

# Madison Public Schools Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, November 21, 2006 7:30 PM

Town Campus Hammonasset Room, 10 Campus Drive , Madison, CT 06443

## I. Call to Order / Attendance

## II. Executive Session: 6:30 PM

## III. School Community Session: 7:30 PM

### III.A. Public Participation

## IV. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

**Speaker (s):** Student Representatives: Jeff Cavallo & Emma Norris

## V. Superintendent's Report

### V.A. Distribution: 2005-2006 Special Education Strategic School Profile

### V.B. Summary Report: Daniel Hand High School Class of 2006

**Speaker (s):** Jean Baker, Director of School Counseling & Guidance

## VI. Board Committee / Liaison Updates

### VI.A. Planning Committee

**Speaker (s):** Members: K. Rossini, Chair, D. Frey

#### VI.A.1. Presentation / Discussion: Use of Facilities for Elementary School Programs

### VI.B. Personnel Committee

**Speaker (s):** Members: J. Dean, Chair, B. Coffey, D. Youngerman

### VI.C. Policy Committee

**Speaker (s):** Members: H. Sellers, Chair, H. Gowanlock, D. Youngerman

### VI.D. Finance Committee

**Speaker (s):** Members: B. Coffey, Chair, H. Gowanlock, D. Youngerman

### VI.E. LEARN Liaison

**Speaker (s):** Liaison: K. Rossini

## VII. Audience Responses to Information Share Discussions

## VIII. Action Item: Consent Agenda Items 8.1 - 8.3 (Reference Bylaw #9540.2)

### VIII.A. Donations

### VIII.B. Bills Payable: \$1,115,783.01

### VIII.C. Line Item Transfers: \$1,750.00

## IX. Action Item: Minutes: 10.17.06 Meeting (Reference Bylaw #9540.8)

X. **Old Business**

XI. **New Business**

XII. **Future Agenda Items**

XIII. **Adjournment**

Madison Public Schools  
Board of Education Meeting  
November 07, 2006  
Town Campus

1. Call to Order / Attendance

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 6:45 p.m.

Present: Becky Coffey; Debbie Frey; Harriet Gowanlock; Robert Hale, Kathleen Rossini; Atty. Holly Sellers; David Youngerman.

Also present: Dr. H. Kaye Griffin, Superintendent.

2. Executive Session

MOTION: by Gowanlock, seconded by Youngerman to enter Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

AYES: Coffey, Frey, Gowanlock Hale, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Personnel issues were discussed.

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Frey to adjourn Executive Session at 7:40 p.m.

AYES: Coffey, Frey, Gowanlock Hale, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

The public session of the Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 7:42 p.m. Chairman Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Becky Coffey; Debbie Frey; Harriet Gowanlock; Robert Hale; Kathleen Rossini; Atty. Holly Sellers.

Also present: Dr. H. Kaye Griffin, Superintendent; Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; district administrators; faculty; staff; students; community members.

Chairman Hale explained that is the first meeting that the Board is using computers to access the agenda via CABA-Meeting software.

3. School Community Session

Dr. Griffin reported that American Education Week will be celebrated November 12–18, 2006. This year's theme, *Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility*, highlights the importance of bringing together educators, school staff, parents, students, and communities in a unified effort to build great public schools. The theme also reflects the National Education Association's vision of calling upon America to provide students with quality public schools so that they can grow, prosper, and achieve in the 21st century, also the theme of the Board of Education's Framework for Strategic Planning that will be discussed later in the meeting.

### 3.1. Recognition of Students

- Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents' (CAPSS) Superintendent / Student Leadership Award
  - Lauren Corniello, Daniel Hand High School
  - Jeff Cavallo, Daniel Hand High School

Dr. Griffin explained that this is the twenty-first year of the CAPSS Superintendent / Student Award Recognition Program designed to be a meaningful superintendent-to-student link. Awards are presented during American Education Week and are based on community service and service to others; academic prowess relative to ability; and leadership service to the school community.

Dr. Griffin and the Board recognized Lauren Corniello, who was unable to attend the meeting, and Jeff Cavallo as the CAPSS Superintendent / Student Leadership Award winners. Ms. Corniello and Mr. Cavallo will be recognized at a ceremony hosted by the Middlesex Shoreline Superintendents' Association on November 16, 2006.

Kaye shared a note from Ms. Evelyn Policar, 1944 Daniel Hand High School graduate who donated her diploma, class photo, autograph book, prom invitation and other high school memorabilia to the Madison Public Schools. Dr. Griffin displayed the memorabilia.

### 3.2. Public Participation

Ms. Jeannette Ickovics of Hartford Avenue read the following statement:

*I am a Professor at Yale University and the proud mother of two sons, ages 4 and 7. My older son, Sam, is a second grade student at Island Avenue School. Like so many neighbors and friends, my husband and I moved to Madison because of the schools. I have been delighted by the commitment of the Board of Education, district administration, and teachers; the kindness and engagement of the parents; the intellect and joy of the children. On the other hand, I have been disappointed by the lack of challenge and differentiation in the curriculum content, and by the limited use of technology and state of the art curriculum in elementary education. We can do better for our children in the Madison Public Schools. And I have been disappointed to learn from my friends and colleagues at TEAM, that Madison is 149<sup>th</sup> in funding per child out of 169 school districts in Connecticut. We can do better for our children in the Madison Public Schools. At the end of August, a small group of parents met to discuss ways to advocate, to best meet the educational needs of all children in Madison. Since then, we have grown. IDEAL has been formed, and seeks to be a voice of collaboration and support to the Madison Board of Education, the District leadership, the teachers, the parents, and the children of Madison. IDEAL is Innovative Development in Education, Assessment and Learning. IDEAL seeks to support the Madison Public Schools in providing all children with individually appropriate instruction through the use of ongoing, formative classroom assessment and other educational tools representing current "best practice." Our overall goal is to enhance student achievement for all students in the Madison Public Schools To meet this goal, we promote the following three aims: 1. Implement evidence-based on-going formative assessment; 2. Utilize assessment to guide differentiated educational instruction and enrichment activities; and 3. Provide on-going teacher training and mentorship to enable teachers to implement formative assessment and differentiated instruction. Please see the handout for our accomplishments to date as well as our plans for the future. I would be happy to comment further on any of these initiatives. We are not naïve to the political and financial pressures. We know that "No Child Left Behind" and CMT test scores are driving many educational decisions. But "No Child Left Behind" should not be the same as "No Child Gets Ahead." We must do better for our children in the Madison Public Schools. I and the other IDEAL parents look forward to working collaboratively with the Board of Education, Dr. Griffin and the district leadership, the teachers, and others in Madison to maximize every child's learning potential and every child's achievement. We would like to work with you to develop and implement the Strategic Plan to be discussed tonight, and to come up with a timeline and budget to support state of the science educational initiatives for Madison. Don't settle for less, shoot for the IDEAL!*

She distributed a flier delineating the overall goal of the group and plans for collaboration and support of the Board of Education and school administration.

Chairman Hale thanked her for her comments and pledge of support. He explained that many of the objectives discussed are part of the Board's strategic plan that will be discussed later in the meeting.

Ms. Margaret Rawstern of Bradley Corners Road spoke in support of the goals and plans of IDEAL.

Ms. Jule Tolis of Overshores Drive spoke in support of IDEAL and offered support to the Madison Public Schools. She explained that she is a member of a state board advisory panel to establish policy for multi-tiered assessment.

#### 4. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Mr. Cavallo and Ms. Norris reported that students successfully completed a lock-down drill. Students enjoyed Halloween by wearing costumes and sending pumpkin grams. The Homecoming Dance was attended by approximately 930 students. On November 2, two assemblies of the presentation called *Dirt*, a one man cast show provided by Madison Youth Services and SMASH, a student organization. The presentation focused on alcohol and other substance abuse and was very well accepted and enjoyed by students. On October 31, the Student Leadership Team met and discussed plans for events for the fall and winter months including family sponsorship through Madison Youth and Family Services and a spirit week in December that will include a pep rally, college sweatshirt day, and door decorating contest.

Dr. Griffin explained that she was at the high school during the lock-down drill and was impressed at the efficiency and effectiveness demonstrated by students and staff.

Dr. Griffin complimented the administration for bringing the program, *Dirt*, to DHHS and thanked the Selectmen's Council on Youth Substance Abuse for providing the program.

Ms. Rossini asked how parents can learn more about the presentation. Ms. Britton offered to put a link to the presentation information on the DHHS website.

#### 5. Superintendent's Report

##### 5.1. Distribution / Discussion: Enrollment Projections (Applied Data Services (ADS) Report and State Department of Education (SDOE) Report)

Dr. Griffin distributed and reviewed the Applied Data Services (ADS) and State Department of Education (SDOE) enrollment projection reports that are based on the October 1, 2006 student count. She also distributed a chart that compared the two independent reports.

She explained that these reports have been shared with the Planning Committee and they are using them in their discussion about elementary schools.

Chairman Hale stated that it is important to note that ADS re-examined the methodology used in the report per the request of the Planning Committee in view of the discrepancy with Kindergarten enrollment for 2006 and has confirmed its soundness. The SDOE report also confirms the methodology used by ADS.

Discussion ensued about move-in trends. Ms. Rossini stated that she has studied several years of ADS enrollment reports and noted that no specific trend / data pattern is evident.

##### 5.2. Distribution: Final 2005-2006 Strategic School Profiles

Dr. Griffin explained that, as required by state law, the Strategic School Profiles is distributed to Boards of Education at the first meeting in November. She reviewed the section on district resources noting that class

sizes in Madison exceed the state and DRG average in every grade level. She stated that some progress has been made in this area but more resources are needed. Dr. Griffin noted that progress has been made in increasing the total hours of instruction. She noted that the district per pupil expenditure is \$9,548 as compared to the District Reference Group (DRG) of \$10,755 and the State of \$10,994.

### 5.3. Distribution: Edited Strategic Plan Framework

Dr. Griffin thanked the Board members for their assistance with editing the document. She reviewed the edits that were made.

## 6. Board Committees / Liaison Distribution of Executive Summaries

Ms. Coffey submitted a report of the Finance Committee. Ms. Rossini reported that the Planning Committee met this morning and she has not had time to prepare a written report. She will e-mail the report to the Board.

### 6.1. Policy Committee

#### Review Policies:

#3542 Food Service Guidelines – Technical Revision

#3542.1 Nutrition Program – Third Draft Reading

#3542.2 Food Sales Other than National School Lunch Program – Third Draft Reading

#3542.3 Vending Machines – Third Draft Reading

#5030 Assignment of Students to School – Third Revision Reading

#4150 Acceptable Use of Computer Equip. & Related Systems, Software & Networks – Fourth Revision Reading

Atty. Sellers requested that Policies #3542.1 and 3542.2 be tabled in order to rework some of the language. She recommended that the remaining policies: #3542 Food Service Guidelines #3542.3 Vending Machines, #5030 Assignment of Students to School, and #4150 Acceptable Use of Computer Equipment and Related Systems, Software & Networks be adopted.

## 7. Board Members' Comments

Chairman Hale thanked the volunteers who videotape the Board meetings for the public. Ms. Elizabeth Wilson was the volunteer for this Board meeting.

Atty. Gowanlock welcomed members of IDEAL and thanked them for their support.

## 8. Consent Agenda

8.1. Donation: \$3,200 for portable batting cage

8.2. Bills payable: \$334,217.34

8.3. Line Item Transfers: \$9,236.42

8.4. Contract for Amendment to School Based Health Centers (SCOPE) July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2007

8.5. Budget Expenditure Report as of 11.2.06

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Sellers to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

AYES: Coffey, Frey, Gowanlock Hale, Rossini, Sellers.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

9. Action Item: Minutes: 10.17.06

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Frey to approve the minutes of the 10.17.06 meeting.

AYES: Coffey, Frey, Gowanlock Hale, Rossini, Sellers.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

10. Action Item: Board of Education Policies

MOTION: by Coffey to table action on Policy #9540.8 and #9620,

MOTION amended by Sellers, seconded by Coffey to table Policies #3542.1 and 3542.2 and to adopt the following policies:

#3542 Food Service Guidelines

#3542.3 Vending Machines

#5030 Assignment of Students to School

#4150 Acceptable Use of Computer Equip. & Related Systems, Software & Networks

AYES: Coffey, Frey, Gowanlock Hale, Rossini, Sellers.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

11. Action Item: Framework for Strategic Planning

MOTION: by Planning Committee to adopt the Board of Education's Framework for Strategic Planning 2007-2010

Discussion ensued about language

Chairman Hale stated that approving the framework is the first step in the process. Budget development will include correlations to the framework. The administrators will determine school improvement goals and action plans. Dr. Griffin explained how school improvement plans will be structured to incorporate each of the nine goals and objectives that are appropriate for the grade span. The framework will drive all of the actions at the school levels and budget process.

AYES: Coffey, Frey, Gowanlock Hale, Rossini, Sellers.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

12. Old Business

Ms. Rossini thanked the Daniel Hand High School Baseball Booster Club for the donation of the portable batting cage.

Dr. Griffin shared that she met with Mr. Ernie Anderson who presented the schools with his personal collection of periodicals on China that will be made available to students through the Daniel Hand High School Library Media Center.

13. New Business

No new business was discussed.

14. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were requested.

15. Adjournment

MOTION: by Sellers, seconded by Coffey to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

AYES: Coffey, Frey, Gowanlock Hale, Rossini, Sellers.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Submitted for approval at 11.21.06 BOE meeting.  
msb

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Chairperson

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Superintendent

Madison BOE Finance Committee Report  
For Board of Education Meeting of Tuesday, November 7, 2006

1. **Budget for 2006-2007:** Finance Committee is working with the administrators on the new budget presentation documents: one, The Condition of Education in Madison, the other a program-based presentation of the annual budget for next year.

2. **Budget for 2005-2006:** Finance Committee met to discuss the status of spending in various accounts – spending and projections are tracking close to the budgeted amounts in most accounts as of today.

3. **Fiscal Plan:** The First Selectman presented to the Board of Finance at their last meeting a fiscal plan that has two BOE budget increase scenarios for the next budget year: 5.5 % increase in spending and a 5.75% increase in spending over the current budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Coffey