

**GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2009
GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY, GUILFORD, CT**

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Bill Bloss called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. Board members present were Bill Bloss, Mary Beeman, Barbara Dudley, Keith Bishop, Lou Iorio, Alan Meyers, Kathleen Nolan, Linda Sanacora and Ted Zuse.

2. Presentation by Fletcher Thompson to Review the Updates and Educational Specifications to the New Guilford High School Building Proposal

Five representatives from Fletcher Thompson presented two conceptual designs, A8 and H2 to the Board for a new Guilford High Schools. Both designs incorporate the 1998 addition of the existing high school. Both designs incorporate three-story classroom wings that may be expanded should enrollments increase.

Construction phasing for both options would allow students and staff to occupy the current high school while the new facility were constructed. Both options maintain the current turf field and complex but would require relocating some of the other fields including the baseball and some of the softball fields. The facility's septic system would also have to be relocated.

The second option, H2, includes a student commons with outdoor space for students to meet, eat lunch and collaborate. Both options include indoor space for a student commons.

The cost estimates presented by Fletcher Thompson were \$108 million (H.1) and \$110 million (H.2) for each of the two new designs. Board members expressed concern that these estimates are only slightly less than the original \$112 million estimate proposed for a new high school that did not include incorporating the existing 1998 addition.

The architects explained that while it is possible to preserve the 1998 addition, work will need to be done to attach it to the new building. Also, the location of the new building to include this existing space requires fill and grading based on where the building must be located.

The architects presented a draft schedule for the project from the design and approval phase through construction and demolition of the existing high school. They suggested that if the project were approved at a fall 2009 referendum construction could be launched in June 2011 and the project could be completed in 2013.

Dr. Forcella noted that the important next step will be to identify a referendum date. He noted that finalizing a design idea and cost estimated will need to be done to begin communicating the plan to the community.

Chairman Bloss proposed that a joint meeting be arranged between the Boards of Education, Finance and Selectmen.

Dr. Meyers recommended that any work Fletcher Thompson might be able to do to reduce and fine-tune the cost estimates presented for the two options should be done prior to meeting with the other Boards.

3. ACT ON Guilford High School Educational Specifications

Dr. Forcella reviewed the recommended number of classrooms in the Educational Specifications and noted that they reflect two more classrooms than exist in the current GHS.

Mrs. Beeman stated that she wants to be sure that incorporating the existing addition is the right approach to take with the new building project.

Chairman Bloss recommended, and the Board agreed, that no action was needed at the current time on the Educational Specifications.

4. DISCUSS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Proposed Bonding Package (Roof Projects and Adams Health and Safety Issues)

Mr. Bishop reviewed the health and safety issues identified at Adams Middle School and presented the recommendations of the Facilities Subcommittee regarding the list of needs. He stated that the Subcommittee recommended eliminating the line item for painting in the amount of \$101,237, reducing the allocation for lockers from \$97,966 to \$50,000, and waiting to seal, repaint, and add drainage to the building in the amount of \$92,019.

Mr. Gurnham read concerns stated by the Standing Building Committee (SBC) with regard to Adams. They stated that there may need to be further exploration to include a contingency for hazardous materials. Mr. Gurnham noted that recent testing by Mystic Air did not reveal any lead. The SBC also noted the importance of appropriate coordination for all work proposed and the need for necessary precautions to protect the recent investment in Adams. The SBC also recommended caution in making significant investments in certain areas of Adams as they have been identified by the Community Task Force on School Facilities as having significant obstacles to reuse.

Projects proposed for Adams include installing AC units in several areas of the building, lavatory renovations, roof replacement, and new unit ventilators in 11 classrooms.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Iorio and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving a bond recommendation to the Board of Finance in the amount of \$998,750 for health and safety improvements to Adams Middle School.

A discussion of the roof replacement needs at Calvin Leete and Guilford Lakes Elementary Schools resulted in the Board prioritizing the projects. They determined, based on input from Mr. Gurnham, that the Calvin Leete roof project should not be deferred for another year.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Iorio and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving a bond recommendation to the Board of Finance in the amount of \$1,157,163 for the Calvin Leete roof.

The Board discussed the value of recommending that the design phase of the Lakes roof be bonded this year so that the project specifications would be complete and ready to be bid the following year. It was also determined that interim repairs could be done to stop the Lakes roof from leaking for another year.

Upon a motion made by Chairman Bloss and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving a bond recommendation to the Board of Finance in the amount of \$360,000 for design fees and interim repairs for the Guilford Lakes roof.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Dudley and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lorri Hahn
Clerk to the Board of Education