

**GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, May 10, 2010
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, Keith Bishop, Barbara Dudley, Alan Meyers, Chris Moore, Susan Renner, and Ted Zuse. Mary Beeman arrived at 8:55 p.m.

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

2. Action on Minutes of:

- 2.1 March 8, 2010-corrected (Special Meeting)**
- 2.2 March 22, 2010-corrected (Facilities Subcommittee)**
- 2.3 March 31, 2010 (Special Meeting)**
- 2.4 April 5, 2010 (Finance Subcommittee Meeting)**
- 2.5 April 5, 2010 (Regular Meeting)**
- 2.6 April 7, 2010 (GHS Selection Committee Meeting)**
- 2.7 April 8, 2010 (GHS Selection Committee Meeting)**
- 2.8 April 21, 2010 (GHS Selection Committee Meeting)**
- 2.9 April 26, 2010 (Executive Session)**
- 2.10 April 26, 2010 (Facilities Subcommittee Meeting)**
- 2.11 April 26, 2010 (Policy Subcommittee Meeting)**
- 2.12 April 26, 2010 (Workshop Meeting)**
- 2.13 April 28, 2010 (GHS Selection Committee Meeting)**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Dr. Meyers, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the minutes of March 8, 2010-corrected (Special Meeting); March 22, 2010-corrected (Facilities Subcommittee); March 31, 2010 (Special Meeting); April 5, 2010 (Finance Subcommittee Meeting); April 5, 2010 (Regular Meeting); April 7, 2010 (GHS Selection Committee Meeting); April 8, 2010 (GHS Selection Committee Meeting); April 21, 2010 (GHS Selection Committee Meeting); April 26, 2010 (Executive Session); April 26, 2010 (Facilities Subcommittee Meeting); April 26, 2010 (Policy Subcommittee Meeting); April 26, 2010 (Workshop Meeting); and April 28, 2010 (GHS Selection Committee Meeting).

**3. Review and Approval of Expenditures for the Month of April
Reviewer for Month: Chris Moore**

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 April as presented by Dr. Moore.

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

None

5. Communications

Mr. Zuse noted that he had received communications regarding student discipline and that there were people in the audience to speak to the issue.

Mr. Bloss stated that the Board does not have authority over student discipline and that these issues should be directed to Dr. Forcella.

6. Student Representatives

None

7. Superintendent's Report

7.1 Demonstration from the Robotics Club

Members of the Guilford High School Robotics Club presented the various aspects of their student organization including the diverse student backgrounds, fundraising, the design process, backstage work, assessing the competition, and the overall teamwork and time commitment of everyone involved. The students then provided a demonstration of their soccer-kicking robot. The students have competed in Hartford, CT, Atlanta, GA, and Manchester, NH.

7.2 Student and Advisor Recognition – Theatre Arts

Chairman Bloss recognized Guilford High School Theatre Arts Advisor/Director Cara Mulqueen-Teasdale and the student actors for winning Outstanding Production at the 2010 Connecticut Drama Association Festival and going on to represent Connecticut at the New England Drama Council Festival. Among other GHSTA achievements students Emily Breeze, Veronica Georgeo, and Jenna Lex received All Connecticut Cast honors.

7.3 Student Recognition – CABA Student Leader Awards (exhibit)

Chairman Bloss presented the CABA Student Leadership Award to Kristine Trotta. GHS Principal Rick Misenti selected Ms. Trotta as a school leader based on a list of criteria developed by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education.

Vice Chairman Keith Bishop presented the CABA Student Leadership Award to Gregory Laird based on the recommendation of Mr. Misenti and the CABA criteria.

7.4 Acknowledge Donations from Private Individuals Totaling \$395.00 to the GHS Theatre Arts Department (exhibit)

7.5 Acknowledge Donation (\$500.00) from the Guilford Rotary Club to the GHS Interact Club (exhibit)

7.6 Acknowledge Donation (\$289.05) from Kiducation to the District (exhibit)

Dr. Forcella collectively acknowledged the donations in Agenda Items 7.4, 7.5, and 7.6 of \$395 to the GHS Theatre Arts Department, \$500 to the GHS Interact Club from Guilford Rotary, and \$289.05 from Kiducation to the District with gratitude.

8. Board Agenda

8.1 ACT ON Personnel Item (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mr. Bishop, the Board voted unanimously in favor of ratifying the resignation of Anne Verzella, Grade 3 teacher at A.W. Cox School.

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

Dr. Forcella stated that based on the number of current retirements all but one certified position identified to be eliminated in the 2010-2011 budget will be eliminated.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously in favor of rescinding the non-renewals of non-tenured teachers.

8.3 RECEIVE Textbook Recommendation: Economics (exhibit)

Guilford High School Social Studies Chair Ralph Russo presented an Economics textbook from Prentice Hall Publishers to be used in a senior level Economics course at Guilford High School. Mr. Russo explained the selection committee's major reasons for recommending the text including technology and other available resources and its integration with district curriculum and initiatives regarding the Principles of Learning.

The Board asked various questions about the text's usage. The text will be available at the Office of the Superintendent for one month for the public to view.

8.4 APPROVE Donation of \$2,500 from a Private Individual to the GHS Theatre Arts Department (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Dudley and seconded by Mr. Bishop, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving a donation of \$2,500 from a private individual to the GHS Theatre Arts Department.

8.5 DISCUSS Annual Audit Report

Mrs. Renner suggested that it would have been helpful for the Board to receive the audit report earlier in the year for use during the budget season. Mrs. Trudeau noted that the report could not

have been received earlier due to the need to wait for the Town's actuarial Milliman, Inc. to make a change in the actuarial report that needed to be included in the audit report.

8.6 RECEIVE 2008-09 Annual Report (exhibit)

Chairman Bloss noted that the Annual Report is being received by the Board for their review. It is not an item approved by the Board, but submitted to the Town for inclusion in their Annual Report.

8.7 RECEIVE Recommendations from Policy Subcommittee:

8.7.1 Revisions to Policy #5442: Health Assessments/Interscholastic Sports Programs (exhibit)

8.7.2 Revisions to Regulation #5442: Health Assessments/Interscholastic Sports Programs (exhibit)

Chairman Bloss noted that the recommended revisions to Policy #5442 and Regulation #5442 will be carried over as ACT ON items on the June 14, 2010, agenda.

8.8 ACT ON Recommendation to Select Architect for the Schematic Design

Chairman Bloss explained that the Board's decision to proceed with the schematic design phase of a new high school is to firm up the cost estimates for a new school and to get a clear understanding of what a new school will look like.

Chairman Bloss explained that the GHS Selection Committee reviewed 13 proposals from architectural firms, narrowed those down to four semi-finalists, visited 8 schools designed by those firms and then narrowed their selection to two finalists. He stated that the Board received presentations by SLAM and Tai Soo Kim Architects.

Dr. Forcella noted that the Board of Selectmen will vote at their May 17, 2010, meeting to send the question to bond the schematic design to referendum with a potential date of June 16, 2010.

Dr. Moore noted that while both finalists (SLAM and Tai Soo Kim) were qualified to do the schematic design, Tai Soo Kim was most experienced working with educational environments. He stated that the firm's members each had at least 20 years of experience, were experienced in designing energy efficient buildings, had excellent references, and their projects came in at or under budget.

Dr. Moore stated that Tai Soo Kim has built buildings for significantly lower square foot costs than the 2008 estimated square foot costs given to GPS in the \$112 million estimate. He also reminded the public that they would not be committing to more than the cost for the design of a school with the upcoming referendum. He stated that TSK is also willing to look at possibly utilizing portions of the existing building in its design.

Dr. Meyers stated that he agrees with Dr. Moore's recommendation of Tai Soo Kim. He was impressed with Tai Soo Kim's willingness to educate the community including setting up websites to keep the community informed on the project.

Mr. Bishop stated that he toured seven of the eight schools that the GHS Selection Committee saw and heard many positive references to Tai Soo Kim. Mr. Bishop listed the many needs at Guilford High School and his belief that Tai Soo Kim can address them.

Mrs. Renner stated her support for the selection of Tai Soo Kim. She noted that although she does not have the technical expertise in this area, she trusts that the Selection Committee has done their due diligence. She also noted that she believes that community members still have many questions that they will want answered.

Dr. Forcella stated that he liked Tai Soo Kim as did GHS Principal Rick Misenti. He believes that they will design a project that the community will be excited about. He noted that costs should be lower today than they were in 2008 and added that should a building project be approved the first debt payment would not be made for at least four years.

Mary Beeman joined the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Dr. Forcella noted that Tai Soo Kim's bid was \$310,000, but additional fees for construction management may need to be added that would increase this amount.

Upon a motion made by Chairman Bloss and seconded by Mrs. Beeman, the Board voted unanimously in favor, subject to funding, that the town retain, pursuant to the terms of the request for proposals, the architectural firm Tai Soo Kim Partners to develop schematic designs and prepare cost estimates for a new Guilford High School Facility.

9. Unfinished Business

None

9. Reports of Committees

10.1 Policy Subcommittee

Mrs. Dudley noted that the Policy Subcommittee continues to look at the suicide prevention policy. She stated that the subcommittee intends to include policies related to cell phone and other technology use and bullying on the June agenda.

10.2 Facilities Subcommittee

Chairman Bloss asked a question about a potential bid for fire alarms for a project that is under the management of the Standing Building Committee. John Ireland was not present to respond to the question. Chairman Bloss will follow up with him.

10.3 Finance Subcommittee

None

10.4 Liaisons to Town Committees

None

11. Public Questions

Barbara Doyle addressed the Board regarding concerns over student discipline at Guilford High School. She stated that student athletes petitioning in support of another student who had been disciplined were told that they would not be allowed to participate in their spring sports if they continued with their protest. Mrs. Doyle expressed concern that students were not allowed to express themselves at school.

Chairman Bloss advised the parents and the students in the audience to meet with Dr. Forcella as student discipline is not a Board of Education issue, but one to be addressed with the Superintendent.

Mrs. Doyle and another parent identified as Jessica commented that they don't believe it is clear to the students how they should address their concerns.

The parents expressed their concern over the way discipline is addressed in some cases at the high school. Chairman Bloss stated that the Board cannot comment on the performance of an individual staff member.

Dr. Meyers stated that it is important that students know that they can communicate with administrators.

Dr. Forcella stated that he works directly with Mr. Misenti to improve discipline and school climate. He also stated that he would be happy to meet with students and parents.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to executive session at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lorri Hahn
Clerk to the Board of Education