

**GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2009**  
**BALDWIN MIDDLE SCHOOL, GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT**

Board Members Present: Bill Bloss, Allen Meyers, Ted Zuse, Keith Bishop, Barbara Dudley, Mary Beeman, Lou Iorio, and Linda Sanacora

Administrators Present: Tom Forcella, Rick Misenti, Anne Keene, Patricia Brett, Marc Guarino

Others Present: Lauren Trotta, Dr. Jay Morris, Donna Pudlinski, Peter Palumbo

**1. Call to Order**

Chairperson Bill Bloss called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Alan Meyers made a motion, seconded by Mary Beeman, to add an item to the agenda: Executive session for legal matters. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. High School Capstone Project**

Representative members of the planning committee described a Capstone Project pilot at Guilford High School for the 2009-2010 school year. Lauren Trotta, a Guilford High School student, explained the purpose and process of the project. Dr. Jay Morris had facilitated the stakeholder planning sessions held earlier this year and shared the results of those meetings. Donna Pudlinski, GHS faculty member, also described the response and commitment from faculty and staff. Community representative Peter Palumbo presented slides of a car restoration student project that he had mentored as an example of an effective Capstone Project experience. Assistant Principal Marc Guarino distributed copies of the project proposal and summarized the logistics for Board members. According to Principal Rick Misenti, a small group of diverse students have elected to participate in the 2009-2010 pilot. At this time, there is no cost to the project; however, if the project expands in the future, there may need to be a coordinator designated for Capstone Projects. An oversight committee will be established to monitor the pilot year.

**3. Focus Monitoring Spring Review**

Dr. Patricia Brett presented an update on Focused Monitoring based on the number of suspensions and expulsions, particularly of special education students. The number of students suspended from August 30, 2008 to March 31, 2009 was 99, down from 165 students for the same time period the previous school year. The bulk of the reduction was attributed to reductions of suspended students at Guilford High School. Dr. Brett also reviewed the required and recommended actions as well as how the district has responded to the actions to date. The monitoring session is expected to be successfully completed by June 15, 2009.

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Alan Meyers made a motion, seconded by Barbara Dudley, to go into executive session at 9:40 p.m. Motion carried.

**4. Executive Session: 1) Superintendent's Evaluation and 2) Legal matter**

The Board returned from Executive Session at 10:15 p.m. and voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Anne Keene  
Assistant Superintendent