

# Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 20, 2009 7:30 PM

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

## I. Call to Order / Attendance

## II. Executive Session - 7:00 p.m.

II.A. Personnel Items

II.B. Legal Items

## III. School Community Session- 7:30 p.m.

III.A. Recognition: Rachel Leonard, Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School Science Teacher - Recipient 2008 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science (PAEMST)

III.B. Public Participation

## IV. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

**Speaker (s):** Thomas Presti and Anna Balakrishnan

## V. Superintendent's Report

**Speaker (s):** David J. Klein

V.A. Report on Out of State Field Trips

**Speaker (s):** David J. Klein

V.B. Formal Presentation of Administration's Recommended 2009-2010 Budget

**Speaker (s):** David J. Klein

## VI. Board Members' Comments

## VII. Board Committees / Liaison Updates

VII.A. Planning Committee

**Speaker (s):** Members: Debra Frey, Chair; Bill Clorite, Becky Coffey

VII.B. Personnel Committee

**Speaker (s):** Members: John Dean, Chair; Becky Coffey; Robert Ruggiero

VII.C. Policy Committee

**Speaker (s):** Members: Harriet Gowanlock, Chair; Seth Klaskin

VII.C.1. Third Revision Reading: Policy #5090.3.6.1.1., Bullying

VII.D. Finance Committee

**Speaker (s):** Members: Becky Coffey, Chair; Harriet Gowanlock; Holly Sellers

VII.E. Community Outreach Committee

**Speaker (s):** Members: Seth Klaskin, Chair; Becky Coffey

VII.F. LEARN Liaison

**Speaker (s):** Liaison: John Dean

VIII. **Audience Response to Information Presented**

IX. **Consent Agenda**

IX.A. Bills Payable: \$837.78 (07-08);  
\$1,584,129.41 (08-09)

IX.B. Line Transfers: \$21,551.07

IX.C. Donation: \$2,000 to the Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School Library Media Center for the purchase of library books, from the Ryerson School PTO

X. **Action Item: Minutes January 6, 2009 Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.8)**

XI. **Action Item: Policy #5090.3.6.1.1., Bullying (Ref. Bylaw #9620)**

XII. **Action Item: Educational Specifications for the Island Avenue Elementary School Roof Project (Ref. Bylaw #9540.8)**

XIII. **Old Business**

XIV. **New Business**

XV. **Future Agenda Items**

XVI. **Meetings of Importance**

**Speaker(s):** Chairman Hale

XVI.A. January 28, 2009: Planning Committee / Island Avenue School Building Committee, 7:30 a.m., Central Office Room B

XVI.B. January 30, 2009: Policy Committee Meeting, 4:15 p.m., Central Office Room B

XVI.C. February 3, 2009: Finance Committee; 5:30 p.m., Central Office Room B

XVI.D. February 3, 2009: Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Town Campus Hammonasset Room

XVII. **Adjournment**

Public Participation Guidelines:

Members of the community are invited to speak on topics of interest and / or topics to be addressed in the agenda. The Board of Education may choose to interact with participants, but will not act upon topics that require further study before action is taken. The participation time will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and fifteen (15) minutes overall to guarantee efficient operation of the entire meeting.

Board of Education Meeting  
January 6, 2009  
Town Campus

Meeting Minutes

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Bill Clorite; John Dean; Debra Frey; Robert Hale; Seth Klaskin; Holly Sellers

Also present: David J. Klein, Superintendent; Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

2. Executive Session

MOTION: by Frey seconded by Dean to enter Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues.

AYES: Clorite, Dean, Frey, Hale, Klaskin, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Confidential personnel matters were discussed.

MOTION: by Clorite seconded by Klaskin to adjourn Executive Session at 7:27 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Dean, Frey, Hale, Klaskin, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

The public session of the Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 7:34 p.m. Chairman Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Bill Clorite; John Dean; Debra Frey; Robert Hale; Seth Klaskin; Holly Sellers

Also present: David J. Klein, Superintendent; Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; district administrators; community members.

3. School / Community Session

3.1. Recognitions:

Superintendent Klein introduced Frank Henderson, Principal of Walter C. Polson Middle School and asked him to share with the Board the accomplishments of the Polson Middle School students being recognized tonight.

3.1.1. Isabella Jibilian, selected to participate in the Nutmeg Book Selection Committee

Mr. Henderson reported that Lynne Nadeau, Grade 7 English Teacher had recommended her student, Isabella Jibilian for this honor, which is the Connecticut Children's Choice Book Award. Ms. Jibilian is one of only two students in Connecticut who will serve on this committee. She will be required to read 110–120 books over the next 38–40 weeks, roughly 350–500 pages per week. The committee will then select 10 books from the titles read for the students of Connecticut to read and vote on. Mr. Henderson stated that this is a huge commitment, but that Ms. Jibilian is an extremely enthusiastic reader and he is confident that she is up for the challenge. Her commitment is a testament to her and her family, as well as the education she has received thus far in the Madison Public Schools. Ms. Jibilian was presented with a Certificate of Recognition signed by Chairman Hale and Superintendent Klein.

### 3.1.2. Walter C. Polson Middle School Operation Kids Care

Mr. Henderson next reported on what has become an annual event for Polson students, led by Mr. Art Robbins, Grade 8 History Teacher. Students began in November by collecting items for care packages to be sent to military personnel overseas. Then, over a two week period, students and staff volunteered a tremendous amount of time and effort after school, during study halls, lunch periods and even a little class time to sort, package and wrap materials to be sent to the troops. The students of Polson Middle School were able to ship 133 care packages in total to service personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan, which also included letters of thanks and support from the students. Mr. Henderson also stated that both the American Legion and the VFW of Madison were extremely supportive of this endeavor, and donated money to help fund the postage for these care packages, as did the Polson PTO. Mr. Henderson explained that while there were a few student representatives present at the meeting, this was an effort of all students and members of the Polson community. Finally, Mr. Henderson read a letter that was received from an Army Sergeant in Afghanistan, whose troops were the recipients of these packages.

The following students were present on behalf of the entire Polson student body, and were presented with a Certificate of Recognition signed by Mr. Klein and Chairman Hale:

Abby Agresta	Sarah Klass
Morgan Connors	Matt Oman
Max Coon-Williams	Sabrina Simpkins

### 3.2. Public Participation

None at this time.

#### 4. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report (Thomas Presti and Anna Balakrishnan)

No report.

#### 5. Superintendent's Report

##### 5.1. Update: 2008-2009 Enrollment (David J. Klein)

Mr. Klein reported that total enrollment as of this date is 3,712; 12 over the original ADS projection of 3,698.

He next reported for the Board's information on recent out of state field trips for Daniel Hand High School students.

##### 5.2. Kindergarten Action Team Presentation

Mr. Klein turned the floor over to Ms. Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, who headed the Kindergarten Action Team Study.

Ms. Rutlin explained that these individuals were invited to be part of this project in mid-August. All enthusiastically accepted and have been working on the study for the past four months. She introduced the members of the Kindergarten Action team: Margaret Borden, Kindergarten Teacher at J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School; Jeff Burt, parent; Alexis Christina, Community Member and former Principal of Island Avenue Elementary School; Mona Goodman, Principal of Jeffrey School; Paul Sinicrope, Principal of Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School; and Ruth Smerek, Kindergarten Teacher at Jeffrey School.

Ms. Rutlin introduced a Power Point Presentation (on file), and with input from all members of the Action Team, discussed the study with the Board. The team conducted extensive research of Full Day Kindergarten programs in other districts (within Connecticut as well as out of State) and each of them also conducted a site visit to a Connecticut school with an all day kindergarten program. They then designed a full day kindergarten program for Madison, and determined the costs associated with such a program.

Their findings were all similar in that Madison's kindergarten curriculum mirrors that of other districts in the state, and all agreed that the pace of an all day program is much more conducive and effective for young learners. Ms. Borden and Ms. Smerek commented, in comparison to their experiences teaching half day kindergarten, on how much more relaxed the tone of the all day classes were and that the teachers in these programs had time to work with smaller groups. They also noted that the students were more focused and able to transition well between different activities due to the fact that they had free time and socialization time built into their day, whereas the students in our half day program only have a few minutes of free time each day, if any.

Discussion and a question and answer exchange ensued. It was noted that this is not the first study on all day kindergarten that has been conducted in Madison. This type of study has been done many times before and while the benefits of a full day model are recognized, a major issue has always been lack of space in our buildings. As the facilities study gets underway, a full day kindergarten program will be a definite consideration.

One of the final slides of the presentation was a comparison of the expenditures for a half day versus a full day kindergarten program for 2009-2010. To implement a full day program next year would cost the district \$883,295 more than the current half day program. Ms. Rutlin concluded by saying that while all members of the Kindergarten Action team were all highly motivated and passionate about a full day kindergarten program in our district, everyone recognizes that implementation is not feasible for the next school year, especially during these difficult economic times. Information about current cost was provided to assist the Board in assessing the overall proposal.

Mr. Klein commented that the consensus appears to be that a full day program would greatly benefit the students of Madison, but again, it is not feasible to implement such a program at this time. He stated that it his personal belief that if the time comes that Madison is able to implement full day kindergarten, it will be one of the most significant educational initiatives ever to take place in the Madison Public Schools

Members of the Board thanked the Kindergarten Action team for their hard work on this study, and for the informative presentation.

## 6. Board Member Comments

None at this time.

## 7. Reports from Board Committees / Liaisons

### 7.1. Planning Committee

Ms. Frey reported that the Committee had not met since the last Board of Education meeting, but they have a meeting scheduled for next week. She did have two issues to discuss. The first was regarding the Planned and Cycled Maintenance Schedule which had previously been distributed. She reminded the Board that the action at this meeting would be to approve the school projects on the schedule for the next fiscal year, which has already been developed. There is a LOCAP meeting on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, and Ms. Frey stated that she is seeking Board approval tonight so that the LOCAP Committee could move forward with their process. She stated that the Planning Committee had reviewed the schedule carefully but she would be happy to answer any questions. There were none, and Chairman Hale stated that this approval would be added to the agenda as an Action Item.

Ms. Frey also reminded the Board that she had distributed correspondence at the last meeting to the Ice Hockey Boosters and asked if there were any questions or comments. There was no further discussion on this issue.

### 7.2. Personnel Committee

No report.

### 7.3. Policy Committee

#### 7.3.1. Second Revision Reading: Policy #5090.3.6.1.1., Bullying.

Ms. Gowanlock was not present. Chairman Hale reminded the Board that the Bullying policy was on for second reading. It will be on the January 20<sup>th</sup> agenda for third/final reading and approval.

#### 7.4. Finance Committee

Ms. Coffey was not present, but Chairman Hale stated that the Committee had met earlier in the evening. Mr. Klein will present the Administration's recommended budget for 2009-2010 at the January 20<sup>th</sup> Board of Education Meeting.

#### 7.5. Community Outreach Committee

Atty. Klaskin reported that the Committee has not met, but due to the recent change in the schedule of Policy Committee meetings, he would like to set aside those dates, (the second Board meeting of the month), for the Community Outreach Committee to meet from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. He is not available on January 20<sup>th</sup> and there is no second Board meeting in February. The next date would be March 17, but Atty. Klaskin stated that he will attempt to schedule a meeting with Mr. Klein, Chairman Hale, and Ms. Coffey prior to that date.

#### 7.6. LEARN Liaison

Mr. Dean reported that the LEARN meeting for January is scheduled for this Thursday, the 8<sup>th</sup>.

### 8. Audience Response to Information Presented

Ms. Karen Gulcicek of 100 Nursery Lane addressed the Board regarding a Full Day Kindergarten Program. She is the mother of four children in the Madison Public schools, the youngest of whom is in kindergarten this year, and she is also employed as a Paraprofessional at Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School. Ms. Gulcicek stated that she thinks a full day program is very important for our students, not only from an academic standpoint, but also for socialization and relationship building, both between students and student / teacher relationships. The Board thanked Ms. Gulcicek for her interest and her comments.

### 9. Consent Agenda

9.1. Bills Payable: \$3,125.40 (07/08); \$314,941.21 (08/09)

9.2. Line Transfers: \$25,235.12

9.3. Budget Expenditure Reports as of December 22, 2008

9.4. Textbook Adoption

- Forensic Science for High School Students  
Daniel Hand High School  
Science: Biotechnology and Forensic Science

MOTION: by Sellers, seconded by Frey to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Clorite, Dean, Frey, Hale, Klaskin, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

### 10. Action Item: Minutes of December 16, 2008 Board of Education Meeting

MOTION: by Frey, seconded by Klaskin to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2008 Board of Education meeting.

AYES: Clorite, Dean, Frey, Hale, Klaskin, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

11. Action Item: Approval of the Planned and Cycled Maintenance Schedule

MOTION: by the Planning Committee to approved the Planned and Cycled Maintenance Schedule.

AYES: Clorite, Dean, Frey, Hale, Klaskin, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Mr. Clorite requested that the Board add another Action Item to the Agenda. He is seeking approval from the Board to apply for funds from the Connecticut Clean Air Energy Fund for the possible installation of Solar Panels at Island Avenue Elementary School as part of the roof replacement, which is already underway. He made it clear that the district would not be required to purchase the solar panels, but he would like the Board to authorize the Superintendent to sign the grant application.

12. Action Item: Connecticut Clean Air Energy Fund Grant Application

MOTION: by the Planning Committee, to authorize the Superintendent to sign the Connecticut Clean Air Energy Fund Grant Application.

AYES: Clorite, Dean, Frey, Hale, Klaskin, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

13. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

14. New Business

Future Agenda Items

15. Meetings of importance.

Chairman Hale referred to the list of upcoming meetings on the agenda.

16. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Klaskin to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Dean, Frey, Hale, Klaskin, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Submitted for Approval at the 01/20/09 Board of Education Meeting  
dmd