

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 15, 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.

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

III.A. Public Participation

IV. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Speaker (s): Anna Balakrishnan

V. Superintendent's Report

Speaker (s): David J. Klein

V.A. Transportation Update

Speaker (s): Arthur Sickle and Dawn Vece

V.B. Infinite Campus Implementation Update

Speaker (s): Arthur Sickle

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; Holly Sellers

VII.C. Policy Committee

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

IX.A. Bills Payable: \$28,683.32 (08-09);
\$144,457.82 (09-10)

IX.B. Line Transfers: \$130,800.96

IX.C. Donation: Nikon camera, lenses, case and accessories valued at \$1,000 to the Daniel Hand

High School Art Department from Mr. Robert McAlister, in honor of DHHS Student Anastasia Soroko (Ref. Policy #3281)

IX.D. Notice of Intent for Instruction of Student at Home for six students (Ref. Policy #6080.23)

X. **Action Item: Minutes of the September 1, 2009 Board of Education Meeting**

XI. **Action Item: Recommendation from the Island Avenue / Kathleen Ryerson Elementary School Building Committee to Accept the Island Avenue Elementary School Roof Project**

XII. **Action Item: Recommendation from the Island Avenue / Kathleen Ryerson Elementary School Building Committee to accept the Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School Asbestos Removal and Boiler Replacement Project**

XIII. **Action Item: Improvement / Expansion of Academy School Field Parking and the relocation of the Academy School Softball Field**

XIV. **Old Business**

XV. **New Business**

XVI. **Future Agenda Items**

XVI.A. Update on Impact Program - October 6, 2009

XVI.B. Class of 2009 Update - October 6, 2009

XVII. **Meetings of Importance**

Speaker(s): Chairman Hale

XVII.A. September 23, 2009: Planning Committee Meeting; 7:30 a.m., Central Office Room B

XVII.B. September 24, 2009: Public Workshop: Strategic Planning Study; 7:00 p.m., Upper Level, Memorial Town Hall

XVII.C. October 6, 2009: Board of Education Meeting; 7:30 p.m, Town Campus Hammonasset Room

XVII.D. November 21-22, 2009: CABA / CAPSS Convention; Mystic Marriot, Groton, CT

XVIII. **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
September 1, 2009
Town Campus

Meeting Minutes

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Hale at 7:02 p.m.

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

Also present: David J. Klein, Superintendent

2. Executive Session

MOTION: by Clorite, seconded by Klaskin to enter Executive Session at 7:02 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Personnel matters involving confidential issues were discussed.

MOTION: by Clorite, seconded by Klaskin to adjourn Executive Session at 7:35 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

The public session of the Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chairman Hale at 7:31 p.m. Chairman Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also present: David J. Klein, Superintendent; district administrators; faculty; staff; students; community members.

3. School / Community Session

3.1. Recognitions:

*Lisa L. Landa, English Teacher, Daniel Hand High School
Madison Public Schools 2010 Teacher of the Year*

Superintendent Klein and the Board of Education recognized Madison Public Schools' 2010 Teacher of the Year, Lisa Landa. Superintendent Klein stated that he has received numerous unsolicited comments about Ms. Landa and how deserving she is of this distinction.

Ms. Landa, who received her official award at the Convocation on August 26th, was presented with a certificate signed by Chairman Hale and Superintendent Klein.

*Kathryn Hart, Assistant Principal, Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School
The Kathryn Hart Fund, established with the Madison Foundation*

Mr. Klein stated that he had invited Ms. Hart to the meeting to be recognized for this very special honor. He read the following from a letter received from the Madison Foundation:

"A new donor advised fund has been established with the Madison Foundation by a family that is appreciative of support received by the R.H. Brown Middle School Administration Staff, Teachers and in particular, Assistant Principal Kathryn Hart in order to continue Kathryn Hart's leadership in fostering an environment of understanding and support in the Madison Public Schools for children with special needs and disabilities. The Kathryn Hart Fund will provide grants for autism and special education-related training for Madison Public Schools Administrators, Teachers and Staff"

Mr. Klein explained that the donor anticipates that the annual award should be \$250 and wishes the Foundation to remind all eligible Madison Public Schools Administrators, Teachers and Staff annually that the award is available.

Mr. Klein commented that neither Ms. Landa or Ms. Hart are individuals who seek recognition for the good work they do, which is a testament to the fact that they do it because it is what is in their hearts and what they believe in. He stated that both women are a shining example of the quality of the staff in the Madison Public Schools.

Public Participation

None at this time.

4. Superintendent's Report

4.1. 2009-2010 Opening of School Update

Mr. Klein stated that the school year is off to a great start. The buildings all look outstanding and things are running very smoothly at each of them. He remarked that transportation has been very smooth since the first day, to the credit of Art Sickle, Director of Administrative Services, and his Central Office Staff, and also the staff at Durham School Services, particularly Magda Grayson and Dawn Vece. Mr. Klein also commented that things are running very well in the school cafeterias, thanks to Jason Wallace and his food services staff.

4.2. Student Enrollment

Mr. Klein stated that as of 5:00 p.m. today, total enrollment was 3,643, which is 13 students more than the ADS projection of 3,630. This total accounts for both incoming students and those that have left the district. He summarized enrollments at the elementary, middle school and high school levels:

	Actual Enrollment	ADS Projections
Grades K-4 (total)	1,180	1,187
Grades 5-8	1,197	1,199
Grades 9-12	1,266	1,244
TOTAL	3,643	3,630
**kindergarten	168	174

Mr. Klein stated that the ADS projections are once again remarkably accurate.

5. Board Member Comments

Chairman Hale reminded the Board that the applications for CAFE Area Directors are now being accepted, and he has copies of the application for any Board member who is willing to apply. Mr. Ruggiero currently serves as an Area Director but Mr. Hale explained that it is acceptable to have more than one from a district, and he believes it's very important to have as much representation as possible in this capacity.

Mr. Clorite stated that it had been a very good start to the school year. He did share with the Board that he had been approached several times regarding what some perceive as an 'early' start to the school year, and why the students returned to school not only before Labor Day, but on a Thursday rather than a Monday. Chairman Hale stated that the calendar was set two years ago, and was set up as it is to include the holidays built in, as well as the February and April vacations.

Mr. Klein commented that he believes that starting during a 'short' week is a "kinder" way to transition the students, back into the school year schedule – particularly younger students.

6. Reports from Board Committees / Liaisons

6.1. Planning Committee

Ms. Frey reported that the Committee had met two weeks ago and the focus of their meeting was the readiness of the school facilities. There was also discussion on the water issue and Ms. Frey reported that water is now being provided to the Brown / Ryerson campus by The Connecticut Water Company for toilets and sinks only. Both buildings continue to use bottled water for drinking and cooking, and will for the foreseeable future until we have some reliable testing data.

Ms. Frey also distributed a report from Bill McMinn, Director of Facilities, listing the extensive work that was done on each of the buildings over the summer. She stated that Mr. McMinn and his staff had worked extremely hard over the summer and did an excellent job getting the buildings ready for the school year.

6.2. Personnel Committee

No report.

6.3. Policy Committee

No report.

6.4. Finance Committee

Ms. Coffey stated that the Board of Education closed its budget for the year ending June 30, 2009 with an unexpended balance of \$219,042. This amount will be returned to the Town's General Fund. She commented that this was due to the superb management of the Administrative Team, and Superintendent Klein in particular. She also stated that it was a 'favorable weather year' which resulted in savings in utilities accounts.

Ms. Coffey further stated that the Finance Committee hopes to schedule a meeting soon with the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen to proceed with setting up a Reserve Account for unanticipated Special Education external placements in the amount of \$75,000 (to be taken from the amount returned to the Town). This concept was originally discussed during the budget development process. Discussion ensued regarding this Fund and Ms. Coffey explained that the Board of Finance has full authority to set up such a fund. If the fund is established, the Board of Education would be required to request of the Board of Finance to access these funds if necessary, but these funds will only be available to cover the costs of Special Education outplacements.

Mr. Klein concluded by stating that the favorable budget outcome was due to the excellent fiscal oversight at the building levels. He also credited Ms. Dotty Bavin, Director of Fiscal Services as an unsung hero in her management of both the Board of Education and Town's budgets.

6.5. Community Outreach Committee

The Committee has not met but Atty. Klaskin reminded those viewing the meeting on Channel 19 to sign up for the listserv for the District and / or the listserv for the school(s) which their families attend. Atty. Klaskin stated that this is a very valuable email service to keep you informed about important information and events related to the Madison Public Schools.

6.6. LEARN Liaison

No report.

7. Audience Response to Information Presented

Ms. Kathleen Stahelski of the Board of Finance stated that she likes the concept of setting up the special fund as outlined by Ms. Coffey, but she needs time to review the plan for the. She commented that she is in favor of setting aside funds for potential expenditures that are so difficult to budget for.

8. Consent Agenda

8.1. Bills Payable: \$131,713.39 (08-09); \$1,409,251.96 (09-10)

8.2. Line Transfers: \$332,300.76

8.3. Budget Expenditure Report as of August 27, 2009

8.4. Notice of Intent for Instruction of Student at Home for 2 students. (*Reference Policy #6080.23*)

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

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

9. Action Item: Minutes of August 18, 2009 Board of Education Meeting

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Klaskin to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2009 Board of Education meeting.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Frey, Hale, Klaskin

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Dean, Ruggiero

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

10. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

11. New Business

11.1 Discussion: Appointment of 2009-2010 School Liaisons

Chairman Hale suggested that with the November elections only a few short weeks away, school liaisons will continue as they were last year for the time being.

12. Future Agenda Items

12.1 Transportation Update: September 15, 2009

Mr. Clorite commented that he would like to hear an update on the IMPACT program at a future meeting. Mr. Klein stated that he would invite Donna Konarski, District Health Coordinator, and Craig Semple, Athletic Director to a future meeting.

13. Meetings of importance.

Chairman Hale referred to the list of upcoming meetings on the agenda, in particular the September 24, 2009 Public Workshop: Strategic Planning Study scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at the Memorial Town Hall and stated that it was important for Board of Education members to attend. Ms. Frey also commented that it is important for the community to know that the focus of this initial workshop will be to get the community's input regarding facilities use.

14. Adjournment

MOTION: by Ruggiero, seconded by Frey to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Submitted for approval at the 09/15/09 Board of Education Meeting
dmd