

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Bill Bloss called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Board members present were Keith Bishop, Bill Bloss, Mary Beeman, Alan Meyers, Chris Moore, Barbara Dudley, Susan Renner, and Ted Zuse. Administrators present were Tom Forcella and Anne Keene. Also present was Accounting Manager Linda Trudeau.

2. Action on Minutes of:

2.1 March 14, 2011 (Regular Meeting)

2.2 March 22, 2011 (Special Meeting-Executive Session)

2.3 March 24, 2011 (Special Meeting)

2.4 March 28, 2011 (Workshop Meeting)

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mr. Zuse, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of March 14, 2011 (Regular Meeting); March 22, 2011 (Special Meeting-Executive Session); March 24, 2011 (Special Meeting); and March 28, 2011 (Workshop Meeting).

3. Review and Approval of Expenditures for the Month of March

Reviewer for the Month: Keith Bishop

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mr. Zuse, the Board voted unanimously to approve the expenditures for the month of March as presented by Mr. Bishop.

Mrs. Trudeau stated that it is anticipated that the 2010-11 Board of Education will complete the fiscal year within budget. She also stated that the current deficit in the Health Care account is approximately \$270,000, down from \$500,000 at the beginning of the fiscal year.

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

None

5. Communications

Chairman Bloss asked that communications received regarding the Guilford High School facility project be held until the April 19, 2011, special meeting.

Mr. Zuse reported that he received a communication from Joe Petrowski regarding a request from All State Insurance regarding a \$4,000 donation to Guilford Public Schools in exchange for hanging a banner advertising their company at one of our athletic fields.

Chairman Bloss responded that the question of advertising on athletic fields should be directed to the Standing Fields Committee.

6. Student Representatives

Not present.

7. Superintendent's Report

7.1 Update on GHS Facilities Options – Communications Committee

Dr. Forcella explained that the work of the Board of Education Options Review Committee is complete as they have reviewed all of the options to address facility needs of the high school and presented their findings to the Board. The Superintendent stated that the committee would like to continue to meet to

Education's recommended option, once selected.

The Board agreed that based on the existing committee's knowledge of the options and information about the needs of the high school it would make sense for the group to continue as a Superintendent's Committee to communicate and educate the public about the high school project.

7.2 Budget Referendum – April 12, 2011

Dr. Forcella noted that the Town Budget Referendum will take place on Tuesday, April 12, 2011. He reminded the public to please vote.

7.3 Governor's 2010 Summer Reading Challenge Recognition

Dr. Forcella announced that students at Guilford Lakes Elementary School and Adams Middle School will be recognized by the Governor of the State of Connecticut in a ceremony in Hartford on May 6, 2011, for their participation in the Governor's 2010 Summer Reading Challenge. He noted that 100% of the students at Guilford Lakes Elementary School participated in the challenge and 96% of Adams Middle School Students were involved.

7.4 Donation of Guilford Institute Antique Desk

Dr. Forcella stated that Carl and Linda Balestracci have donated an antique desk that was originally used at the Guilford Institute, the first Guilford High School. The desk is now displayed in the first floor entranceway of Lathrop House at 55 Park Street.

7.5 Principles of Learning – Accountable Talk

Dr. Keene presented one of the nine Principles of Learning, Accountable Talk, to the Board and the Public. She explained that for classroom talk to promote learning, it must be accountable to the learning community, to accurate and appropriate knowledge, and to rigorous thinking. She explained that accountable talk seriously responds to and further develops what others in the group have said. It puts forth and demands knowledge that is accurate and relevant to the issue under discussion. Accountable talk uses evidence such as proofs in mathematics, data from science investigations and documentary sources in history and follows norms of good reasoning. Teachers create the norms and skills of accountable talk in their classrooms.

Dr. Keene cited examples of accountable talk in our district including small group problem solving and student-teacher conferences, students synthesizing multiple sources of information, students referencing text to support arguments and assertions and teachers modeling appropriate forms of discussion by requiring evidence, challenging misconceptions and pressing for clarification.

8. Board Agenda

8.1 ACT ON Personnel Items

Upon a motion made by Mr. Zuse and seconded by Mrs. Beeman, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the resignations of Chip Dorwin, Athletic Director, Guilford High School and Susan Flood, English teacher, Adams Middle School, both effective August 31, 2011.

Mrs. Dudley expressed the Board's great appreciation for the service of both faculty members.

Dr. Forcella noted that the job description for the Athletic Director will be reviewed by a committee and possible changes and updates will be made to it. He suggested that he will bring recommendations on how to proceed with this process to the Board.

Mr. Zuse suggested that during this process the athletic program should be reviewed to consider what else

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to approve a \$20,000 donation from The Trailviews Foundation to Guilford Public Schools High School.

8.3 ACT ON Recommendations from Policy Subcommittee:

8.3.1 Revisions to Policy and Regulation #4112/#4212: Nondiscrimination (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Mr. Zuse and seconded by Dr. Meyers, the Board voted unanimously to approve revisions to Policy and Regulation #4112/#4212: Nondiscrimination as presented by the Policy Subcommittee.

8.3.2 Revisions to Bylaw #9122: Board Committees (exhibit)

Mrs. Dudley asked that this item be carried over to the May 9, 2011, meeting. She reminded the committee chairpersons to submit a paragraph describing the function of their committee by April 25, 2011.

8.4 DISCUSS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION Recommendation of Facilities Subcommittee Regarding Walkway at Adams Middle School

Mr. Bishop explained that there are funds available from the Adams Middle School immediate needs project and the Facilities Subcommittee and the Standing Building Committee have discussed building an enclosed walkway between the portable classrooms at Adams and the main building to increase the level of security and protection from the elements for students and staff when moving between the locations. Mr. Bishop reported that the Facilities Subcommittee has voted three to one to recommend the project.

Mr. Gurnham explained the details of the project that would incorporate additional security measures of at least two cameras, one in the portables and one at the back of the gym. Mr. Gurnham noted that a walkthrough had taken place with the fire marshall and that, if approved, the work would be completed over the summer. He stated that the project would cost \$40,000.

Mr. Gurnham noted that the Standing Building Committee is waiting for a recommendation from the Board of Education on this project.

Mr. Zuse stated that he did not feel that the enclosed walkway was addressing the most pressing security issues at Adams.

Chairman Bloss asked if the Guilford Police Department has provided input on the security issues at Adams. Mr. Gurnham stated that Chief Terribile felt that securing the corridor between the main building and the portables was a higher priority than installing additional cameras.

Chairman Bloss asked that discussion and possible action on this item be carried over to the April 25, 2011, Workshop Meeting.

9. Unfinished Business

None

10. Reports of Committees

10.1 Policy Subcommittee

No Report

10.2 Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. Bishop stated that the committee will be seeking bids for snowplowing for next season.

Mr. Zuse noted that the committee will be following up on the work that has been completed at Adams

future needs can be met at the school.

10.3 Finance Subcommittee

Dr. Meyers reported that the deficit in the Health Account has decreased from \$500,000 to \$270,000 since the beginning of the fiscal year. He noted that revenue has increased in the Food Service Account. He also noted that, pending approval of the 2011-12 FY Budget, specification will be developed for an RFP to hire a consultant to conduct an evaluation of the district's Special Education Department.

11.4 Liaisons to Town Committees

None

11. Public Questions (four minute limit)

Rich Bello, Guilford resident of 25 years and Guilford Lakes teacher of 12 years, addressed the Board regarding the approved 2011-12 School Calendar. He stated that he believed this was the most fundamentally changed calendar for the district in over 20 years. He stated that he thought there should have been more notification given to GPS staff prior to the adoption of the calendar. Mr. Bello also stated that some GPS employees were unclear that the term "regional" calendar meant the LEARN region and not our immediate geographic area. As a result, staff members that live in area towns will not share vacations with their children and will incur additional expenses for childcare as a result. Mr. Bello stated that he believes the result of the staff survey would be different if more time and explanation had been given.

Dr. Forcella noted that a notice went out to the teachers' union and the Board had discussed the proposed calendar for two months. He also noted that several districts in LEARN have moved to adopt the regional calendar.

Chairman Bloss encouraged Mr. Bello to follow up with the leadership of the GEA as he believes that Dr. Forcella has been very open in his communication with them in this process.

Joann Goeler, Guilford resident of 15 years and part-time teacher at Guilford Lakes School stated that the decision to change the 2011-12 School Calendar has impacted her family. She explained that her family was in the process of planning a trip to Italy during the original April 2012 vacation. She stated that she has two children at Guilford High School and that her husband is an administrator in the Branford Public Schools. She stated that since the April 2012 vacation week has been moved, the Guilford Public Schools vacation does not coincide with the Branford Public Schools vacation and her family will not be able to take their trip.

Chairman Bloss encouraged Ms. Goeler to contact Dr. Forcella if she would like to discuss her situation with him further.

12. 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 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lorri Hahn
Clerk to the Board of Education