

Minutes  
November 22, 2010  
Board of Education Workshop  
AW Cox Elementary School

Board Members Present: Bill Bloss, Alan Meyers, Sue Renner, John Ireland, Mary Beeman, Ted Zuse, Barbara Dudley, Chris Moore

Administrators Present: Tom Forcella, Anne Keene, Pat Brett, Allene Nicolari

Others Present: Linda Trudeau, Cliff Gurnham, Andy Potochney

### **1. Call to Order**

Chairperson Bill Bloss called the meeting to order at 7:30.

### **2. Autism Program Presentation**

Dr. Forcella presented a draft of “Bright Connections,” the Guilford Public Schools Program for Children on the Autism Spectrum proposal to the Board of Education. The committee who prepared the proposal examined the feasibility of developing a program in Guilford Public Schools to provide comparable services within the district and to eventually avoid outplacements for most students with autism. Components of a high quality program would include more time with typical peers, increased instructional time due to reduced transportation time, and flexibility to meet specific needs of Guilford students. Dr. Forcella explained that initially both in-district and out-of-district programs would need to be run simultaneously. The committee recommended beginning the program during the 2011-2012 school year.

Dr. Kevin Pelphrey, one of the directors of the autism program at Yale Child Study Center, offered support in the evaluation of programs, staff training, and grant writing possibilities. John Ireland requested a cash flow model in order to understand the fiscal implications over time. Dr. Forcella will work with the finance office to develop a report; however, he explained that the start-up budget would be approximately \$370,000. Dr. Brett responded to other questions regarding numbers of students and logistics of the program request.

Dr. Forcella will include the program proposal as part of the Superintendent’s proposed 2011-12 budget. He emphasized that whether the program can be initiated in 2011-12 will depend on the impact of the program on the full budget.

### **3. Electricity Bid Process**

Andy Potochney presented an update on the electricity bid process which is expected in early December. Savings could be significant with either an extension of existing contract or a new, blended rate for kilowatt hours. Ted Zuse made a motion, seconded by Sue Renner, to authorize the superintendent to enter into a contract for electricity depending on the bid results. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **4. GHS Facilities Subcommittee Recommendation**

John Ireland reported on the proposals from two firms for the pre-referendum services including alternative plans and options regarding Guilford High School. After a series of discussions and presentations, the subcommittee recommended that the lower proposal from architectural firm Tai Soo Kim in the amount of \$38,000 be selected. Mary Beeman made a motion, seconded by Alan Meyers, to accept the recommendation of the facilities subcommittee. Barbara Dudley voted no with the caveat that she would support the decision of the Board; all other Board members present voted in favor of the motion.

#### **5. Executive Session – Negotiations**

Ted Zuse made a motion, seconded by Mary Beeman, to go into executive session to discuss negotiations.

The Board returned from executive session at 9:45 p.m. Alan Meyers made a motion, seconded by Barbara Dudley, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Anne Keene, Assistant Superintendent