

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 20, 2010 6:30 PM

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

I. Call to Order / Attendance

II. Executive Session - 6:00 p.m.

II.A. Personnel Items

II.B. Legal Items

III. School Community Session- 6:30 p.m.

III.A. Public Participation

IV. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Speaker (s): Anna Balakrishnan and Andrew Chapman

V. Superintendent's Report

Speaker (s): David J. Klein

V.A. Report on Out of State Travel

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; Jean Fitzgerald

VII.B. Personnel Committee

Speaker (s): Members: John Dean, Chair; Pam Meier; Robert Ruggiero

VII.C. Policy Committee

Speaker (s): Members: Seth Klaskin, Chair; Jean Fitzgerald; Pam Meier

VII.D. Finance Committee

Speaker (s): Members: Bill Clorite, Chair; Jean Fitzgerald; Cindy Wood

VII.E. LEARN Liaison

Speaker (s): Liaison: Robert Ruggiero

VIII. Audience Response to Information Presented

IX. Consent Agenda (9.1-9.4); Ref. Bylaw #9540.2 and #9540.8

IX.A. Bills Payable: \$294,451.51 (09-10)

IX.B. Line Transfers: \$1,235.00

IX.C. Donation: Laminating Machine valued at \$1,800 to the Town Campus Learning Center Preschool from the TCLC PTO

IX.D. Donation: \$3,500 to J. Milton Jeffrey
Elementary School for Field Trips from the
Jeffrey School PTO

**X. Action Item: Minutes of the April 6, 2010 Board
of Education Meeting**

XI. Old Business

XII. New Business

XIII. Future Agenda Items

XIII.A. Technology Update - Infinite Campus and
Finalsite

XIV. Meetings of Importance

Speaker(s): Becky
Coffey

XIV.A. April 22, 2010: Personnel Committee
Meeting; 5:30 p.m., Central Office Room B

XIV.B. April 26, 2010: Budget Public Hearing;
7:30 p.m., Walter C. Polson Middle School
Auditorium

XIV.C. April 27, 2010: Personnel Committee
Meeting; 5:30 p.m., Central Office Room B

XIV.D. April 28, 2010: Planning Committee
Meeting; 7:30 a.m., Central Office Room B

XIV.E. May 4, 2010: Finance Committee Meeting;
6:00 p.m., Central Office Room B

XIV.F. May 4, 2010: Board of Education Meeting;
7:30 p.m., Town Campus Hammonasset Room

XV. School Community Session (7:30 p.m.)

XV.A. Information Share

XV.A.1. Fourth Annual Environmental Gift from the
Madison Land Conservation Trust, Presented to
DHHS Science Teachers Michael Docker and John
Gaskell

Speaker(s):
Presenters: David
Skelly and Eric
Alletzhauser

XV.B. Recognitions:

XV.B.1. Participants in the 2009-2010 Madison
Math Olympiad: Emma Boey; Courtney Burns; Erin
Knox; Christina Lei; Gabrielle Martin; Ankita
Roychouldhury; Connor Sakmar; Dorritt Sampson;
Stoddard Sampson; Samuel Thorpe; Amy Williams;
Ms. Helen Tsai, Coach

XV.B.2. Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School, Annual
"Day of Pi" Event: Jake Fay, 1st Place, New
School Record; Matthew Henry, 2nd Place; Marcus
Tung, 3rd Place; Janet Dielman, Grade 6
Mathematics Teacher / Advisor

XVI. Audience Response to Information Presented

XVII. Adjournment

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Central Office Room B
April 20, 2010
6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

Executive Session Agenda

1. Executive Session (6:00 p.m.)

1.A. Personnel Issues

- **Status of Open Positions**

1.B. Legal Issues

- **Student Discipline Updates**

Adjournment (6:30 p.m.)

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 6, 2010
Walter C. Polson Middle School Library Media Center

Meeting Minutes

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairperson Coffey at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Bill Clorite; Becky Coffey; John Dean; Jean Fitzgerald; Debra Frey; Seth Klaskin; Pamela Meier; Cindy Wood

Also present: Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

2. Executive Session

MOTION: by Clorite, seconded by Wood to enter Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin, Meier, Wood

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Personnel matters involving confidential issues were discussed.

Legal issues were discussed.

MOTION: by Wood, seconded by Coffey to adjourn Executive Session at 7:10 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin, Meier, Wood

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

The public session of the Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chairperson Coffey at 7:30 p.m. Ms. Coffey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Bill Clorite; Becky Coffey; John Dean; Jean Fitzgerald; Debra Frey; Seth Klaskin; Pamela Meier; Robert Ruggiero; Cindy Wood

Also present: Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; District administrators; staff; community members.

3. School / Community Session

3.1. Recognitions:

3.1.1. National Library Week, April 4-11, 2010

Island Avenue Elementary School

Sandra Bizier, Library Media Specialist

Eileen Regan, Media Paraprofessional

Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School

John Wiggins-Strada, Library Media Specialist

Becky Otwell, Media Paraprofessional

J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School

Larry Halpern, Library Media Specialist

Fran Guidone, Media Paraprofessional

Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School

Walter C. Polson Middle School

Daniel Hand High School

E. C. Scranton Memorial Library

Noel Heimer, Library Media Specialist

Barbara Gulick, Media Paraprofessional

Dawn Fiorelli, Library Media Specialist

Mary Ann Kunst, Media Paraprofessional

George Petrakopoulos, Library Media Specialist

Debbie Gilbert, Media Paraprofessional

Dawn Tiscia, Media Paraprofessional

Sandra Long, Director

Chris Angeli, Teen Librarian

Jane Ash, Children's Librarian

Ms. Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment announced that April 11-17, 2010 is National Library Week, and stated that she was honored to recognize staff from the Madison Public Schools and E.C. Scranton Memorial Libraries. She complimented all Library staff on the wonderful work they do for the students in Madison and their families. Ms. Rutlin also commented on the excellent collaborative relationship between the District staff and the staff from the Scranton Library, and stated that this partnership is a great asset to the community. Ms. Rutlin then introduced the Library Staff in attendance and thanked them for the excellent work they do.

3.2. Public Participation

None at this time.

4. Board of Education Student Representatives Report

Ms. Balakrishnan reported on the following:

- A workshop is scheduled for the following day, April 7th, for freshmen and sophomores on internet safety.
- The Honors Breakfast is scheduled for this Friday, April 9th.
- The Spring Musical is in the final stages of preparation.

Mr. Chapman reported on the following:

- There was a recent "Team Up" event for spring sports. Mr. Filippone gave an inspirational speech about the importance of leadership.
- Spring sports are underway.

5. Superintendent's Report

5.1. Report on Out of State Travel

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

5.2. 2010-2011 Board of Education Budget

5.2.1. Public Hearing – April 26, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Walter C. Polson Middle School Auditorium

Mr. Klein reminded everyone of the upcoming Public Hearing on the 2010-2011 Budget.

Mr. Klein next made an announcement regarding an item he had learned of earlier in the day. Forbes Magazine recently worked with 'greatschools.org' to rank communities with good real estate prices and excellent public schools. Mr. Klein announced that Madison was ranked number 5 in the nation for communities with median home prices in the \$400,000 to \$599,000 range. Mr. Klein commented that this was excellent news and consistent with what was discussed during the budget process. He further stated that it is a testament to the Boards of Education, both past and present, as well as the students and families of the district, and in particular, the staff. There were five level median home price categories identified in the article, and New Canaan, CT ranked number 3 in the category

of median home prices of \$800,000 or more. Madison and New Canaan were the only Connecticut districts on the list.

5.3. Technology Demonstration (*Technology and Library Media Staff*)

The meeting moved to the Technology Classroom adjacent to the Library Media Center for the demonstration. Mr. Arthur Sickle, Director of Administrative Services thanked the Board for the opportunity to showcase some of the technology that is used in district classrooms. He introduced the presenters - Mr. Michael Kiefer, Instructional Technology Specialist, and Mr. Dave Buller, Daniel Hand High School Mathematics Teacher. Mr. Sickle thanked Mr. Buller for stepping in on short notice, explaining that Ms. Dawn Fiorelli, Library Media Specialist at Walter C. Polson Middle School had prepared a presentation but was ill and not able to attend.

Mr. Kiefer began with a demonstration on the use of response cards. He distributed response cards to each Board member and guests First Selectman Fillmore McPherson and Board of Finance member James Matteson, and led them through an interactive exercise as an example of what might take place in a typical classroom. Mr. Kiefer explained that students are very enthusiastic about using the response cards and they are an excellent tool for teachers to assess learning. He commented that while some students may be too shy to raise their hand or fearful of giving a wrong answer, the response cards allow all students to participate and answer questions anonymously, which gives the teacher a clearer picture of how the entire class is learning.

Mr. Kiefer next demonstrated some of the ways that Smart Board technology is used, showing specific examples of how they can be used in Math, English and History classes. He explained again, that students react very positively to the technology in that they are engaged and physically involved. He then introduced Mr. Buller, who uses a Smart Board in his daily teaching.

Mr. Buller explained that he teaches Grades 9-12 and the Smart Board is fundamental to how he teaches. He commented that he cannot imagine going back to teaching without it and remarked that the Smart Board is an efficient, effective way for him to deliver his lesson plans. He showed examples of some of the ways he uses it and how it integrates with other technologies, and explained that he can bring anything from any Windows source over to the Smart Board. He stressed again how much the students respond to the technology and explained that the interactive nature makes for very engaging discussions and sharing of ideas in classes. He showed how he is able to save work from lessons to use for other classes, stating that sometimes during the course of a lesson, discussion will lead to an explanation of a formula or principle different from what he had originally planned. Because he is able to capture and save work that has been done on the Smart Board, it can be used to help teach another section of the same class.

Discussed ensued. Ms. Fitzgerald commented that she has used a Smart Board for several years in her teaching at Southern, and finds them to be extremely valuable and helpful in reaching students with different learning styles. Atty. Klaskin commented that he believes Smart Boards can help teachers be more effective and consistent in their teaching. Ms. Meier remarked that she could see the value in using Smart Boards in that the learning environment becomes a community conversation. Mr. Clorite asked how many Smart Boards were in the District; Mr. Sickle replied that there are two at Brown Middle School, three at Polson Middle School and about a dozen at Daniel Hand High School. Discussion continued regarding the cost and the 'wish lists' of the District buildings. Mr. Frank Henderson, Walter C. Polson Middle School Principal, commented that it would be unrealistic to try to obtain Smart Boards for all classrooms; not only from a financial standpoint, but also due to the great deal of commitment necessary on the part of the teachers. He stated that at Polson, the commitment to Smart Boards would be done by Department. Mr. Buller commented that using the Smart Board does take a great deal of commitment and not all teachers are interested in using them at this point. Questions were raised and discussion ensued about the necessary training. Mr. Matteson asked if there was a way to measure the effectiveness and results with students. Mr. Buller and Mr. Kiefer explained that though it is nearly impossible to measure the results in dollars and cents, it engages students, reaches students with different learning styles and 'speaks' to the students in that their worlds are based around technology. Mr. Klein commented that a simple but important point goes back to the District's responsibility to its students, and this technology ties in with 21st Century Learning and helps prepare them for the future.

Ms. Coffey asked about security issues for students using the technology. Mr. Kiefer explained that student use is carefully monitored and stated that some teachers have created student blogs. Students each have a log in and can post anonymously, but all entries are approved by the teacher for content. Mr. Klein commented that he is thrilled

that in a sense, we are offering lessons on "blogging etiquette" to our students, which is very important in these times.

In conclusion, members of the Board thanked Mr. Sickle, Mr. Kiefer and Mr. Buller for their very interesting and informative presentation.

Mr. Clorite departed the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

6. Board Member Comments

None at this time.

7. Reports from Board Committees / Liaisons

7.1. Planning Committee

Ms. Frey stated that the Committee continues to discuss traffic safety issues at the Daniel Hand High School / Polson Middle School campus. They are working with Mr. Mike Ott, Director of Public Works and Town Engineer.

Ms. Frey next reported that Mr. Sickle continues to work on a school security / safety initiative, with a two year plan funded by the LEA. They are looking into the installation of cameras at building entrances and in parking lots. An RFP went out and 29 vendors responded and did a walk through with Mr. Sickle on April 5th.

Finally, Ms. Frey reported that The Town Wide Facilities Optimization Study is complete and has been unanimously approved by the Joint Facilities Review Committee. She stated that a press briefing about the completed study is scheduled for the following day, April 7th, and a presentation by the consultant is scheduled at the next Board of Education meeting on April 20th and subsequent discussions will follow. She stated that copies of the full report will be available at Town Campus.

7.2. Personnel Committee

Mr. Dean reported that the last negotiation meeting was held on March 23rd, and the next is scheduled for the following evening, April 7th.

Mr. Dean also commented that MEA negotiations will get underway soon.

7.3. Policy Committee

No report.

7.4. Finance Committee

No report.

7.5. LEARN Liaison

No report.

8. Audience Response to Information Presented

None at this time.

9. Consent Agenda

9.1. Bills Payable: \$2,783.80 (08-09); \$945,154.65 (09-10)

9.2. Line Transfers: \$22,153.03

9.3. Budget Expenditure Report as of March 30, 2010

MOTION: by Fitzgerald, seconded by Wood to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin, Meier, Wood

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

10. Action Item: Minutes of the March 16, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Frey to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin, Meier, Wood

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

11. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

12. New Business

No new business was discussed.

13. Future Agenda Items

13.1. Technology Update – Infinite Campus and Finals site

14. Meetings of Importance.

Ms. Coffey pointed out the list of meetings on the Board agenda.

15. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Meier to adjourn the meeting Fitzgerald at 8:52 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin, Meier, Ruggiero, Wood

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Submitted for approval at the 04/20/10 Board of Education Meeting

dmd