

Minutes
Monday, May 24, 2010
Board of Education Workshop
Melissa Jones Elementary School

Board Members Present: Bill Bloss, Alan Meyers, Keith Bishop, Sue Renner, John Ireland, Chris Moore

Administrators Present: Anne Keene, Tom Forcella, Pat Brett, Paula McCarthy

Participants: Guilford Autism Program Committee

1. Call to Order

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

2. RECEIVE for POSSIBLE ACTION: Bid for Smart Boards and Training

Linda Trudeau presented the bids for nineteen Smart Boards; six sealed bids were submitted. Alan Meyers made a motion, seconded by Chris Moore, to award the bid to Valley Communications of Chicopee, MA, the lowest bid, in the amount of \$65,588. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Presentation from Autism Committee

Pat Brett, Director of Pupil Services, introduced the Guilford Autism Program Committee and an overview of a proposal "Bright Connections," to see if the Board of Education was interested in moving forward. Dr. Rob Nolfo, GPS Medical Advisor, described the growing prevalence rates and explained the signs and symptoms of children with autism. Typically, these children exhibit impaired communication, social, and cognitive skills. Other members of the committee presented legal, educational, and service models.

Dr. Forcella explained that the economic impact and start up costs of the program. There could be a potential decrease in future outplacements which could result in significant savings as the program expands.

Dr. Meyers questioned the socialization component of an autistic program and was assured that socialization would be addressed based on the program intensity and individual needs of students. The general agreement was that an in-house autism program would be beneficial for students, and further discussion should be considered for the 2011-2012 budget cycle. Mr. Bloss suggested that additional data be provided on Guilford's current programming.

4. Update on Referendum for GHS Schematic Design

Dr. Forcella asked if there were any questions regarding the Referendum for GHS Schematic Design scheduled for Wednesday, June 16. There were none.

Alan Meyers made a motion, seconded by Chris Moore, to adjourn at 9:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Keene
Assistant Superintendent of Schools