

**GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
MONDAY, JULY 13, 2009  
GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY, GUILFORD, CT**

**1. Call to Order**

Chairperson Bill Bloss called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Board members present were Bill Bloss, Mary Beeman, Keith Bishop, Kathy Nolan, Alan Meyers, and Ted Zuse.

Administrators present were Tom Forcella, Anne Keene, and Rick Misenti. Also present was Accounting Manager Linda Trudeau and Business Administrator Andy Potochney.

**2. Action on Minutes of:**

**2.1 June 8, 2009 (Finance Subcommittee)**

**2.2 June 8, 2009 (Regular Meeting)**

**2.3 June 22, 2009 (Workshop Meeting)**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Dr. Meyers, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the minutes of June 8, 2009 (Finance Subcommittee), June 8, 2009 (Regular Meeting), and June 22, 2009 (Workshop Meeting).

**3. Review and Approval of Expenditures for the Month of June  
Reviewer for Month: Alan Meyers in the absence of Lou Iorio.**

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Nolan and seconded by Mr. Bishop, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the expenditures for the month of June as presented by Dr. Meyers in the absence of Dr. Iorio.

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

None.

**5. Communications**

Chairman Bloss noted receiving communications on the issue of recess at Baldwin. He explained that there will be meeting on July 28 with the Board Subcommittee on Recess, Dr. Forcella and any interested parents and community members to discuss the topic.

Mr. Zuse stated that he received communications expressing concern over the lead copper gutters purchased for Cox School.

Dr. Forcella explained that he met with the Standing Building Committee (SBC) Chair, Doug Baldwin, to discuss the lead copper gutters. Despite no definitive research linking lead copper gutters to any health issues, the committee decided, based on concerns expressed by community members, to purchase different gutters and absorb the \$33 - \$40,000 expense of the lead copper gutters into the overall cost of the project at Cox School.

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Chairman Bloss noted that the Cox project is significantly under budget based on the difference in construction costs from the time the project was bonded and the time the bids were received. He noted that the difference in cost from the original bond referendum to the actual bid is approximately \$1.3 million (\$2.5 million bond vs. \$1.2 million bid).

**6. Student Representatives**

No report.

**7. Superintendent's Report**

**7.1 Facility Project Update**

Dr. Forcella explained that at the Board's June 22 Workshop Meeting representatives from the Boards of Finance and Selectmen and community members who have been active in the facilities process met to discuss the issue. The general consensus was that a referendum on the design phase of a new high school that would not exceed \$1 million would take place after January 2010.

Mr. Zuse questioned if the Board should have done more to try to expedite the facilities process. Dr. Forcella noted that the failed budget referendum and the general economic climate had a significant impact on the process.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously in favor of adding an action item to request the superintendent's office schedule a joint meeting with the Boards of Finance, Selectmen and Education to discuss the school facilities projects.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously in favor of requesting that the superintendent's office schedule a joint meeting with the Boards of Finance, Selectmen and Education to discuss the school facilities projects.

**7.2 Acknowledge Donation of Multi Purpose Rack for the GHS Fitness Center from Private Individual (exhibit)**

Dr. Forcella explained that a multipurpose rack for the GHS Fitness Center was donated by Pete Anderson. The Board acknowledged receipt of the donation and expressed their appreciation.

**7.3 Acknowledge Donations to the GHS Interact Club (exhibit)**

Dr. Forcella noted monetary donations from Walmart (\$500.00), the Rotary District Assembly (\$430.00) and a private individual (\$50.00) to the GHS Interact Club. The Board acknowledged receipt of the donations and expressed their appreciation.

**7.4 Workshop Topics for 2009-10**

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Dr. Forcella presented workshop topic ideas to the Board. The topics include a CAFE Board development session (following the November elections); a special education program to discuss less outplacements and increasing in-house capabilities; online bullying; and professional development.

Dr. Meyers suggested that it might be valuable for the Board to learn more about RTI (Response to Intervention).

Mr. Bishop made the following workshop topic suggestions: teacher roundtable, facilities discussion, community charrette to discuss design ideas for GHS, and a Board development meeting on a Saturday following the November elections.

Chairman Bloss suggested that the bullying topic be on the agenda early in the year.

Mr. Zuse asked if the Board should address the topic of alcohol and drug use among students. Dr. Forcella agreed with the idea suggesting that a workshop on this topic might include Adams and high school parents and students. He noted that an Assets Survey will be conducted with students this fall and the data collected should prove valuable in a Board discussion on the topic of substance abuse.

Mr. Bishop suggested that a conversation on the impact of the new high school schedule and the use of time and schedules at Baldwin and Adams would be valuable.

Dr. Forcella noted that Dr. Keene and he will bring a more complete draft of workshop topics back to the Board in August.

## **7.5 Update of 2008-09 Budget**

Dr. Forcella explained that every effort was made by the district to conserve resources, resulting in a \$210,000 budget surplus. This money will be given back to the Town to contribute to the Fund Balance.

## **8. Board Agenda**

### **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 the following personnel for the purpose of retirement: Donna Bongiorno, Baldwin Middle School art teacher, 35 years of service; Nancy Gertner, Guilford High School psychologist, 24 years of service; Olive Moredock, Baldwin Middle School, Special Education teacher, 40 years of service; Ruth Spears, Baldwin Middle School Grade 5 teacher, 37 years of service; Wendy Duques, Guilford Lakes School Speech and Language pathologist, 24 years of service; George Krny, Guilford High School technical education teacher, 32 years of service; John Sessa, Baldwin Middle School Grade 6 teacher, 38 years of service; and Phyllis Olstein, K-12 math specialist, 24 years of service. All resignations are effective June 30, 2009.

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Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Beeman, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the resignation of Laura Bernardi, Baldwin Grade 6 teacher, effective August 31, 2009.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Beeman, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the appointments of Jessica Hagopian, Baldwin Middle School health teacher; Michelle Alfonso, Guilford High School technology teacher; and Kevin Buno, Guilford High School Choral Music Teacher, all effective September 1, 2009.

**8.2 RESCIND Non-renewal of Non-tenured Teachers (exhibit)**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Zuse and seconded by Dr. Meyers, the Board voted unanimously to rescind the non-renewal of non-tenured teachers.

**8.3 ACT ON K-12 Mathematics Curriculum**

Mr. Zuse suggested that the district consider looking beyond Connecticut State standards when developing the mathematics curriculum noting that Massachusetts is doing better in math.

Chairman Bloss noted that Connecticut has a huge achievement gap and that state performance standards are based on averages.

Dr. Forcella noted that the consortium of high-performing school districts in which Guilford participates, talked recently about the importance of effective analysis of data.

Mr. Bishop added that it is important for the district to consider individual student achievement.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the K-12 Math Curriculum presented to the Board on June 8, 2009.

**8.4 RECEIVE Request for Spanish 3 Textbook (exhibit)**

World Language Chair Sharon Jakubson presented the selection committee's recommendation of "Realidades 3" as the new text for Spanish 3 at Guilford High School. Ms. Jakubson noted that currently teachers are using a 14-year-old video series that has become outdated. She noted that the recommended text includes on-line tutorial practice, a CD with each text and other ancillary materials.

Dr. Keene noted that the text that will be available at the Central Office for the next month for public review.

**8.5 RECEIVE FOR POSSIBLE ACTION Budget Transfers for 2008-09 Budget**

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving a transfer of \$14,000 from Supplies and Materials (Heat) to Transportation (Special Education Buses).

**8.6 RECEIVE FOR POSSIBLE ACTION Waiver for Bidding Requirement for Technology Lease**

Mrs. Trudeau explained that one company has submitted a bid for the \$200,000 in technology equipment budgeted for 2009-2010. The current rate for the lease is 4.22% for four years. Mrs. Trudeau noted that the district is still negotiating the rate and the terms.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mr. Bishop, the Board voted unanimously to waive the bidding requirements for the technology lease.

**8.7 ACT ON Awarding Bid for HVAC Controls (exhibit)**

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mr. Bishop, the Board voted unanimously to award the bid for HVAC controls to Johnson Controls, Inc. in the amount of \$7,810.00.

**8.8 ACT ON Awarding Bid for Boiler Cleaning and Burner Cleaning, Tuning and Calibrating (exhibit)**

The Board will defer action on the bid for boiler cleaning and burner cleaning, tuning and calibrating and carry this item over to the August Regular Meeting pending reference checks.

**8.9 DISCUSS 2007-2008 Annual Report**

**8.10 ACT ON Recommendations from Policy Subcommittee:**

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

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Revisions to Policy 5126: Suspension/Expulsion/Exclusion/ Removal.

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

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Nolan and seconded by Mrs. Beeman, the Board voted unanimously to accept the revisions to Regulation 5126: Suspension/Expulsion/Exclusion/Removal.

Dr. Meyers requested that the Board receive an annual report on the outcomes of students following their expulsions from Guilford Public Schools. This report would not contain names of students, but would include data on Board recommended actions and the actual results.

**8.10.3 New Policy 5125: Discipline (exhibit)**

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Nolan and seconded by Mrs. Beeman, the Board voted unanimously to accept new policy 5125: Discipline.

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**8.11 RECEIVE FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Negotiated Contract Modification Agreements**

Chairman Bloss stated that all contracts were voted on last month and that all contracts have been agreed on.

**9. Unfinished Business**

None

**10. Reports of Committees**

Mr. Zuse noted, after attending a recent Standing Building Committee meeting, that there seems to be a lack of field investigation on ongoing projects, particular Board of Education related projects.

Mr. Zuse asked that the Policy Subcommittee review language pertaining to the use of hazardous materials in the schools.

Chairman Bloss noted that the issue of hazardous materials use in schools is a much broader issue as the State mandates that local boards of education provide for and maintain the schools but they do so without any authority to issue bonds. He added that in Guilford the SBC has the responsibility for building projects unless otherwise noted in the resolution for the project. He suggested that collaboration with the SBC and the Board is important when working in this structure.

**11. Public Questions**

None

**12. New Business**

None

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Nolan, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to executive session at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lorri Hahn  
Clerk to the Board of Education