

**MINUTES
GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
BALDWIN MIDDLE SCHOOL
MAY 4, 2009**

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS: William Bloss, Alan Meyers, Mary Beeman, Louis Iorio, Linda Sanacora and Ted Zuse.

BOARD OF EDUCATION STAFF: Thomas Forcella, Anne Keene, Andrew Potochney, Nancy Bishop, Merry Leventhal, Paula McCarthy, Anne Snurkowski, Catherine Walker and Linda Trudeau

Mr. Bloss called the meeting to order at 7:30. Dr. Forcella stated that there was no way to achieve the \$1,178,000 reduction from the Board of Finance without staffing being effected. Dr. Forcella's tentative plan includes approximately \$145,000 of budget requests that could possibly be taken from stimulus funds and \$66,000 from the medical account reimbursement. Other items that were being recommended for reduction included portions of athletics and extra curricular programs, professional development, transportation, and supplies. The total non-staff reductions would be approximately \$500,000. The remaining reductions would come from staffing. Dr. Forcella reported that approximately 17.4 positions affecting 21 staff from all bargaining units were being discussed.

The use of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds was held. Dr. Forcella noted that the funds must be spent under the same guidelines as the IDEA funds and they would only be available for two years. The use of the funds to supplant the budget and not supplement the budget was discussed.

Mrs. Beeman stated that she would rather have another bus removed instead of middle school athletics. Mrs. Beeman also expressed her concerns over the user fees and how to equitably distribute the fees. A discussion of other areas that may generate additional revenues was held. Mr. Bloss discussed the possibility of reducing the medical insurance line. A discussion of reducing the number of buses was held.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Iorio and seconded by Dr. Meyers the Board voted to go into executive session at 8:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations. The Board invited Dr. Keene and Mr. Potochney to join the executive session.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:05 p.m. Upon a motion made by Dr. Iorio and seconded by Dr. Meyers, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Trudeau