

GUILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, August 8, 2011
GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY, GUILFORD, CT

Chairperson Bill Bloss called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Board members present were Mary Beeman, Keith Bishop, Bill Bloss, John Ireland, Alan Meyers, Barbara Dudley, Susan Renner and Ted Zuse. Administrators present were Anne Keene, Anne Snurkowski, Rick Misenti, Marc Guarino, Catherine Walker, Michael Biddle, Jacob Jarvis, Vince Agostine, Paula McCarthy, Kim Vigliotti. Also present were Joe Mazza, First Selectman, Matt Hoey and Lou Federicci, Board of Finance, and Accounting Manager Linda Trudeau.

1. **Presentation of candidate for superintendent.**

Chairman Bloss explained the process that was followed for hiring a new Superintendent of Schools noting that this is an important function of the Board of Education that the members took very seriously.

Chairman Bloss introduced Dr. Paul Freeman, his wife and sons who were also present. He provided information on Dr. Freeman's background and that he is currently the Superintendent of School in the Town of Griswold. Copies of Dr. Freeman's resume were available.

Dr. Freeman thanked the Board for the effort they have put into the search for a new Superintendent. He explained his philosophy of education and leadership.

2. **Public questions.**

In response to a question by Doug Newman about his views on the two-year middle school structure, Dr. Freeman commented that a two-year middle school required additional school transitions, but the system can be successful if it is well supported. He is not in a position to give a specific opinion until he has an opportunity to learn more about the Guilford schools and community.

In response to a question by Doug Newman about how he would manage the construction of the new high school in addition to educational tasks, Dr. Freeman noted that he has been involved with construction projects in the past so he has experience. Most construction activity will occur after school hours so he is confident that he will be available to staff and students as needed.

In response to a request by Dee Jacobs for his opinion on the Developmental Assets Program, Dr. Freeman noted that he will have to learn more about this program. In response to another question by Mrs. Jacobs about full day kindergarten, Dr. Freeman noted that he prefers full day kindergarten if the community is able to handle the funding.

Maureen Bodner requested that Dr. Freeman speak about his ideas regarding special education. He noted that, while he is not certified in special education, he has worked in a special education environment and has served as an administrator in a school with a very good special education program. His philosophy is that special education is not a separate part of education but should move parallel with regular education with adjustments necessary to meet the needs of individual students.

Kim Beckett asked Dr. Freeman to highlight the vision he had for Griswold and whether this vision had been accomplished. Dr. Freeman noted that when he was hired, Griswold was looking to move in a different direction and he is proud of what he has accomplished as Superintendent of Schools in the two years, but there is more work left to be done. In Guilford he will build upon the existing vision since Guilford has positive values already in place. The most important mission is to focus on helping children learn.

Barry Felson requested that Dr. Freeman explain his philosophy of educating gifted and talented children. Dr. Freeman noted that the gifted and talented program is a part of the same process necessary to meet the needs of all students all of the time. These children should be included in the core curriculum and then ideas developed to find ways to meet their individual needs.

On behalf of the community, Doug Newman thanked the Board of Education for the tremendous amount of effort and time they invested into the search process.

3. **ACT on possible appointment of superintendent.**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Ireland, and seconded by Mr. Bishop, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to executive session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss the superintendent search.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Bishop, and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session at 8:25 p.m.

Chairman Bloss noted that the Board is prepared to extend a contract proposal to Dr. Paul Freeman. Dr. Freeman must provide 90 days notice to Griswold so he would not be available until November. The salary proposal is \$182,000 for a three year contract through June 30, 2014 with salary increases based on terms spelled out in the contract. The proposal also includes a tax sheltered annuity with vesting after five years, health insurance and moving costs, should he relocate to Guilford.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Beeman, and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to offer a contract to Dr. Paul Freeman as Superintendent of Schools.

First Selectman Joe Mazza welcomed Dr. Freeman noting that he is looking forward to working with him and having a positive working relationship.

Board of Finance Chairman Matt Hoey welcomed Dr. Freeman noting that the Board of Finance, Board of Education and Board of Selectmen have a very good working relationship.

Dr. Freeman thanked the Board of Education and the Town for their offer, and explained that he is very excited and looking forward to working together for the Guilford community.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Ireland, and seconded by Mrs. Dudley, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the special meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Terry Holland-Buckley
Clerk to the Board of Education