

Guilford Board of Education
Finance Subcommittee Meeting
Guilford High School, 605 New England Road, Guilford, CT
Monday, February 8, 2010

BOE Members Present: Keith Bishop, Bill Bloss, Alan Meyers, and Susan Renner

BOE Staff Present: Tom Forcella, Linda Trudeau

John Ireland, Ted Zuse, and Chris Moore joined the meeting in progress.

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

Dr. Meyers added the discussion of the Request for Proposal for Legal Services to the agenda after a motion by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Dr. Meyers.

1. Review of Monthly Reports

Mr. Bloss reviewed the expenses from January 2010.

The AT & T Mobility bill was discussed. Nothing inappropriate was noted, other than a few 411 calls. This bill is for five mobile phones utilized by the maintenance staff.

Mr. Bloss reviewed the prior year encumbrances. The Leete blinds and CREC were among several mentioned. He noted that the Reading Recovery Teacher Training would be reimbursed through ARRA and IDEA Grant funds.

There were several questions raised regarding Contracted Services, specifically a PPT with Benhaven and a \$2,000 charge for an in school observation.

Mrs. Trudeau told the subcommittee that she'll be meeting with Dr. Pat Brett on Thursday to discuss projections for this budget year.

The \$26,000 for Dell Computers and the gas connection at Cox were also discussed. The RFP for connecting the gas line inside the school was printed in today's paper.

Transportation for outplaced students was discussed. The cost of transportation is up this year. Mr. Bloss asked if we could share this type of travel expense with other near by districts who may have students going to the same school. Mrs. Trudeau explained that Dr. Brett's office coordinates such travel arrangements now and will continue to do so. She also told the subcommittee that they verify the attendance of those outplaced children on a monthly basis. The auditors also double check the transportation costs as they are reported to the State.

Dr. Forcella spoke briefly about the committee working on creating a program in Guilford to accommodate the children who are currently traveling out of district for school. The key, he noted, is start in the lower grades and offer a high quality program.

Warrant #3, Dated January 27, 2010 was discussed including a \$1,000 deposit made in error to the Guilford Board of Education account which was rectified.

It was also discussed that the budget short fall for this year, which was due to an unexpected decrease in State funding for Special Education, has been reduced thus far to \$90,000. Dr. Forcella foresees closing the gap by the end of the school year. This was possible due to a spending freeze put in place

earlier this year. If there is money left over at the end of the year, those items which were put on hold earlier will be prioritized.

Mr. Bloss discussed the Minimum Expenditure Requirement (MER). His concern is that since Guilford is already spending less per student than other towns in our DRG that the State will further cut funds through the use of the MER.

The funding for the two School Resource Officers (SRO) from the Police Department were also discussed. Dr. Forcella told the subcommittee that this was a post Columbine program put into place several years ago. He explained that through various measures such as clear expectations to teachers and administrators, suspensions are down by 50% over the last couple of years, and police presence may not be as crucial as it once was.

2. Request for Proposal for Legal Services

Mrs. Trudeau shared the final draft of the RFP for Legal Services. It was discussed that the BOE's looking for one firm to handle all aspects of law -- litigation, union negotiations and special education issues. The subcommittee also discussed the remote possibility of finding an experienced attorney we could put on staff and share his/her salary with another town, such as Madison. Future discussions will be held regarding the advantages of flat fee and hourly rate contracts.

3. Old Business

Dr. Forcella informed the subcommittee he had a meeting last week with some community members who expressed a desire to meet with the Finance Subcommittee. The Finance Subcommittee expressed its willingness to meet with any community members to discuss their concerns.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Del Gobbo