

**GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2010
ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS ROOM, GUILFORD, CT**

1. Call to Order

Alan Meyers called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Board members present were Barbara Dudley, Susan Renner, Mary Beeman, and Alan Meyers.

Also present were Superintendent Thomas Forcella, Business Administrator Andy Potochney and Accounting Manager Linda Trudeau.

2. Preliminary 2011-2012 Budget Discussion for Public Input

Dr. Meyers stated that the Board met with the District Leadership Team on Monday, October, 25, 2010, to discuss priorities for the 2011-2012 budget.

Dr. Meyers then reviewed the Timeline for the 2011-2012 Budget. He requested that Lorri Hahn post the Timeline on the district website. He then asked for public input on the 2011-2012 Budget from the audience.

Kim Beckett stated that she was there to advocate for Special Education. She referenced the budget discussion from a year ago when she and other parents talked to the Board about their concern that more staffing would be needed at the high school this school year to accommodate an anticipated increase in special education students. She stated that her understanding was that the IEPs were complete in the spring and the need for additional staffing was known then. She stated that a new half-time teacher was hired a few days prior to the start of this school year and that she had knowledge that IEP violations occurred as a result of this situation. She questioned whether there was any financial implication associated with the violations.

Mrs. Beckett asked that the Board consider upcoming Special Education needs to be prepared for new students and to insure that staffing levels are appropriate.

David Roberts asked the Board what processes they have gone through to recognize savings that might lessen the burden on taxpayers.

Dr. Meyers responded that when the Board met with the Administrators on October 25, 2010, they discussed which programs were absolutely necessary and which might be eliminated as well as examining other areas for potential savings. Dr. Meyers stated that the Board is very sensitive to the current economic conditions and the impact on Guilford's taxpayers and must balance this with the needs of the students.

Nils Dailey addressed the Board by reading a letter that he had recently submitted to the New Haven Register titled "An Opportune Time for Board of Ed Leadership." Mr. Dailey spoke about the recently negotiated Administrator's contract and suggested that, as key leaders in the community, the Administrators should not have taken any pay increases over the three-year term of their contract.

Mr. Dailey suggested that the budget process is an opportunity for the Board to make major reductions in spending and to find innovative ways to do more with less. He expressed his hope that the Board's leadership will be empathetic to the economic hardships of Guilford's residents and will be committed to doing something about it.

Dr. Meyers thanked the public for their input.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lorri Hahn
Clerk to the Board of Education