

# Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 3, 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. Recognitions

III.A.1. Josh Hettrick, Daniel Hand High School Grade 10 Student, Runner Up, "Tech & Learning's Portraits of Learning Contest" sponsored by Adobe **Speaker (s):** David J. Klein

III.A.2. National School Counseling Week, February 2-6, 2009: Jean Baker; Phyllis Annunziata; Michelle Boss; Christine Coyle; Donald Cramer; Mary Curran; Charlene Doane; Patricia Judson; Cynthia Skarsten **Speaker (s):** David J. Klein

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. Update: 2008-2009 Enrollment **Speaker (s):** David J. Klein

V.B. Discussion of 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.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 (9.1 - 9.3) (Ref. Bylaw #9540.2 and #9540.8)**

IX.A. Bills Payable: \$714,026.05 (08-09)

IX.B. Line Transfers: \$5,377.15

IX.C. Budget Expenditure Report as of January 29, 2009

X. **Action Item: Minutes January 20, 2009 Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.8)**

XI. **Old Business**

XII. **New Business**

XIII. **Future Agenda Items**

XIII.A. Presentation on Madison Public Schools Guidance Program (Jean Baker, Director of Guidance)

XIII.B. Presentation on Tiger Fitness Center (Craig Semple, Director of Athletics)

XIV. **Meetings of Importance**

**Speaker(s):** Chairman  
Hale

XIV.A. February 10, 2009; Board of Education Special Meeting to discuss and take action on the 2009-2010 Budget; 6:00 p.m., Walter C. Polson Middle School Library Media Center

XIV.B. February 11, 2009; Planning/Island Avenue School Building Committee; 7:30 a.m., Central Office Room B

XIV.C. February 12, 2009; Board of Education Presentation of the 2009-2010 Budget to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance; 7:30 p.m., Town Campus Hammonasset Room

XIV.D. February 25, 2009; Planning/Island Avenue School Building Committee; 7:30 a.m., Central Office Room B

XIV.E. February 27, 2009; Policy Committee; 4:15 p.m., Central Office Room B

XIV.F. March 3, 2009; Finance Committee Meeting; 5:30 p.m., Central Office Room B

XIV.G. March 3, 2009; Board of Education Meeting; 7:30 p.m., Town Campus Hammonasset Room

XIV.H. March 4, 2009; CABE - A Day on the Hill; 8:30 a.m., Capital Avenue, Hartford

XV. **Adjournment**

Board of Education Meeting  
January 20, 2009  
Town Campus

Meeting Minutes

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Becky Coffey; John Dean; Debra Frey; Robert Hale; Robert Ruggiero; Holly Sellers

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

2. Executive Session

MOTION: by Dean seconded by Frey to enter Executive Session at 7:03 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Hale, Ruggiero, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Personnel matters involving confidential issues were discussed.

Atty. Klaskin entered at 7:07 p.m.

Legal issues were discussed.

Mr. Clorite entered at 7:10 p.m.

MOTION: by Ruggiero seconded by Klaskin to adjourn Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

The public session of the Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 7:35 p.m. Chairman Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Bill Clorite; Becky Coffey; John Dean; Debra Frey; Robert Hale; Seth Klaskin; Robert Ruggiero; 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:

- 3.1.1. Rachel Leonard, Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School Science Teacher  
Finalist, 2008 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching  
(PAEMST)

Superintendent Klein announced that Rachel Leonard has been chosen as a Finalist for this prestigious award. The awards were established in 1983 by an Act of Congress and are the nation's highest honor for teachers of mathematics and science. Ms. Leonard thanked Mr. Klein and the Board for their recognition, and explained that she

was a graduate of Daniel Hand High School and felt very fortunate to be working along side teachers who once taught her, and are now her peers.

### 3.2. Public Participation

None at this time.

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

Mr. Presti and Ms. Balakrishnan reported on the following:

Honors Breakfast – was held on Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Students who made the honor role were invited to a brief ceremony in the gym, following by refreshments in the cafeteria.

Colleges – seniors continue to hear back from colleges they've applied to.

Presidential Inauguration – today's Inauguration of President Barack Obama was televised on various televisions and projectors throughout the school, and students were very excited to witness this historic event.

Progress Reports – for the middle of the second trimester will be distributed on Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Winter Formal – is being hosted by the sophomore class and will be held on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The dance is open to all grades.

### 5. Superintendent's Report

#### 5.1. Report on Out of State Field Trips

Mr. Klein reported on upcoming out of state field trips for Daniel Hand High School students.

#### 5.2. Formal Presentation of Administration's Recommended 2009-2010 Budget

Mr. Klein introduced a Power Point presentation (on file) of the Superintendent's and Administration's recommended 2009-2010 Budget. Mr. Klein explained that while he was the one presenting the budget to the Board, it was the result of an effort undertaken by all district administrators, and they believe it to be a very thoughtful and fiscally responsible budget for these challenging economic times. The recommended operating budget represents an increase of 3.91% over the 2008-2009 budget. Mr. Klein read the following statement, included in the presentation, which summarizes the proposed budget:

*The administration's recommended budget is a prudent budget that recognizes the difficult fiscal climate in both the town and the state. Nonetheless it will maintain the quality of educational programming that the district is offering this school year. The recommended budget does not include increases for new programs. The budget increase is strictly tied to contractual obligations for current employees, special education services, facilities operations and transportation services.*

Mr. Klein gave a summary of each program area included in the recommended budget and provided details on the areas where increases are necessary, as well as where reductions have been realized. There was an ongoing dialog throughout the presentation, and the Administrators were on hand to answer questions that arose. The presentation included comparative data on student expenditures. Mr. Klein noted that Madison is still lowest in net expenditures per pupil for our DRG (District Reference Group) and ranks 157<sup>th</sup> out of 169 districts in Connecticut for per pupil expenditures. He stated that Madison's return on investment for education in the community is nothing short of extraordinary, and that the performance results achieved by our students are exceptional and a source of pride for the entire community.

The point was also raised that class sizes in Madison are slightly higher than others in the DRG, and are in the high end of the range set forth in Board policy, but that our students continue to outperform most other districts. Mr. Klein remarked again that this is a commentary on the students and staff of the district, as well as the community as a whole.

Discussion continued, and there were several questions raised by the Board and answered by the various administrators. Ms. Coffey asked the Board to carefully review the presentation, which was given to them in hard copy, along with the recommended budget itself and resource and support materials for their reference. She asked that any additional questions that arose be emailed to her, and she would compile a list of questions to bring back to the Superintendent and administrators if necessary.

Ms. Coffey then thanked Mr. Klein and the Administrators for their hard work in preparing the proposed budget. She stated that it is difficult in these economic times to bring in a budget at 3.91% and still maintain the level of excellence achieved in the Madison Public Schools.

Chairman Hale also expressed thanks to Mr. Klein and the Administrators. He explained that the Board of Education has a dual responsibility; to provide a good educational system to the students of the district, and also a responsibility to the town to meet its expectations. Chairman Hale stated that the Board will submit a budget which maintains the quality of education provided and meets the expectations of the town, and at the same time, will be fiscally prudent in these challenging times.

Ms. Coffey reiterated that any questions should be forwarded to her via email to be compiled and forwarded to Mr. Klein.

Chairman Hale thanked Mr. Klein and the Administrators and staff for presenting a budget that, while not as detailed as in past years, was very comprehensive and easy to understand. He then stated that he hopes for a productive budget season and is optimistic that the process will move quickly.

## 6. Board Member Comments

None at this time.

## 7. Reports from Board Committees / Liaisons

### 7.1. Planning Committee

Ms. Frey reported that the Committee met last week and had an interesting discussion with a student from Daniel Hand High School, Cameron Cahill, who proposed an Eagle Scout Project which will provide additional trophy cases at the high school. Ms. Frey explained that the project will be closely supervised by Director of Athletics Craig Semple, and Director of Facilities Bill McMinn to meet all codes and match existing cabinetry. She reported that on behalf of the Board, the project was approved at Committee level.

### 7.2. Personnel Committee

No report.

### 7.3. Policy Committee

#### 7.3.1. Third 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 third and final reading, and is on the agenda for approval tonight. Atty. Sellers asked that the Policy be tabled until the Policy Committee has had a chance to meet to discuss it. She does not believe the administrative regulations should be embedded in the policy itself. Mr. Klein stated that he did not believe it was a problem to have the regulation embedded in the Policy, but he would defer to the Policy Committee and the Board. He did say that tabling the policy presented a challenge in that the district is required to have a policy in place by February 1<sup>st</sup> in order to be compliant with the State, but that he would contact the State Department of Education and request an extension for submitting a finalized policy. Chairman Hale suggested that the Policy could move forward for approval tonight

with an amendment, taking out the section that could be adopted as an administrative regulation. Atty. Sellers agreed that this proposal would be more consistent with other policies, and that support for the adoption of administrative regulations is found in the policy at lines 15-17. It was agreed that the Board would vote to approve the policy tonight, but lines 47-82 would be deleted.

#### 7.4. Finance Committee

No report. Ms. Coffey again thanked and commended Mr. Klein and the Administrators for their work on an excellent budget presentation.

#### 7.5. Community Outreach Committee

The Committee has not met, but Atty. Klaskin outlined the dates for meetings that have been scheduled; the first being on March 17<sup>th</sup>. He also stated that one of the goals of the Committee was to assist the district in getting information on the budget out to the community. He stated that if there were any civic organizations in town that were interested in having the budget presented to their group, they should contact the Central Office to arrange this.

#### 7.6. LEARN Liaison

Mr. Dean reported that their last meeting was on January 8<sup>th</sup> and the speaker was Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel of CAFE. There was discussion on ECS funding, and Ms. McCarthy stated that the objective was to maintain the current funding level, but if reductions were necessary, to make them as fair as possible. Similarly, with regard to state mandates, the intention is to keep them as fair as possible. Districts are seeking relief in some areas that are especially costly, and CAFE is trying to prevent local tax increases.

Chairman Hale commented that the same topics were discussed at the recent Legislative Breakfast coordinated by Robert Ruggiero. He stated that the breakfast was well attended and that there were good discussions with participating legislators.

#### 8. Audience Response to Information Presented

None at this time.

#### 9. Consent Agenda

9.1. Bills Payable: \$837.78 (07/08); \$1,584,129.41 (08/09)

9.2. Line Transfers: \$21,551.07

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

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

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Atty. Sellers commented on the generous donation to benefit the Kathleen H. Ryerson Library Media Center and thanked the Ryerson PTO for their generosity.

10. Action Item: Minutes of January 6, 2009 Board of Education Meeting

MOTION: by Clorite, seconded by Frey to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2009 Board of Education meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Coffey, Ruggiero

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

11. Action Item: Revised Policy #5090.3.6.1.1., Bullying

MOTION: by Sellers, seconded Coffey to amend Policy #5090.3.6.1.1 by removing the administrative regulations in lines 47-82.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

MOTION: by the Policy Committee to approved revised Policy #5090.3.6.1.1., Bullying, as amended.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

12. Action Item: Educational Specifications for the Island Avenue Elementary School Roof Project

MOTION: The Island Avenue Building Committee recommends the Board of Education adopt the attached Educational Specifications for the roof replacement for Island Avenue Elementary School.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

13. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

14. New Business

No new business was discussed.

15. Future Agenda Items

16. Meetings of importance.

Chairman Hale referred to the list of upcoming meetings on the agenda. Ms. Coffey reminded the Board of the upcoming Annual Town Meeting scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Klein stated that he, along with Chairman Hale, had been invited by First Selectman Al Goldberg to attend and participate in the meeting.

17. Adjournment

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

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Submitted for Approval at the 02/03/09 Board of Education Meeting  
dmd