

Minutes
Monday, November 23, 2009
Board of Education Workshop
Calvin Leete Elementary School

Board Members Present: Bill Bloss, Alan Meyers, Sue Renner, Ted Zuse, Keith Bishop, Barbara Dudley, Mary Beeman, John Ireland, Chris Moore

Administrators Present: Tom Forcella, Anne Keene, Nancy Bishop, Pat Brett, Pam Hogarth

Others: Anne Littlefield, Atty., Shipman and Goodwin, Board of Finance members

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Bill Bloss called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

2. Oath of Office

Mr. Bloss administered the Board of Education member oath of office to newly elected Board of Education member, John Ireland.

3. Presentation: Special Education Update

Dr. Forcella introduced Anne Littlefield, Attorney with Shipman and Goodwin, who advises Guilford Public Schools on special education issues. Ms. Littlefield presented an overview of special education including the Board of Education's role in special education, student eligibility requirements, evaluations, Individual Education Plans (IEP's), the framework of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Least Restrictive Environment requirements, discipline issues, and revised guidelines for determining eligibility for learning disabilities. She pointed out both procedural as well as educational benefits issues related to students with special needs.

Attorney Littlefield responded to questions from the Board of Education and Board of Finance members. Board members were particularly interested in understanding costs associated with special services and dispute resolutions. Attorney Littlefield stated the best way to reduce costs is to provide excellent instruction. She also noted that, due to the economic climate, a reduction of services in other state agencies may increase costs to school districts.

Upon a motion made by Keith Bishop and seconded by Alan Meyers, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Anne Keene
Assistant Superintendent of Schools