

**GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 14, 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 Mary Beeman, Bill Bloss, Keith Bishop, Barbara Dudley, Alan Meyers, Chris Moore, John Ireland and Susan Renner.

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

2. Student Recognition – Presidential Scholar

Guilford High School student Evan Brown was recognized for becoming a Presidential Scholar by State Representative Pat Widlitz and Senator Ed Meyers. Following their presentation, Chairman of the BOE Bill Bloss and Vice Chairman Keith Bishop presented Evan Brown with a plaque from the Board of Education for his outstanding accomplishment.

Student and Advisor Recognition – JETS

GHS Principal Rick Misenti introduced the GHS JETS Physics Team and their teacher Raisa Roginski. Chairman Bloss and Vice Chairman Bishop recognized the team and Mrs. Roginski for the team's Best of State accomplishment in their physics competition this year.

Student and Advisor Recognition – Math Team

Chairman Bloss and Vice Chairman Bishop recognized the GHS Math Team and their advisor Carol Ott for their outstanding accomplishments this year. They placed first in Middlesex County, 3rd in the State of Connecticut, and 19th in New England.

3. Action on Minutes of:

- 3.1 May 10, 2010 (Finance Subcommittee Meeting)**
- 3.2 May 10, 2010 (Regular Meeting)**
- 3.3 May 17, 2010 (Special Meeting)**
- 3.4 May 24, 2010 (Facilities Subcommittee Meeting)**
- 3.5 May 24, 2010 (Workshop Meeting)**

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Dudley and seconded by Dr. Meyers, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of May 10, 2010 (Finance Subcommittee Meeting); May 10, 2010 (Regular Meeting); May 17, 2010 (Special Meeting); May 24, 2010 (Facilities Subcommittee Meeting); and May 24, 2010 (Workshop Meeting).

Chairman Bloss asked that Item 11. Public Questions, paragraph 2 be changed to read "Chairman Bloss advised the parents and the students in the audience to meet with Dr. Forcella as student

discipline in particular cases such as this are not a Board of Education issue unless it is an expellable offense in which case it is solely the responsibility of the Board.

4. Review and Approval of Expenditures for the Month of May
Reviewer for Month: Mary Beeman

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Mr. Ireland, the Board voted unanimously to approve the expenditures for the month of May as presented by Mrs. Beeman.

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

None

6. Communications

None

7. Student Representatives

Chairman Bloss and Vice Chairman Bishop presented Simi Pakrih and David Chen with plaques and recognized their work and dedication over the course of the school year as student representatives to the Board of Education.

8. Superintendent's Report

8.1 Acknowledge Donation of Flute from a Private Individual to the GHS Music Department (exhibit)

Dr. Forcella acknowledged the donation of a flute from a private individual valued at \$200 to the Guilford High School Music Department.

8.2 Acknowledge Donation of \$100.00 from a Private Individual to the GHS Music Department (exhibit)

Dr. Forcella acknowledged the donation of \$100 from a private individual to the Guilford High School Music Department.

8.3 Update on Power Outage at Melissa Jones

Dr. Forcella explained that there was a power outage in North Guilford that affected Melissa Jones School on Thursday, May 27, causing the Superintendent to close the school early that day. The primary reason for closing the school was due to the lack of water supply that affected the school's lavatories and water fountains.

Dr. Forcella explained that the district's AlertNow emergency notification system was used to notify parents by phone and email about the early dismissal. He also noted the district's policy

regarding school buses not dropping students off when parents are not at home. He noted that there was only one student that had to be brought back to the school because the parent was not yet home.

8.4 Update on Autism Committee

Dr. Forcella noted that the Autism Committee had made a comprehensive presentation to the Board of Education at their May Workshop meeting to talk about providing an in-house Autism program. He reviewed the benefits of such a program including spending time with typical peers, less expense to the district, and the elimination of extensive travel time for students. Dr. Forcella explained that the Autism Committee includes parents, several specialists, the school district's physician and the Special Education Coordinator.

Dr. Forcella stated that the next steps in the process toward developing an in-house Autism program will be to gather more parental input and more information from other school districts who have implemented such programs. He stated that the goal will be to determine if GPS can offer a program in-house that is as good or better than programs and services that students are currently receiving in out-placement offerings.

Dr. Meyers noted that another positive affect from an in-house program is the impact on non-autistic children and the demystification of the condition in the eyes of these children.

8.5 Request to Use School Space for Community Garden

Dr. Forcella explained that a community organization has requested the use of a portion of land at Adams Middle School for a community garden. He noted that he did not believe it is a school board decision to grant permission for such a use but the board should react to the possible impact the proposed garden would have on school programs and athletics. Consultation with Parks and Recreation and the Standing Fields Committee would also assist the town in making a decision.

Barbara Dudley noted that the group would like to locate the garden near the tennis courts away from the school and fields at Adams. Dr. Forcella confirmed that the location would not interfere with the fields or interrupt physical education classes at Adams.

Dr. Moore noted that the community garden effort is a part of the TEAM Guilford initiative and he supports it in principle.

Chairman Bloss suggested that a follow up discussion about the location of the community garden be included on a future Board agenda.

9. Board Agenda

9.1 ACT ON Personnel Items (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mr. Bishop, the Board voted unanimously in favor of ratifying the resignations of James Perillo, Guilford High School Mathematics teacher (for the purpose of retirement); Elizabeth Barone-Fuller, Guilford Lakes Kindergarten teacher; and Deborah Hally, Guilford High School Psychologist, all effective August 31, 2010.

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

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

Mrs. Dudley noted that she was very happy to be able to contribute to this motion, noting the many school districts across the country cutting their budgets and laying off many teachers. She commended the leadership of Dr. Forcella and the teacher's union for their efforts in avoiding such circumstances.

9.3 ACT ON Textbook Recommendation: Economics (exhibit)

Dr. Keene noted that Mr. Russo had located several schools in the State that were using the textbook and were satisfied with it.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Beeman, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the adoption of the Economics textbook as recommended by the selection committee

9.4 ACT ON Submission of IDEA Grant (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the IDEA Grant application for submission.

The total application for the Special Education Entitlement Grant Programs is in the amount of \$712,480.

9.5 Budget Transfers for 2009-10 (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the Budget Transfers requested by Andy Potochney for 2009-2010.

Mr. Potochney noted increases in the following line items: Salaries: \$60,000; Tuition \$95,000; Capital: \$35,000; and Transportation: \$110,000. He noted decreases in the following items: Benefits: \$130,000; Purchased Services: \$80,000; and Supplies and Materials: \$90,000.

9.6 RECEIVE FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Request to Waive Bid for Vehicle (exhibit)

Mrs. Beeman explained that Mr. Gurnham is requesting that the Board waive the bid requirements to purchase a used Ford 2005 F-250 with a plow with approximately 56,000 miles.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Ireland and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to waive the bid requirements to purchase a vehicle as requested by Clifford Gurnham.

9.8 APPROVE Donation of \$1,295.00 from a Private Individual to the GHS Theater Arts Department (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Dr. Meyers, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the donation of \$1,295.00 from a private individual to the GHS Theatre Arts Department.

9.9 APPROVE Donation of \$2,000.00 from the Theatre Arts Parent Association to the GHS Theater Arts Department (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the donation of \$2,000 from the Theatre Arts Parent Association to the GHS Theatre Arts Department.

9.10 APPROVE Donation of \$4,750.00 from the Guilford Fund for Education (exhibit)
9.10.1 From Bow to Story for GHS (\$3,600.00)
9.10.2 Kindles for Kids for Baldwin Middle School (\$1,150.00)

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Mr. Bishop, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving a donation of \$4,750.00 from the Guilford Fund for Education for the Bow to Story summer project at GHS and Kindles for Kids at Baldwin Middle School.

9.11 ACT ON Participation in Healthy Food and Beverages in Schools (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to participate in the Healthy Food and Beverages in School Program.

9.12 DISCUSS Change in Scope of the Adams Middle School Facility Project

Mr. Ireland explained that there were savings realized from the original money allocated to address the immediate needs at Adams Middle School. The Facilities Subcommittee would like to propose a slight change in scope to a portion of the project involving ventilators in seven classrooms in the older portion of the building. Mr. Ireland stated that with the additional money air conditioning can be added to the unit ventilators. He stated that the Standing Building Committee would want communication from the Board of Education that they are comfortable with this change of scope from the original project.

The Board of Education discussed the potential change in scope of the Adams Middle School Facilities Project and they have raised no objections to adding air conditioning to the unit ventilators being installed in seven classrooms in the older portion of the building, based on the availability of funds from the original bond. The Facilities Subcommittee will communicate the BOE discussion to the Standing Building Committee.

9.13 ACT ON Recommendations from Policy Subcommittee:

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

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

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Dudley and seconded by Mr. Bishop, the Board voted unanimously to accept the revisions to Policy #5442 and Regulation #5442 as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee.

10. Unfinished Business

None

11. Reports of Committees

11.1 Policy Subcommittee

None.

11.2 Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. Ireland stated that the Facilities Subcommittee will be working on a needs assessment over the summer. He noted that the committee will be looking for community volunteers with expertise in facilities management, mechanical engineering and related fields to help them.

11.3 Finance Subcommittee

Chairman Bloss noted that negotiations will take place this summer with the administrators and teachers unions.

Dr. Meyers noted that Board members are invited to participate in a meeting with CABA regarding union negotiations and will also be meeting with the Board of Finance on June 15 to discuss negotiations with the Guilford Education Association and the Guilford Council of Education Administrators.

11.4 Liaisons to Town Committees

Mr. Ireland reported that Guilford and five other area towns (Madison, Branford, Durham, Killingworth, and Westbrook) were awarded an energy grant which came from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block grant program. The funds will be used to hire an energy consultant who will work amongst the six towns in identifying areas to save energy and energy costs and work on short-term and long-range energy savings plans, among other tasks.

Mr. Bishop reported that the Land Acquisitions Committee continues to discuss the management of the Goss property.

Dr. Moore asked what the Policy Subcommittee will be looking at for the next six months.

Mrs. Dudley responded that among other things, the committee will continue to examine cell phone use. Chairman Bloss noted that the committee continues to examine bullying and finds a lack of consistent policies among the districts it has studied.

Mrs. Beeman stated that TEAM Guilford will host a public forum on June 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Guilford Free Library to discuss the results of the Developmental Assets Survey taken by Guilford students in Grades 7 - 12. She noted the importance of the meeting particularly for those people in the community who work with kids.

12. Public Questions

None

13. New Business

None

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to executive session at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lorri Hahn
Clerk to the Board of Education