

# Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 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. Information Share: Third Annual Environment Gift from Madison Land Conservation Trust, Presented to John Gaskell and Michael Docker, DHHS Science Teachers, by Joseph Oslander and David Skelly

III.B. Recognition: ExpoloraVision Competition, IAS Students: Joel Griffin; Samuel Soroko; Samuel Thorpe; Colin Wallace; Emma Boey; Ciara Burke; Gabrielle Martin; Marielle Lamberti; Sydney Carlo; Carly Fisher; Sophia Kyrzcz; Michael Scoopo; Thomas Cosgriff; Louis Donofrio; Timothy Rotermund; William Schultz

III.C. 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. Discussion: Technology Plan for Administrative Software; \* Student Administrative Software, \* Web Content Management Software

**Speaker (s):** Arthur Sickle

V.B. Report on Out of State Field Trips

**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; Becky Coffey; Seth Klaskin

VII.C.1. Policy #5090.3.2, Vandalism - Technical Revision Reading

**Speaker (s):** Harriet Gowanlock

VII.C.2.	Policy #5120.4.2.4, Sexual Harassment Among Students - Technical Revision Reading	<b>Speaker (s):</b> Harriet Gowanlock
VII.C.3.	Policy #5060.1.2, Nonresidents - First Revision Reading	<b>Speaker (s):</b> Harriet Gowanlock
VII.D.	Finance Committee	<b>Speaker (s):</b> Members: Becky Coffey, Chair; Harriet Gowanlock; Holly Sellers
VII.E.	Community Outreach Committee	<b>Speaker (s):</b> Members: Seth Klaskin, Chair; Becky Coffey
VII.F.	LEARN Liaison	<b>Speaker (s):</b> Liaison: John Dean
VIII.	<b>Audience Response to Information Presented</b>	
IX.	<b>Consent Agenda (9.1 - 9.2) (Reference Bylaw #9540.2 and 9540.8)</b>	
IX.A.	Bills Payable: \$875.00 (07/08); \$368,207.41 (08/09)	
IX.B.	Line Transfers: \$19,234.30	
X.	<b>Action Item: Minutes April 7, 2009 Meeting (Reference Bylaw #9540.8)</b>	
XI.	<b>Action Item: Agreement between the Madison Public Schools and NAGE (National Association of Government Employees) (Ref. Bylaw #9540.8)</b>	
XII.	<b>Action Item: Waive the RFP Process for Infinite Campus and Final Site.</b>	
XIII.	<b>Old Business</b>	
XIV.	<b>New Business</b>	
XV.	<b>Future Agenda Items</b>	
XV.A.	Presentation: Madison Public Schools Edublogs	
XVI.	<b>Meetings of Importance</b>	<b>Speaker (s):</b> Chairman Hale
XVI.A.	April 28, 2009: Budget - Public Hearing, 7:30 p.m., Walter C. Polson Middle School Auditorium	
XVI.B.	April 29, 2009: Planning Committee Meeting, 7:30 a.m., Facilities Office	
XVI.C.	May 5, 2009: Finance Committee Meeting; 5:30 p.m., Central Office Room B	
XVI.D.	May 5, 2009: Board of Education Meeting; 7:30 p.m., Town Campus Hammonasset Room	
XVII.	<b>Adjournment</b>	

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  
April 7, 2009  
Town Campus

Meeting Minutes

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Vice Chairperson Becky Coffey at 7:41 p.m.

Present: Becky Coffey; Bill Clorite; John Dean; Debra Frey; Harriet Gowanlock; Seth Klaskin; Holly Sellers

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

2. Executive Session

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

AYES: Coffey, Clorite, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Klaskin, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Personnel matters involving confidential issues were discussed.

Legal issues were discussed.

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Dean to adjourn Executive Session at 7:32 p.m.

AYES: Coffey, Clorite, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Klaskin, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

The public session of the Board of Education meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Becky Coffey at 7:40 p.m. Vice Chairperson Coffey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Becky Coffey; Bill Clorite; John Dean; Debra Frey; Harriet Gowanlock; Seth Klaskin; Robert Ruggiero; Holly Sellers

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

3. School / Community Session

Recognition: **2009 Madison Unified Basketball Team**

- *Tim Farmer, Walter C. Polson Middle School; Grade 8*
- *Danielle Fortier, Walter C. Polson Middle School; Grade 8*
- *Brian Murphy, Walter C. Polson Middle School; Grade 8*
- *Evan O'Neil, Walter C. Polson Middle School; Grade 8*
- *Tom O'Neil, Daniel Hand High School; Grade 9*
- *Ian O'Toole, Walter C. Polson Middle School; Grade 8*
- *Vinny Pizzagalli, Walter C. Polson Middle School; Grade 8*
- *Sabrina Simpkins, Walter C. Polson Middle School; Grade 8*
- *Ryan Tobin, Daniel Hand High School; Grade 9*

**Coaches:** *Tom Drew, Mike Guerra, Matt Link*

Superintendent Klein stated that he and the Board were very happy to recognize the 2009 Madison Unified Basketball Team. He introduced Mr. Frank Henderson, Principal of Walter C. Polson Middle School and asked him to tell the Board about the team. Mr. Henderson explained that Mr. Matt Link, Polson Middle School Physical Education Teacher was the driving force behind the creation of the team, and that working with the team was a true passion for him. Mr. Henderson stated that his involvement was more of a supportive role, but that he greatly enjoyed watching the athletes work together as a team and improve their skills.

Mr. Link then spoke about the program and how much it meant to him, and remarked how much he had enjoyed working with all of the members of the team. He stated that he was extremely proud of the athletes and also greatly appreciative of the rest of the coaching staff, Mr. Tom Drew and Mr. Mike Guerra, both Physical Education Teachers at Daniel Hand High School as well as the parents of the student athletics for their support, commitment and enthusiasm. He also thanked Mr. Frank Henderson for everything he did to support the team. Mr. Link stressed that all members of the team worked extremely hard and should be very proud of their season.

Members of the 2009 Madison Youth Basketball Team were then introduced and presented with Certificates of Recognition signed by Mr. Klein and Chairman Hale.

Ms. Frey commented that programs such as this one make her extremely proud to be part of the Madison Community. She offered her thanks and congratulations to the team.

### 3.2. Public Participation

None at this time.

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

Ms. Balakrishnan and Mr. Presti were not present at the meeting.

In their absence, Ms. Gowanlock commented on how much she enjoyed the Daniel Hand High School production of The Wiz this past weekend. She stated that it was truly spectacular and the entire cast and crew should be extremely proud.

Mr. Klein also saw the play and remarked that he has been going to school productions for 20 years and has never heard singing like he has at Daniel Hand.

Ms. Rutlin commented that she also greatly enjoyed the play and it was obvious to her that the cast thoroughly enjoyed entertaining the audience.

### 5. Superintendent's Report

#### 5.1. Update: 2008-2009 Enrollment and 2009-2010 Enrollment Projection

Mr. Klein reported that the current enrollment is 3,709 with 201 kindergarten students. He reminded the Board that the ADS projection for this year was 3,698.

He next stated that the enrollment to date for the 2009-2010 school year is 3,585 and the ADS projection year is 3,630. He stated that the difference of 45 student is most likely attributed to kindergarten enrollment; those registrations will continue to come in throughout the spring and summer.

#### 5.2. Update: 2010-2011 School Year Calendar

Mr. Klein next pointed out that the 2010-2011 School Year Calendar is on the agenda for approval later in the meeting. He stated that it had been previously shared with the Board of Education as well as the Administration, and he had also shared it with the Middlesex Shoreline Superintendents' Association, of which he is a member. He stated that those districts in the MSSA that had already developed their 2010-2011 calendars have the same weeks for February and April vacation as on the proposed Madison calendar. Mr. Klein stated that he thought it was a very thoughtful, responsible calendar which will be well received by the community, and he hoped the Board would

support it when it came time to approve it later in the meeting.

## 6. Board Member Comments

Ms. Coffey stated that, at their meeting on March 24, 2009, the Board of Finance voted to reduce the Board of Education's Budget by \$180,000. She commented that in this difficult year, the Board of Education would have clearly preferred to have their budget move forward as presented, but appreciates the thoughtfulness of the Board of Finance in their review of the Board of Education budget. She stated that it is important to preserve the integrity of the current educational programs, and the cuts will be kept as far as possible from the classroom. The District will be able to preserve the educational programs and staff currently in place for next year.

Atty. Klaskin reminded the audience of the Public Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Walter C. Polson Middle School. He urged community members to attend this meeting and be informed about the Board of Education Budget.

Ms. Gowanlock also urged people to attend the April 28<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing, but more importantly to vote in the referendum currently scheduled for May 19, 2008. She commented that while these are difficult economic times for everyone, each school year is vitally important to every student in our District.

## 7. Reports from Board Committees / Liaisons

### 7.1. Planning Committee

Ms. Frey reported that the Committee met on March 28<sup>th</sup>. She began her report by reminding the Board that an environmentally conscious group of Daniel Hand High School students previously entered a contest sponsored by CL&P regarding energy conservation and going green. The students created and submitted a video which showed the number of paper towels used in a restroom at the high school on any given day. Ms. Frey announced that the students won a \$5,000 prize which was used to purchase hand dryers for some restrooms at Daniel Hand. She congratulated the students for their creativity and commitment to the school and to the environment.

Ms. Frey next reported that Mr. Henderson attended the Planning Meeting to speak about the Hershnik Gardens project at Polson Middle School. This project was initiated by a group of students and parents in memory of Mr. Mark Hershnik, Madison's Teacher of the Year who passed away earlier this school year. Phase 1 has been completed – a massive amount of daffodils were planted in the fall near the building entrance, and Phase 2 is underway and will involve the garden area in front of the auditorium. She thanked Mr. Santoro from Madison Flower Shop who has prepared the design for the garden and will do the planting at cost. She also acknowledged a very generous donation in the amount of \$5,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Orefice of the Orefice Foundation. Ms. Frey commented that a dedication ceremony for the Hershnik Gardens will take place some time in May.

Ms. Frey next reported that both the Food Services and the Transportation contracts are coming due. Ms. Frey stressed that while the district is extremely pleased with Chartwells, we are required to go out to bid for the Food Services Contract due to new regulations. With regard to the contract with Durham School Services, again, Ms. Frey said that the District is very pleased with their services and Mr. Art Sickle, Director of Administrative Services, has initiated discussions to extend the current contract.

Finally, Ms. Frey reported that we are on the third round of infrastructure funding for the Safe Routes to Schools program. Applications are due to the regional planning organization by July 30, 2009 and to the Department of Transportation by August 28, 2009.

In response to a question from Ms. Coffey, Ms. Frey replied that there is no update on the Joint Facilities Review at this time.

### 7.2. Personnel Committee

No report.

### 7.3. Policy Committee

#### 7.3.1. Technical Revision 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Policy #5090.3.2., Vandalism

Ms. Gowanlock reported that the Committee met on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. She thanked Ms. Marilyn Bovee from the Central Office for the hours spent working to get the Definitions section of the Code of Conduct in better shape, and also the work on Policy. Ms. Gowanlock reminded the Board that its primary charge is setting and maintaining district policy, so this work is very important. There have been no major changes in most of the Board's policies but Central Office has been working to make sure all policies are up to date, and the Code of Conduct is being refined and streamlined to make it more user friendly. Ms. Gowanlock stated that the intention is to have the Board meet with the Administration in the near future to finalize the Code of Conduct so the Board can vote to approve it by June.

Ms. Gowanlock reported that at their April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the Committee reviewed several other policies that are also being refined, and that some revisions are the result of combining several policies into one (e.g., Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco). She also referred to Policy #5090.3.2, Vandalism, which is on tonight's agenda with a technical revision. The changes to this policy are not substantive, but it is being cleaned up.

With regard to the Code of Conduct, Atty. Klaskin urged all parents to read and review the Code with their children when they receive it.

Atty. Sellers asked if there had been much feedback from the community regarding the 2010-2011 proposed School Year Calendar. Ms. Gowanlock responded that the calendar development process has also been streamlined in recent years, and it has become a non-issue. The community now seems to know what to expect and most are comfortable with the calendar.

### 7.4. Finance Committee

Ms. Coffey stated that the Administration continues to review the Budget to determine where the next round of reductions will come from. There are no formal recommendations at this time. She made assurances that the reductions will be kept as far from the classroom as possible and stated that it was important to the Board and the Administration to preserve the educational programs and staffing currently in place for the 2009-2010 school year.

### 7.5. Community Outreach Committee

Atty. Klaskin stated that the Committee had not met since the last Board meeting. He said that Chairman Hale has requested that the Policy Committee meetings go back to the original Tuesday night schedule (the same night as the second Board of Education meeting of the month), so the Community Outreach Committee meetings on the calendar will be canceled at this point and rescheduled at another time.

### 7.6. LEARN Liaison

Mr. Dean reported that the April meeting is scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup>; so he will have a report at the next Board of Education meeting.

## 8. Audience Response to Information Presented

None at this time.

## 9. Consent Agenda

9.1. Bills Payable: \$1,300.00 (07-08); \$1,339,184.23 (08-09)

9.2. Line Transfers: \$215,095.55

9.3. Budget Expenditure Report as of April 2, 2009

9.4. Donation: \$6,000 to Island Avenue Elementary School for field trips, from the Island Avenue PTO

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

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Klaskin, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Ms. Gowanlock commented on the remarkable donation from the Island Avenue PTO. She stated that she is always amazed by how much money the PTO's raise and give back to the schools.

10. Action Item: Minutes of March 17, 2009 Board of Education Meeting

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Sellers to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2009 Board of Education meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Gowanlock

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

11. Action Item: Minutes of the March 11, 2009 Special Meeting

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Frey to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2009 Board of Education Special meeting.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Klaskin, Gowanlock, Sellers

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0

12. Action Item: 2010-2011 School Year Calendar

MOTION: by Sellers, seconded by Clorite to approve the 2010-2011 School Year Calendar.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Klaskin, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION Carried: 7-0

13. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

14. New Business

No new business was discussed.

15. Future Agenda Items

15.1 Presentation: Madison Public Schools Edublogs – April 2009

Mr. Klein stated that Mr. Michael Kiefer has been a wonderful addition to the Central Office IT Department and his upcoming presentation will feature a recent video conference between students at Island Avenue Elementary School and an elementary school in Kennebunkport, ME.

16. Meetings of importance.

Vice Chairperson Coffey referred to the list of upcoming meetings on the agenda.

17. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Sellers to  
adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Klaskin,  
Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Submitted for approval at the 04/21/09 Board of Education Meeting  
dmd