

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 28, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION –Mary Beeman, Alan Meyers and Keith Bishop.

BOARD OF EDUCATION STAFF – Tom Forcella, Andy Potochney, Linda Trudeau and Nils Peterson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m.

Mr. Potochney stated that the bids received ranged from an increase of 6.08% to 7.72% for the first year and that the 2008-09 budget included an increase of 4%. Mr. Potochney stated that he spoke with First Student and the major reason for the increase is labor. He stated that vote to join a union was defeated in a vote taken last Friday.

Mr. Potochney suggested four options for the subcommittee to consider. One is to award the bid to Student Transportation of America. Two is to take First Student bid even though it is the highest bid. Three is to extend the current contract for one year with First Student and re-bid in December or January. The fourth option would be to negotiate with First Student for a five-year contract.

Dr. Forcella asked if First Student was willing to discuss options. Mr. Potochney stated that they did seem agreeable to discussing options. Mr. Potochney added that, in his opinion, with First Students proven track record for service to Guilford that negotiating with them is the best option. Dr. Forcella questioned if there was a legal issue with negotiating with First Student. Mr. Potochney stated that there would not be an issue and that the bid document stated that the Board would have the right to negotiate with a vendor after the bids were submitted. Dr. Meyers stated that he agreed with discussing options with First Student.

Mr. Bishop questioned the options for seat belts and whether that would be accepted. Mr. Potochney stated that the decision regarding requiring seat belts would have to be made by the Board. All members of the committee agreed to have Mr. Potochney discuss options with First Student.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Trudeau
Accounting Manager