

**GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2009
GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY, GUILFORD, CT**

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Bill Bloss called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. Board members present were Bill Bloss, Mary Beeman, Keith Bishop, Barbara Dudley, Alan Meyers, and Ted Zuse.

Administrators present were Tom Forcella, Anne Keene, Marc Guarino, and Rick Misenti. Also present was Accounting Manager Linda Trudeau.

2. Action on Minutes of:

- 2.1 May 4, 2009 (Special Meeting)**
- 2.2 May 11, 2009 (Finance Subcommittee)**
- 2.3 May 11, 2009 (Regular Meeting)**
- 2.4 May 14, 2009 (Special Meeting)**
- 2.5 May 20, 2009 (Special Meeting)**
- 2.6 May 26, 2009 (Workshop Meeting)**
- 2.7 May 26, 2009 (Policy Subcommittee)**
- 2.8 May 26, 2009 (Facilities Subcommittee)**

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Dudley and seconded by Dr. Meyers, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the minutes of May 4, 2009 (Special Meeting), May 11, 2009 (Finance Subcommittee), May 11, 2009 (Regular Meeting), May 14, 2009 (Special Meeting), May 20, 2009 (Special Meeting), May 26, 2009 (Workshop Meeting), May 26, 2009 (Policy Subcommittee), and May 26, 2009 (Facilities Subcommittee).

Chairman Bloss requested that Item 3. Review and Approval of Expenditures for the Month of May be deferred to later in the agenda. He asked that Item 7.1 Student Recognition - CABA Student Leader Awards be moved to this point in the agenda.

7.1 Student Recognition - CABA Student Leader Awards (exhibit)

Mr. Misenti introduced Guilford High School seniors Gabe Shore and Lauren Trotta as the recipients of this year's Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Student Leader awards for Guilford. Chairman Bloss and Mr. Bishop presented the students with plaques and certificates.

8.7 RECEIVE FOR POSSIBLE ACTION Recommendation to Name the GHS Press Box (exhibit)

Chairman Bloss asked that this item be moved up in the agenda. Athletic Director Chip Dorwin presented the Board-appointed committee's recommendation to name the Guilford High School press box for Bo Mooridian, long time announcer of GHS football games. The committee recognized Mr. Mooridian's contributions to GHS and to the football program.

MINUTES – GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2009

Upon a motion made by Mr. Zuse and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to approve the recommendation of the Press Box Naming Committee to name the Guilford High School press box after Bo Mooradian.

**3. Review and Approval of Expenditures for the Month of May
Reviewer for Month: Bill Bloss**

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the expenditures for the month of May as presented by Chairman Bloss.

4. Public Forum for Topics on Board Agenda Only (three minute limit)

None.

5. Communications

Chairman Bloss acknowledged receipt of a letter from GCTV recognizing the contributions from student interns at the station.

Mr. Bishop noted communications received regarding the math curriculum.

Mr. Zuse referenced the recent article in the “Hartford Courant” on Guilford and the concessions made by teachers this spring in response to the failed budget referendum.

6. Student Representatives

Marissa Mohrer and Elizabeth Savrann presented their final report to the Board highlighting senior activities, scholarship awards totaling \$90,000, concerts, athletic accomplishments, the record-setting 100 National Honor Society members, and the hard work of the yearbook staff in creating the first full-color yearbook at Guilford High School.

The students were presented with plaques and gift certificates for their work with the Board. The students expressed their appreciation for the opportunity and Board members expressed their gratitude for the students’ dedication.

8.2 RECEIVE K-12 Mathematics Curriculum

Chairman Bloss requested that this item be moved up on the agenda. Dr. Keene explained that a curriculum committee has been reviewing the math curriculum over the past year. She introduced the math curriculum committee including John Evans, Deb Doll, Anne Lombard, Krysten Guarino, Megan Lee, Donna Pudlinski, Alison Strzepek, Barbara Tokarska, Joe Zipoli, and Phyllis Olstein.

Ms. Pudlinski, GHS Math Chair and Ms. Olstein, GPS Math Specialist presented an overview of the curriculum to the Board and answered questions. Ms. Pudlinski explained that the existing K-8 curriculum provided a good foundation to build on and that the primary focus was on Grades 9

MINUTES – GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2009

- 12. Ms. Olstein added that some changes were made to the K-8 curriculum. She noted the strides the district has made in math from 2003 to the present based on raising expectations and revising curriculum. She credited teachers with these successes.

Dr. Keene noted that the new curriculum includes a clear progression for every teacher to understand what the students have learned in the previous grades. She stated that the curriculum is aligned with State standards and the Principles of Learning and includes a vocabulary list.

Mr. Zuse asked where Connecticut ranks nationally in math.

Ms. Olstein responded that the State's math standards are evolving as are the nation's and that Guilford is looking at what the students of Guilford need.

Mr. Zuse asked what professional development opportunities teachers are offered in Guilford for math.

Dr. Keene responded that two high school teachers attended training at the University of Pittsburgh and came back to the district to train other teachers. Middle school teachers have been trained in First Step Math. She added that the professional development is focused on the areas of greatest need and that will include emphasis on the new aspects of the proposed math curriculum.

Chairman Bloss acknowledged the strides made in math over the past three years in Guilford and thanked the GPS teachers.

7. Superintendent's Report

7.2 Security Update

Dr. Forcella explained that a camera and buzzer security system has been piloted at Baldwin with positive responses received from parents and office staff.

He explained that security improvements in the district will include the addition of approximately 20 cameras at Adams Middle School including installations at the front entrance and in the area between the portable classrooms and the main building. Additionally, updates will be made at Guilford High School.

7.3 ARRA Funds Update

Dr. Forcella explained that the district is participating in workshops to learn more about designating funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. He noted that July 1, 2009 is the grant deadline. Dr. Forcella stated that he will give a presentation to the Board on the designated allocation for the ARRA funds at the June 22, 2009, Board of Education Workshop Meeting. He noted some of the areas where funds will be allocated will include special education interventions, professional development, technology, and salaries. He noted that there is high level of accountability associated with the use of the ARRA funds.

7.4 Overnight Field Trip Request Report - GHS Theatre Arts Department (exhibit)

Guilford High School Theatre Arts Coordinator Jim Motes explained to the Board that 1,500 schools were nominated to participate in the American High School Theatre Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland and only 43 selected. He noted that this is the largest annual theatre festival.

The Board received documentation from Dr. Forcella stating his approval for the trip.

7.5 Overnight Field Trip Request Report - GHS Boys Varsity Hockey Team (exhibit)

Dr. Forcella stated that the GHS Boys Hockey Team has been granted permission to participate in a tournament in Portland, Maine from December 26-31, 2009.

7.6 Acknowledge Donation of AED from Guilford Lacrosse Association (exhibit)

Dr. Forcella acknowledged the donation of an automated external defibrillator from the Guilford Lacrosse Association. He noted that the district's Health Services Coordinator, Carol Ott, and the coached will be trained on the proper use of the equipment.

7.7 Acknowledge Donation of Laptop and Digital Sports Video Program from Guilford Lacrosse Association and Guilford Football Program (exhibit)

Dr. Forcella acknowledged the donation of a laptop and digital sports video program from the Guilford Lacrosse Association and Guilford Football to assist the coaching staff in assessing and training players.

7.8 Acknowledge Donation from Kiducation (exhibit)

Dr. Forcella acknowledged the donation of \$718.87 from Kiducation to the district. The funds will be used to purchase educational materials for the schools.

8. Board Agenda

8.11 RECEIVE FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Negotiated Contract Modification Agreements

Chairman Bloss asked that this item be moved up in the agenda. He stated that all bargaining units of the Guilford Public Schools have agreed to contractual savings. He noted that the Guilford Education Association has agreed to a 50% reduction to 2009-2010 salary increases. He noted that an early retirement plan has been offered to employees.

Chairman Bloss stated that the 2009-2010 Budget should be achieved without any additional layoffs from the original proposed budget.

MINUTES – GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2009

Mrs. Dudley recognized the employees of the Guilford Public Schools for their willingness to work toward a solution to the budget challenges and also recognized the leadership of Dr. Forcella.

Mr. Bishop noted that Dr. Forcella clearly defined the mission of developing a budget that would meet the needs of the school system and delivered the results.

8.1 ACT ON Personnel Items (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Dr. Meyers, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the resignations of Norman Hicks, Baldwin Middle School Grade 6 teacher, effective August 31, 2009; Susan Connor, Guilford Lakes Elementary School teacher, effective June 30, 2009; and Thomas Leddy, Guilford High School technology teacher, effective June 30, 2009.

Chairman Bloss stated that the Board accepts the resignations with deep gratitude for the years of service from these teachers.

8.3 ACT ON Request for Foundations of Economics AP Edition Textbook (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Mr. Zuse and seconded by Mrs. Beeman, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the adoption of the “Foundations of Economics AP Edition” textbook as recommended by the selection committee.

8.4 APPROVE Donations from the Guilford Fund for Education to the Guilford Public Schools:

8.4.1 One School, One Book, Adventures for A. W. Cox School (\$3,000) (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Mr. Zuse and seconded by Mrs. Beeman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the donation from the Guilford Fund for Education for “One School, One Book, Adventures” for A. W. Cox School in the amount of \$3,000.

8.4.2 Support for Math Club at Calvin Leete School (\$1,475.30) (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to approve the donation from the Guilford Fund for Education for support for a Math Club at Calvin Leete School in the amount of \$1,475.30.

Mr. Bishop noted that the GFFE has partnered with the GEA to offer Letterboxing to students in Guilford over the summer.

8.5 APPROVE Donation of Refurbished Lift (\$2,544) for GHS from Palumbo’s Automotive (exhibit)

MINUTES – GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2009

Upon a motion made by Mr. Zuse and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to approve the donation of a refurbished lift in the amount of \$2,544 for GHS from Palumbo's Automotive.

8.6 ACT ON Participation in Healthy Food and Beverages in Schools (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Dudley and seconded by Mr. Bishop, the Board voted 5 in favor to participate in the Healthy Food and Beverages in Schools program. Mr. Zuse opposed the motion.

8.8 RECEIVE 2007-2008 Annual Report (exhibit)

Chairman Bloss asked that this agenda item be included on the July 13, 2009, Regular Meeting agenda to give Board members an opportunity to review the report.

8.9 ACT ON Recommendations from Policy Subcommittee:

8.9.1 Revisions to Policy 1346: Use of School Facilities (exhibit)

8.9.2 Revisions to Regulation 1346: Use of School Facilities (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to accept the revisions to Policy 1346: Use of School Facilities and Regulation 1346: Use of School Facilities as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee.

8.9.3 Revisions to Policy 6410: Special Education (exhibit)

Upon a motion made Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to accept the revisions to Policy 6410: Special Education as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee.

8.10 RECEIVE Recommendations from Policy Subcommittee:

8.10.1 Revisions to Policy 5126: Suspension/Expulsion/Exclusion/Removal (exhibit)

8.10.2 Revisions to Regulation 5126: Suspension/Expulsion/Exclusion/Removal (exhibit)

8.10.3 New Policy 5125: Discipline (exhibit)

Chairman Bloss asked that these items be included as Act On items on the July 13, 2009, agenda.

Mr. Zuse asked about the existence of district behavior requirements and their consistency throughout the schools.

Dr. Forcella responded that acceptable behavior and expectations are included in all school handbooks.

MINUTES – GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2009

Dr. Keene noted that each school will develop expectations based on the K-12 Philosophy of Discipline and Behavior adopted by the district. She added that the elementary schools will work together to develop consistent expectations.

Mr. Zuse stated that he would like to see the document on behavioral expectations in the policy manual.

9. Unfinished Business

None

10. Reports of Committees

Dr. Forcella asked that the Board include a facilities discussion on the June 22, 2009, agenda regarding Adams and GHS. He asked that the Board provide direction to the Adams Planning Committee for their work going forward.

Scott Pickney of the Adams Planning Committee addressed the Board stating that the committee has been evaluating all possible locations for a middle school in town. He stated that the committee requires input from an architectural engineering firm to look closely at the six sites identified as having real potential to locate a school.

Dr. Forcella noted that the group needs long term direction from the Board.

11. Public Questions

Sid Gale addressed the Board and suggested that they look at multiple scenarios when entering the next budget process. He stated that he believed it was very difficult for many community members to pass the budget based on current economic situations.

Mr. Gale stated that he is concerned that the Town's boards do not want to move forward with the high school project. He suggested that the planning process be accelerated and urged the Board to challenge their assumptions before others do.

12. New Business

Mrs. Dudley invited Board members to attend the LEARN breakfast on June 11 for a discussion on magnet schools.

Mr. Zuse asked if the district's 2009-2010 goals have been published.

Dr. Forcella responded that they will be published in September.

MINUTES – GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2009

Mr. Zuse asked that a discussion of workshop topics for 2009-2010 be included on the June 22, 2009, agenda.

Mr. Zuse suggested that an early budget meeting be scheduled with the other Town boards based on the current economic conditions. He suggested that the meeting be held prior to October 2009.

Mr. Zuse reported on facility projects including the roof at Adams, the roof at Cox, the roof at Leete, the window at Adams and the electrical and ventilation systems at Adams, stating that all were on schedule.

Mr. Zuse stated his opposition to using lead coated gutters on the schools. He stated that the Standing Building Committee has approved the installation of such gutters.

Chairman Bloss read from the Standing Building Committee minutes that the Director of Health, Dennis Johnson, did not find any documentation advising against using these gutters.

Chairman Bloss noted that the Executive Session on the agenda was no longer needed.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Iorio and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lorri Hahn
Clerk to the Board of Education