

**GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 9, 2011
GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY, GUILFORD, CT**

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.

7.2 Overnight Field Trip Request Report – GHS Boys Ice Hockey Team (exhibit)

Guilford High School Ice Hockey Coach Ralph Russo requested permission for the team to participate in the Maine High School Hockey Invitational in Portland, Maine from December 26 to December 28, 2011.

Dr. Forcella stated that he endorsed the request which was also supported by Athletic Director Chip Dorwin.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Dr. Meyers, the Board voted unanimously to support the GHS Boys Ice Hockey team's request for the overnight field trip to Portland, Maine.

7.1 Student Recognition – CABE Student Leader Awards (exhibit)

Guilford High School seniors Sonya Zhou and Connor Hoge were recognized by the Board of Education for exhibiting leadership qualities as defined by a list of criteria developed by a subcommittee of CABE's Board of Directors. Each student had an impressive list of accomplishments in their four years at Guilford High School including academic, leadership and citizenship activities.

2. Action on Minutes of:

- 2.1 April 6, 2011 (Special Meeting)**
- 2.2 April 11, 2011 (Regular Meeting)**
- 2.3 April 19, 2011 (Special Meeting)**
- 2.4 April 25, 2011 (Workshop Meeting)**

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Renner and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of April 6, 2011 (Special Meeting); April 11, 2011 (Regular Meeting); April 19, 2011 (Special Meeting); and April 25, 2011 (Workshop Meeting).

**3. Review and Approval of Expenditures for the Month of April
Reviewer for the Month: Mary Beeman**

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mrs. Beeman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the expenditures for the month of April as presented by Mrs. Beeman.

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

None

5. Communications

Mary Beeman noted that she had received several communications regarding the pending high school building project.

Dr. Forcella reviewed the dates for the upcoming public tours and presentations at the high school. He noted that the communications process is very important to ensure that the community receive accurate information.

6. Student Representatives

Jamie Desrosier reported on events at the high school including the spring theatre arts performance of “Anything Goes,” and Voices performing with Yale Whiffenpoofs. She noted that Sonya Zhou is one of 9 finalists for the honor of Presidential Scholar.

Ms. Desrosier thanked the Board for their efforts toward building a new high school.

Chairman Bloss stated that he was a substitute for a day at the high school and gained a different perspective working in the building all day. He could appreciate the conditions that students and staff have to put up with on a daily basis.

Mrs. Beeman thanked Jamie and Jackie Desrosier for their time leading the tours of the high school.

7. Superintendent’s Report

7.3 Update on Principal’s Search

Dr. Forcella noted that the Principal Search process is the same as the one developed when Principal Paula McCarthy was hired at Melissa Jones. Advertisements are being placed in Ed Week, the local papers, and on websites and their will be a screening and interview committee. There will also be a meeting with parents and input from staff. Dr. Forcella noted that the goal is have final candidates identified before the end of the school year.

Chairman Bloss asked about the search process for a new athletic director. Dr. Forcella explained that the search for this position includes ads in newspapers within CT, on the website and considering internal candidates. Dr. Forcella noted that an emphasis will be placed on expanding intramural sports. He also noted that there will be a committee to interview candidates for the Athletic Director position.

7.4 Principle’s of Learning – Academic Rigor in a Thinking Curriculum

Dr. Keene presented the Principle of Learning – Academic Rigor in a Thinking Curriculum explaining that thinking and problem solving will be the “new basics” of the 21st century. She explained that knowledge and thinking are intimately joined and that curriculum must be organized around major concepts that students are expected to know deeply. Teaching must engage students in active reasoning about these concepts. In every subject, at every grade level, instruction and learning must include commitment to a knowledge core, high thinking demand, and active use of knowledge.

Dr. Keene provided examples of Academic Rigor from the district including disciplinary literacy training for 5-12 teacher; Rigor Review meeting for the District Leadership Team; classroom resources that encourage thinking and open-ended tasks; extended projects in which original work and original analysis is expected and Learning Walks.

Chairman Bloss noted that during the time he spent substituting in a high school classroom he was impressed with the way the students questioned each other in respectful ways. He found that students were using language associated with the Principle’s of Learning.

8. Board Agenda

8.1 ACT ON Personnel Items

Chairman Bloss read Merry Leventhal's letter of resignation in which she expressed her appreciation to everyone and particularly thanked Dr. Forcella. Chairman Bloss extended deep thanks and gratitude from the Board to Mrs. Leventhal for her years of service.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Beeman, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the resignation of Merry Leventhal, Principal, A.W. Cox Elementary School, for the purpose of retirement, effective August 31, 2011.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the resignation of Andrea Argyros, school psychologist, Guilford Lakes Elementary School, for the purpose of retirement, effective August 31, 2011.

Dr. Meyers noted that Dr. Argyros has been an outstanding resource for the district.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the resignation of Michael Dalton, Social Studies teacher, Guilford High School, effective August 31, 2011.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Mrs. Beeman, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the resignation of Thomas F. Forcella, Superintendent of Schools, effective date June 30, 2011.

Chairman Bloss expressed deep appreciation on behalf of the Board and the community for Dr. Forcella's service.

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

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Renner and seconded by Mrs. Beeman, the Board voted unanimously to rescind the non-renewal of non-tenured teachers.

8.3 RECEIVE 2009-10 Strategic School Profiles (exhibit)

Dr. Keene noted that the School Profile financial data is from the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Chairman Bloss noted that it is difficult to make expenditure comparisons between districts as districts categorize their expenditures differently.

Chairman Bloss asked that the Strategic School Profiles be included on the June 13, 2011, Regular meeting agenda as a discussion item.

8.4 APPROVE Donation of \$1,285.44 from ABC Program to the GHS Theater Arts Program and the Music Department (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mr. Bishop, the Board voted unanimously to approve a donation of \$1,285.44 from the ABC Program to the GHS Theatre Arts Program and the Music Department.

8.5 DISCUSS for POSSIBLE ACTION: Waiver of Formal Bidding and Retention of Search Firm for Superintendent Vacancy

Chairman Bloss explained that the Board has received five proposals from search firms for the superintendent vacancy. The Board has interviewed three of the firms in person and one by phone.

Chairman Bloss asked if the Board is comfortable with the current bids and proposals or if they feel there should be a formal bid process.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Beeman, the Board voted unanimously in favor of waiving the formal bidding process for the retention of a search firm for the Superintendent vacancy as the Board has received five competitive bids and interviewed four firms.

Mr. Bishop explained that all of the bids received were within the same range, approximately \$12,000 to \$14,000 plus some additional expenses.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Mrs. Renner, the Board voted seven in favor of retaining Goens and Esparo for the Superintendent's Search. Mr. Ireland abstained as he was not present for the interview process.

Mrs. Beeman stated that George Goens was the most appropriate candidate based on his history of working with our school district in the past when hiring Dr. Forcella.

Dr. Meyers stated that the Board of Education has made it clear that we want to continue our progress and should select the most proactive search firm to accomplish that objective.

Mr. Bishop stated that Mr. Goens completed his job thoroughly the first time working hard to find the right candidate even when the first round of candidates were not accepted by the Board.

8.6 RECEIVE Recommendations from Policy Subcommittee:

8.6.1 Revisions to Policy 1334/3218: Soliciting Funds from and by Students and School Fund-raising (exhibit)

The Policy Subcommittee recommended moving this policy to the business section from the community relations section and eliminating a form no longer used.

8.6.2 Removal of Regulation 1334/3218: Fund-Raising Activity Approval Gifts, Grants and Bequests Form (exhibit)

The Policy Subcommittee recommended the removal of the form as per 8.6.1.

8.6.3 Removal of Policy and Regulation 2114: Administration (exhibit)

The Policy Subcommittee recommended removing this policy and regulation as it is a job description and organizational chart and does not belong in a policy manual.

8.6.4 Revisions to Policy 3418: Inventories (exhibit)

The Policy Subcommittee recommended changing the inventory amount from \$100 to \$250 and made some additional changes to wording.

8.6.5 Removal of Policy and Regulation 3714: Food Services (exhibit)

The Policy Subcommittee recommended the removal of this policy as its wording is duplicated in Policy 3712.

8.6.6 Revisions to Policy 6514: Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics (exhibit)

The Policy Subcommittee added Adams Middle School to the policy.

8.6.7 Revisions to Policy 6614: Emergency School Closings (exhibit)

The Policy Subcommittee updated the policy to reflect the current communications outlets used in the event of emergency school closings.

8.7 ACT ON: Submission of IDEA Grant (exhibit)

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to approve the submission of the IDEA Grant in the amount of \$712,480.

Chairman Bloss read the breakdown of the grant as the following:

Section 611 Funds: An allocation of \$690,000 to provide additional instruction and related services staff, professional development, supplies and technical assistance in data collection and analysis to monitor programs and progress for special needs students.

Section 619 Funds: An allocation of \$21,894 to provide additional staff in speech/language and adaptive physical education for preschool programming.

9. Unfinished Business

None

10. Reports of Committees

10.1 Policy Subcommittee

No Report

10.2 Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. Ireland reported that the Facilities Subcommittee is determining which projects will be targeted as they work with the Standing Building Committee. These projects are based on voter approval of the bond appropriation request.

Mr. Ireland stated that there will be a meeting with members of the Boards of Selectmen, Finance and Education and the Standing Building Committee to discuss the process of spending and managing bonded appropriations on June 7.

10.3 Finance Subcommittee

Dr. Meyers reported that the Finance Subcommittee has drafted an RFP for the Special Education Department evaluation. He noted that it is anticipated that the evaluation should be completed by mid-October 2011.

Dr. Meyers reported that Board should meet its FY 2010-11 budget. He stated that the Medical account deficit is down to (\$80,000) and projected to be at \$0 by the end of the fiscal year.

Dr. Meyers reported that a comparison of the fiscal performance of the Food Service Department from last year to this year will be made at the end of this fiscal year.

11.4 Liaisons to Town Committees

Mr. Ireland asked if there was any information on the number of employees to date who have chosen to opt out of BOE insurance plans. Mrs. Trudeau stated that we will have this information at the end of the year.

11. Public Questions (four minute limit)

None

12. New Business

Dr. Moore asked if there will be sufficient time to submit the grant application to the State of Connecticut for a new high school for reimbursement by June 30, 2011, should the referendum pass on June 14, 2011.

Dr. Forcella stated that there will be time to submit the necessary paperwork.

Chairman Bloss requested an administrative update on the June agenda on progress toward hiring a new principal for A.W. Cox School and a new Athletic Director.

Mr. Ireland noted that the Standing Building Committee has been involved in discussions about alternative energy options for GHS.

Chairman Bloss recognized Coach Bill Wallach's CT Sports Writers' honor.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lorri Hahn
Clerk to the Board of Education