

GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, June 13, 2011
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 Keith Bishop, Bill Bloss, Mary Beeman, John Ireland, 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.

7.1 Overnight Field Trip Request Report – GHS Music Department (exhibit)

Guilford High School music teacher Mark Gahm explained that the Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, Wind Ensemble and Voices are planning a trip to New Orleans, Louisiana over the April 2012 school vacation to perform and to visit historical, musical and cultural attractions. He noted that the students will also participate in a day of community service.

Dr. Forcella stated that he has approved the request and the central office for the public schools is coordinating the insurance for the trip.

2. Action on Minutes of:

- 2.1 May 2, 2011 (Special Meeting)**
- 2.2 May 3, 2011 (Special Meeting-Executive Session)**
- 2.3 May 5, 2011 (Special Meeting-Executive Session)**
- 2.4 May 5, 2011 (Special Meeting-Public Forum)**
- 2.5 May 9, 2011 (Special Meeting-Executive Session)**
- 2.6 May 9, 2011 (Regular Meeting)**
- 2.7 May 16, 2011 (Executive Session)**
- 2.8 May 23, 2011 (Workshop Meeting)**

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mrs. Beeman the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of May 2, 2011 (Special Meeting), May 3, 2011 (Special Meeting-Executive Session), May 5, 2011 (Special Meeting-Executive Session), May 5, 2011 (Special Meeting-Public Forum), May 9, 2011 (Special Meeting-Executive Session), May 9, 2011 (Regular Meeting), May 16, 2011 (Executive Session), and May 23, 2011 (Workshop Meeting).

3. Review and Approval of Expenditures for the Month of May
Reviewer for the Month: Barbara Dudley

Mrs. Dudley noted that the school system will finish the year approximately \$50,000 under budget.

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

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

None

5. Communications

Dr. Moore stated that he has received communications regarding the Superintendent Search asking that a new superintendent focus on the students at the high end of learning.

6. Student Representatives

Chairman Bloss and Vice Chairman Bishop presented Jamie and Jackie DesRosier with certificates and plaques for their year of service to the Board as student representatives. The Board wished the students well in their futures and thanked them for their outstanding service to the Board. The students thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with them.

7. Superintendent's Report

7.2 Update on Cox Principal Search

Dr. Forcella stated that 43 applicants applied for the A.W. Cox Principal opening. He explained that parents, principals and staff participated in a screening process to review resumes and paperwork. He explained that eight applicants will be personally interviewed with a goal of having a candidate selected by the end of the school year.

Dr. Forcella noted that Clayton, MO outscored all school systems world-wide on the ACT test. He reminded the Board that Clayton, MO participates with Guilford Public Schools in Project Blueprint, the consortium of high performing school districts that shares best practices.

Chairman Bloss expressed the Board's deep thanks for Dr. Forcella's years of service to the Guilford Public Schools. He stated their deep gratitude for his intellect, openness and curiosity and wished him well in his new position in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Mr. Bishop expressed his thanks and appreciation for Dr. Forcella's support of the staff of GPS.

8. Board Agenda

8.1 ACT ON Personnel Items

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Renner and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the resignations of Joanne Dargan, Special Education Teacher, A.W. Cox School; Janet Infante, Guidance Department Chair, Guilford High School; Thomas Marcino, English Teacher, Guilford High School; and Patricia Reilly, A.W. Cox School for the purposes of retirement, effective August 31, 2011.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Zuse and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the resignation of Amy Faitsch, Mathematics Teacher, Guilford High School, effective August 31, 2011.

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

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

8.3 RECEIVE Science Curriculum

Dr. Keene explained that a committee of teachers, administrators and a parent representing all schools was formed to define the guiding principles for science learning, to revise the current science curriculum, and to incorporate suggestions from the Connecticut Prekindergarten – Grade 8 Science Curriculum Standards including Grade-Level Expectations published by the State of Connecticut Department of Education. She introduced the Science Curriculum Review Committee - Sarah Sandora, GHS Science Dept. Chair; John Cuddy, Science teacher, GHS; Cory Slifstein, Science teacher, Adams Middle School; Susan Kennedy, Science teacher, Baldwin Middle School; Chris Mennone, teacher, Guilford Lakes

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School; Jamie Froelick, teacher, Calvin Leete School; Marlene Havrda, teacher, Melissa Jones School; Anne Hartford, teacher, Cox School; Marc Guarino, Assistant Principal, Guilford High School; and Joseph Wolenski, parent and research scientist, Yale University.

Anne Hartford and Sarah Sandora provided an overview to the Board of the proposed Science Curriculum. Ms. Hartford explained that the curriculum is developed to be integrated with other disciplines, build on students' prior understanding, is aligned with State and National standards, and encourages students to be hands-on scientists.

Ms. Sandora explained that the curriculum incorporates student activities and investigations into learning and helps students to think like scientists. She stated that department and Professional Learning Community's time will be used to enhance student science experiences.

Dr. Keene noted that the Connecticut Standards for Science are not likely to change until the year 2014. She also noted that the Guilford Fund for Education has stated its commitment to fund grants supporting the sciences in the next school year.

Mr. Zuse questioned why Earth Science is taught in the freshmen year when Physics used to be offered.

Ms. Sandora responded that the Geophysical Sciences provide a good base for students and that the curriculum aligns with the State standards.

Dr. Keene noted that the standards are based on the principle, "every science, every year."

Dr. Moore asked how much the Science Committee interfaced with the Math Committee/Department in developing the curriculum.

Dr. Keene noted that while the committee did not directly interface with the high school math department, there is a connection with math and science, particularly at the elementary level.

Discussions continued about the benefits of aligning curriculum to State tests and the importance of students meeting Adequate Yearly Progress for No Child Left Behind.

Discussion also continued regarding the rationale of not teaching Physics in the freshmen year. Dr. Wolenski added to the discussion, noting that his experience with his students at Yale and the way most high schools and universities organize science courses, chemistry is taught before physics and the need to understand calculus is important before physics is taught.

Dr. Keene agreed to investigate the rationale for the order of the courses and the State standards and report back to the Board.

8.4 ACT ON Budget Transfers for 2010-11 (exhibit)

The following budget transfers were discussed and recommended during the Finance Subcommittee meeting:

<u>Account</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>
Salaries	\$70,000	0
Benefits	0	\$140,000
Purchased Services	\$220,000	0
Tuition	\$130,000	0

Supplies and Materials	0	\$130,000
Capital	\$10,000	0
Transportation	<u>0</u>	<u>\$160,000</u>
Total Transfers	\$430,000	\$430,000

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Budget Transfers for 2010-2011 in the amount of \$430,000.

8.5 RECEIVE Bids and DISCUSS for POSSIBLE ACTION: Retention of Firm for Special Education Program Review

Dr. Meyers explained that the Board received bids from companies to review the district's Special Education Program. The Board agreed to interview CREC with a bid of \$22,390 and Future's Education with a bid of \$28,500 and make a recommendation on a company at the June 27, 2011 Workshop meeting.

8.6 DISCUSS 2009-10 Strategic School Profiles

Responding to a question about the money the district spends on students identified as gifted and talented, Dr. Keene explained that the PTO provides many enrichment programs for elementary students and advanced courses and clubs begin at the middle school level. Dr. Forcella noted that our district addresses the needs of all students in the classroom through differentiated instruction.

Mrs. Renner noted the ratio of students per computer is three to one in middle school versus one to one in high school. Dr. Forcella explained that this is due to the phasing in of the technology plan and stated that by next year the ratio will be much smaller for middle school students. The technology plan that is in place now may not be reflected in the 2009-10 Strategic School Profile report.

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

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Dr. Meyers, the Board voted eight in favor of participating in the Healthy Food and Beverage in Schools Program of the Connecticut State Department of Education. Mr. Zuse opposed the motion.

8.8 DISCUSS for POSSIBLE ACTION: Appointment of Interim Superintendent

Chairman Bloss asked that this item be carried over to the June 27, 2011, Workshop Meeting.

8.9 ACT ON Accepting E.C. Adams Middle School Project #060-0094EC (Windows) as Complete and Authorize Filing of the EDO49F

Upon a motion made by Mr. Ireland and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to accept the E.C. Adams Middle School Project #060-0094EC (Windows) as complete and authorize the filing of the EDO49F.

8.10 ACT ON Accepting GHS Roof Replacement Project #060-0095RR (Locker Room Roof) as Complete and Authorize Filing of the EDO49F

Mr. Ireland noted that the roof was repaired and not replaced and that funds are still available if needed.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Ireland and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to accept the GHS Roof Replacement Project #060-0095RR (Locker Room Roof) as complete and authorize the filing of the EDO49F.

8.11 ACT ON Accepting E.C. Adams Middle School Project #060-0096RR (1936 Roof) as Complete and Authorize Filing of the EDO49F

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to accept the E.C. Adams Middle School Project #060-0096RR (1936 Roof) as complete and authorize the filing of the EDO49F.

8.12 ACT ON Accepting A.W. Cox School Project #060-0097RR (Entire Roof) as Complete and Authorize Filing of the EDO49F

Mr. Ireland explained that the project came in under budget as oil prices were inflated at the time of the estimate and the roof is asphalt.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Moore and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to accept the A.W. Cox School Project #060-0097RR (Entire Roof) as complete and authorize the filing of the EDO49F.

8.13 ACT ON Accepting Calvin Leete School Project #060-0098RR (South Section) as Complete and Authorize Filing of the EDO49F

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Renner and seconded by Dr. Moore, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Calvin Leete School Project #060-0098RR (South Section) as complete and authorize the filing of the EDO49F.

8.14 ACT ON Accepting E.C. Adams Middle School Project #060-0099RR (Old Built-up) as Complete and Authorize Filing of the EDO49F

Upon a motion made by Dr. Meyers and seconded by Mr. Bishop, the Board voted unanimously to accept the E.C. Adams Middle School Project #060-0099RR (Old Built-up) as complete and authorize the filing of the EDO49F.

8.15 ACT ON Recommendations from Policy Subcommittee:

- 8.15.1 Revisions to Policy 1334/3218: Soliciting Funds from and by Students and School Fund-raising (exhibit)**
- 8.15.2 Removal of Regulation 1334/3218: Fund-Raising Activity Approval Gifts, Grants and Bequests Form (exhibit)**
- 8.15.3 Removal of Policy and Regulation 2114: Administration (exhibit)**
- 8.15.4 Revisions to Policy 3418: Inventories (exhibit)**
- 8.15.5 Removal of Policy and Regulation 3714: Food Services (exhibit)**
- 8.15.6 Revisions to Policy 6514: Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics (exhibit)**
- 8.15.7 Revisions to Policy 6614: Emergency School Closings (exhibit)**

Chairman Bloss requested that action on the recommendations from the Policy Subcommittee be carried over to the next meeting due to Board's need to move to executive session.

9. Unfinished Business

Mr. Zuse requested an update on the high school's Code of Conduct at the next meeting. Dr. Forcella noted that this is not a document that requires Board approval. Chairman Bloss asked Mr. Zuse to send him an email with his request.

10. Reports of Committees

10.1 Policy Subcommittee

No Report

10.2 Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. Ireland reported on projects that will be taking place this summer including the corridor at Adams beginning on June 28, flood testing at Adams, fire alarm replacements at at least three schools, the Jones well beginning on June 27 and the Adams stairs, side walls and railings.

10.3 Finance Subcommittee

None

11.4 Liaisons to Town Committees

None

11. Public Questions (four minute limit)

None

12. New Business

None

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Renner and seconded by Mrs. Beeman, 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