

Guilford SEPTO Meeting
Monday, October 16, 2017
6:00 – 7:30 pm
Guilford High School – Room D102

Meeting Minutes

Present by order of sign-in/attendance: Ginny Brown, Jason Sconziano, Lisa Eaton, Amy Mason-Mann, Kim Beckett, Jennifer Baldwin, Kelly Cosgrove, Kevin Daly, Jaye Carlson, Deb Doyle, Meredith Daggett, Maureen Pascucella, Judy Deshpande, Mary Reynolds, Wendy Staschke, Nan Ellman, Jen Labbadia-Colon, Laurie Laterza, Linda Van Steenberg, Jamie Rubin, Gus Kellogg, Sarah Kellogg, Erin McCallum, Vidhya Ponnurangam, Laura Grom, Beth Spencer, Colleen Oliveira, Luran Barbosa, Linda Toscano, Betty Freeborn, Vincent Farricielli, Sara Edwards, Page Pelphrey, Kristen Eveland, Jennifer Coppola, Maureen Belden, Matt McCleery

- Welcome and introductions lead by Ginny Brown
- History of the start of this SEPTO presented by Kim Beckett
 - There was a Parent Advisory Council (PAC) about 10 years ago that folded under the existing PTA and worked to be a visual presence – had success for several years
 - Ginny Brown started as the Director of Pupil Services about 7 years ago and 3 years ago started the current PAC
 - Though the past several years the mission of the PAC has evolved and the desire to be more inclusive of the entire community grew and lead to the plan to develop a town-wide SEPTO
 - Discussions took place regarding SEPTA vs. SEPTO and SEPTO seems to make the most sense (Including NO organizational fees, unlike the “association”)
 - The ideas behind the development of Guilford SEPTO included the opportunity to create a union to help parents and caregivers, and teachers and staff, to navigate the special education system by offering workshops and guidance and assistance
 - Guilford SEPTO’s goals are not to address individual issues, but to offer education and support for more global issues (this might include providing guidance toward resources to help families and professionals reach their individual goals)
- Review of the Bylaws by Kevin Daly of the CT SEPTO Alliance
 - Two points made by Kevin included: SEPTO is not a replacement for your child’s school PTO/A – should participate in both, and SEPTO is not about any individual child but all the children
 - Bylaws necessary for tax exemption (501c3)
 - Articles were individually reviewed and amended where appropriate:
 - Discussion of Article 2 included proper placement of mission statement

- Article 4: Membership amended from “Membership in Guilford SEPTO shall be open to the public” to “Membership in Guilford SEPTO shall be open to Guilford residents, families and guardians of students of Guilford Public Schools and employees of Guilford Public Schools”
 - Discussion of Article 5 included “At Large Board members” and committee chairs
 - Discussion of Article 6 included terms of Board members, definition of Board positions
 - Discussion of Article 9 and definition of “majority”
 - Discussion of Article 11 around indemnification of Board members. First sentence was amended from “To the maximum extent permitted by Connecticut law, Guilford SEPTO shall indemnify...” to “To the maximum extent permitted by Connecticut law, Guilford SEPTO may choose to indemnify...”. Further discussion continued regarding indemnification however additional amendments were not made
 - Article 13 was amended from “non-profit” in the first line to read “not-for-profit”
 - All amendments described above were voted on and passed
 - There was a motion to approve the Bylaws which were approved by unanimous vote
- A slate of board members was presented including Kim Beckett for Co-Chair, Amy Mason-Mann for Co-Secretary and Jaye Carlson for Co-Parliamentarian. Additional nominations from the floor included Kristin Eveland for Co-Chair, Sarah Kellogg for Co-Secretary, and Matt McCleery for Co-Parliamentarian. There was a motion to elect which passed unanimously.
 - Discussion regarding budget
 - October 25th budget forum for 2018-2019 budget
 - Reviewed budget information and importance of voting and getting Guilford SEPTO message out there
 - Meeting adjourned 7:30pm

**Next meeting Monday November 20th 6-7:30pm Room D102 of the Guilford High School
Speaker to include Superintendent of Schools, Paul Freeman**