

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

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Sanacora and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to approve New Policy #4150: Employee Acceptable Computer Use.

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

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to approve New Regulation #4150: Employee Acceptable Computer Use.

9. Unfinished Business

Mr. Zuse asked about the availability of the Language Arts Curriculum grade level expectations. Dr. Keene responded that the expectations will be posted on line and made available at Back to School nights.

10. Reports of Committees

None

11. Public Questions (four minute limit)

None

12. New Business

None

Upon a motion made by Dr. Ioro and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the Regular meeting at 7 p.m. for a facilities discussion.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lorri Hahn
Clerk to the Board of Education