

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 18, 2010 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. Daniel Hand High School Interact Club;
International Service Award for 2009-2010, Songs
for Uganda Concert

III.A.2. Samuel Thorpe, Grade 5, Dr. Robert H.
Brown Middle School; State Winner in the National
Society of the Daughters of the American
Revolution American History Essay Contest for
2009-2010

III.A.3. Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School Grade 5
Students; Presenters of the Civil War Google Maps
Project at the CT Educators Association Tech Expo
at the Legislative Office Building: Emma Boey,
Erin Soboleski, Samuel Soroko, Kevin Zhao;
Teachers/Project Advisors: Peter Bizier and
Travis LaPointe

III.B. 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. Update: 2010-2011 Enrollment

Speaker (s): David J.
Klein

V.B. Race to the Top Application II

Speaker (s): David
Klein and Anita
Rutlin

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.C.1. Discussion: Madison Public Schools Code
of Conduct for 2010-2011

VII.C.2. Technical Revision: Policy #6080.23, Home
Schooling

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 - 9.3) (Ref. Bylaw #9540.2
and #9540.8)**

IX.A. Bills Payable: \$343,092.02

IX.B. Line Transfers: \$136,261.19

IX.C. Textbook Adoption (Ref. Policy #6100.10)

IX.C.1. SSA! America's Past; Dr. Robert H. Brown
Middle School Grade 5 Social Studies; Teacher's
Curriculum Institute Publisher c 2010

X. **Action Item: Minutes of the May 4, 2010 Board
of Education Meeting (Reference Bylaw #9450.9)**

XI. **Action Item: Madison Public Schools Code of
Conduct for 2010-2011 (Reference Bylaw #9540.8)**

XII. **Action Item: Connecticut's Race to the Top
Grant Application II (Reference Bylaw #9540.8)**

XIII. **Action Item: Technical Revision to Policy
#6080.23, Home Schooling (Reference Bylaw
#9620)**

XIV. **Old Business**

XV. **New Business**

XV.A. Textbook Adoption Preview (May 18 - June
1, 2010) (Ref. Policy #6100.10)

XV.A.1. PHYSICS - Principles and Problems; Daniel
Hand High School Physics; Glencoe / McGraw-Hill
Publishers c 2009

XVI. **Future Agenda Items**

XVI.A. Technology Update - Infinite Campus and
Finalsite - June 15, 2010

XVII. **Meetings of Importance**

Speaker(s): Becky
Coffey

XVII.A. May 26, 2010: Planning Committee Meeting;
7:30 a.m., Central Office Room B

XVII.B. June 1, 2010: Finance Committee Meeting;
5:30 p.m., DHHS PE Classroom, Room 416

XVII.C. June 1, 2010: Board of Education Meeting
/ Recognition of Retirees; 6:00 p.m., DHHS Dining
and Assembly Hall

XVIII. **Discussion: Building Capacity
Calculations Related to the Joint Facilities
Review Committee Study**

Speaker(s): Jim
Barrett, Drummey
Rosane Anderson, Inc.

XIX. **Audience Response to Information Presented**

XX. **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
May 4, 2010
Town Campus

Meeting Minutes

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairperson Coffey at 7:12 p.m.

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

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

2. Executive Session

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Fitzgerald to enter Executive Session at 7:12 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Personnel matters involving confidential issues were discussed.

Legal issues were discussed.

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

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

The public session of the Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chairperson Coffey at 7:38 p.m. Ms. Coffey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Ms. Coffey requested a moment of silence to honor Mr. Peter Pardo, who passed away the evening before. Ms. Coffey remarked that Mr. Pardo was a former Selectman and Board of Finance member in Madison and worked for many, many years for the community. Mr. Dean commented that Mr. Pardo was a true gentleman.

3. School / Community Session

3.1. Recognitions

3.1.1. Darius Mostaghimi, Grade 8, Walter C. Polson Middle School
Winner in the 22nd Annual Connecticut Geography Bee

Ms. Rutlin introduced Walter C. Polson Middle School Social Studies Teacher Kate Robertson, who accompanied Darius to the competition. Ms. Robertson explained that Darius came in 3rd in the competition last year, and she was not surprised when he made it to the final three, and then the final two this year. Ms. Robertson conveyed the excitement when it came down to the final question and Darius won the competition. Darius will travel Washington, D.C. on May 25-26 to compete in the National Competition. Darius was presented with a Certificate of Recognition signed by Mr. Klein and Ms. Coffey.

- 3.1.2. Samuel Thorpe, Grade 5, Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School
State Winner in the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution
American History Essay Contest for 2009-2010

Mr. Klein stated that this recognition has been rescheduled for the May 18th Board of Education meeting, as the family was not able to attend tonight.

- 3.1.3. National Teacher Appreciation Day (May 4, 2010)

Mr. Klein announced that today is National Teacher Appreciation Day, and he took a moment to publicly commend and thank all Madison Public Schools teachers for the wonderful and noble work they do each day on behalf of the students and families in the District.

- 3.1.4. National School Nurse Day (May 12, 2010)

J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School

Joann Boulden, RN

Patricia Drake, Health Paraprofessional

Island Avenue Elementary School

Lisa Equi, RN

Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School

Stephanie Bulyk, RN

Town Campus Learning Center

Millie Gentile, RN

Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School

Valerie Albert, RN

Shirley Rinaldi, Health Paraprofessional

Walter C. Polson Middle School

Karen Owen, RN

Sheila Judge, Health Paraprofessional

Daniel Hand High School

Donna Konarski, RN

Karin Thelin, Health Paraprofessional

Mr. Klein next announced that May 12, 2010 is National School Nurse Day, and introduced Ms. Cindy Twiss, Director of Special Education and Student Services to speak about the District nursing staff. Ms. Twiss introduced the staff present: Joann Boulden; Stephanie Bulyk; Lisa Equi; Donna Konarski; Karen Owen; and Karin Thelin. She commended all of the School Nurses and Health Paraprofessionals for the wonderful care they provide for not only students, but staff as well. Ms. Twiss commented that they are truly a dedicated group of professionals and she is amazed by what they do each time she sees one of them in action.

- 3.1.5. Dr. Martin Sklaire, Madison Public Schools Medical Advisor

Finally, Mr. Klein recognized Dr. Martin Sklaire, who has served as the District Medical Advisor for the past 37 years. Mr. Klein commented that it has been a pleasure to work with Dr. Sklaire and he has been a great asset to the District. While Dr. Sklaire will no longer serve as the Medical Advisor, he is not completely retiring from medicine and will continue to work with medical students in their residencies. Dr. Sklaire remarked that it has been his pleasure to serve as the Medical Advisor and work in conjunction with the School Nurses, all of whom he holds in the highest regard.

3.2. Public Participation

None at this time.

4. Board of Education Student Representatives Report

Mr. Chapman was not present. Ms. Balakrishnan reported on the following:

- The Spring Musical took place this past weekend and was a huge success.

- The junior prom is this coming weekend. There will be assemblies on Thursday and Friday prior to the prom. Many students are purchasing their prom boutonnieres and corsages from Pinchback Farms, with all proceeds going to Autism.
- AP Testing is currently underway.
- The Art Show and Band Concert are scheduled for next Wednesday, May 12th.
- The Uganda Club is currently selling beads.

5. Superintendent's Report

5.1. Discussion: Optional Healthy Snacks Program (Arthur Sickle)

Mr. Klein introduced Mr. Arthur Sickle, Director of Administrative Services, and Mr. Jason Wallace, Director of Food Services for Chartwells to tell the Board about this program.

Mr. Sickle reminded the Board that the District is required annually to consider participation in the State of Connecticut's Healthy Foods Program as it pertains to snacks available in school cafeterias. Mr. Sickle explained that by participating, the district would receive 10 cents per meal sold, but would have to agree not to offer certain food items. In doing so, however, the District stands to lose about \$70,000 in revenue from ala carte items currently offered on our menus. Mr. Sickle stated that Madison has always followed very stringent guidelines with regard to factors such as portion size, trans fats and sugar content - even before these were mandated by the state. Participation in the program would impose severe restrictions not only on what is offered in school cafeterias, but on food offered at any type of school event, including bake sales, fund raisers, sporting events, etc.

Discussion ensued. Atty. Klaskin stated that he would be interested in seeing a list of restricted items should Madison at some point decide to participate in the program. Ms. Coffey reminded him that this program is not only about 'healthy foods' and in addition to the restrictions on menu offerings and portion sizes, participation would also greatly limit the available distributors the District could utilize, which would drive up costs. She also commented that as far as state reimbursements go, there are no guarantees, and that she does not believe it would be a good financial position for the District to be in.

Discussion continued and all Board members agreed that our Food Services team is doing an excellent job providing varied, healthful choices to our students. Mr. Sickle complimented Mr. Wallace and said he is doing an excellent job in the kitchens and has tried many different things on the school lunch menus.

In closing, Mr. Sickle thanked the Board for their time and stated that he hoped they would support his recommendation that Madison once again opt out of the program for the 2010-2011 school year when they voted on the Motion presented on the agenda.

5.2. Overview: K-12 Summer Reading List 2010 – *Make a Splash - Read!* (Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment)

Ms. Rutlin announced that at each Board member's place was a copy of the 2010 Summer Reading List. She remarked that this was the "best list" and that Madison Public Schools and the Scranton Library have received many awards for summer reading lists over the past few years. Ms. Rutlin also stated that at their April conference, the Connecticut Library Association needed an exemplar for 2010 reading lists, and Madison's 2009 Summer Reading list was lauded as one that should be replicated.

Ms. Rutlin stated that work begins in October on the reading list and is the result of collaboration between the District Library Media Specialists and Paraprofessionals and Librarians from the Scranton Library. It includes recommendations from students and faculty. An annotated list was created with the help of the Library Paraprofessionals, and Ms. Rutlin stated that there is something on the list for everyone.

The 2010 Summer Reading List will be posted on the District website this week and teachers will receive it electronically so they can begin their classroom orientations. Paper copies will be available at Scranton Library, RJ Julia and in school libraries.

Ms. Wood commented that she has looked at many reading lists in her previous line of work, and many are outdated and include only older titles. She stated that the library staff in the District and Scranton Library should be commended, as the list they compile always contains brand new titles and a great collection of current material.

5.3. Discussion: Race to the Top Application II (David Klein, Anita Rutlin)

Mr. Klein reminded the Board that the Race to the Top (RTTT) initiative was discussed back in January, and at that time, Madison chose not to participate and sign the Memorandum of Understanding because of the lack of detailed information. He also reminded the Board that in Round 1, Madison would have received \$43,000 over the course of four years for participating.

Mr. Klein stated that at each Board members place was information from the State of Connecticut Board of Education (on file), the most recent dated today, which outlined requirements that will come with the reauthorization of the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) and the Round 2 application process and timeline for Race to the Top Initiative. Mr. Klein reported that there is now a greater incentive, and Madison would receive \$183,000 over four years; this grant award would help fund some of the work that will be required under the reauthorized ESEA.

Discussion ensued and Mr. Klein stated that he was not asking the Board to make any decisions tonight before they have a chance to study the information. He stated that the requirements are outlined in the information distributed and Madison would focus on goals 1-3. He further stated that many of the mandates of the ESEA reauthorization and the Connecticut plan for RTTT are work we are already doing (such as the TEAM program for teacher mentors). This money will not go toward anything he sees as frivolous.

Mr. Klein stated that the deadline for the District to sign the Memorandum of Understanding is May 19th, and the state application must be submitted by June 1st to the U.S. Department of Education. The grant evaluation process would then take place, and Madison would probably know by August if the district is a recipient of the grant money. If we do not participate or Connecticut is not awarded the funds, we will need to plan locally, as these requirements will essentially become unfunded mandates.

Mr. Klein asked the Board to carefully review the information provided and send any questions to him directly so that they can be addressed prior to the May 18th Board of Education meeting. There will be an Action Item on the agenda for that meeting to vote on whether to participate in Race to the Top Initiative.

6. Board Member Comments

6.1. Discussion: Change Location and Start Time for June 1, 2010 Board of Education Finance Committee Meeting and Board of Education Public Session

Ms. Coffey explained that the proposed change of location and start time is to accommodate the Retiree Recognition and Reception that evening, and stated that there was an Action Item on the agenda to approve the change. Mr. Klein confirmed that there will not be an Executive Session that night.

Ms. Fitzgerald stated that she thought it would be extremely helpful for members of the Board to tour Island Avenue and Academy as it continues its discussion of elementary facilities. Ms. Coffey agreed that this would be beneficial for the Board to do due diligence prior to making a decision regarding Academy. Mr. Klein stated that he would work with Island Avenue Principal Kathy Nutley and Director of Facilities William McMinn to schedule times for the Board to tour these buildings prior to the May 18th meeting. Mr. Jim Barrett from DRA will also attend that meeting to continue the discussion and answer questions raised after his presentation to the Board on April 20th.

Atty. Klaskin commented that he had attended "Seussical" at Daniel Hand High School this past weekend and it was an excellent production. He stated that the number of students who participate is amazing, and that it is a testament to the fact that the District should continue to put money into cultural arts programs.

7. Reports from Board Committees / Liaisons

7.1. Planning Committee

In Ms. Frey's absence, Ms. Coffey reported that the Committee had met on April 30th. They are putting together a packet for each Board member on elementary space utilization and these will be distributed prior to the May 18th meeting.

Ms. Coffey also reported that she, Ms. Frey and Mr. Klein met earlier in the day with Mr. Barrett of DRA to discuss capacity issues. There will be a follow up presentation on this topic at the May 18th Board of Education Meeting. Administrators from the elementary schools and TCLC will participate in this discussion in an effort to help to reconcile capacity issues, and they will also talk about how their buildings are being used.

7.2. Personnel Committee

Mr. Dean reported that the Committee has reached an agreement with MAESS (Madison Association of Educational Support Services) and they have agreed to a one year extension of the current contract. Everything is frozen; there will be no wage increase and benefits have been frozen as well. Mr. Dean expressed gratitude to the members of MAESS for working with the District during these difficult financial times.

7.3. Policy Committee

Atty. Klaskin stated that the final version of the 2011-2012 calendar is included in the Board packet and there is an Action Item to vote on it later on the agenda.

He reported that the next Policy Committee meeting will be on May 18th and a topic of discussion will be the reissue of the Code of Conduct. Mr. Klein commented that the Board has done a great deal of work on the Code of Conduct over the past couple of years and it is an excellent document that has served the district well and has not been challenged. He stated that the Code of Conduct requires no significant changes, as it is working very well; students see that it is used and consequences are not based on preferential treatment.

Atty. Klaskin also stated that there will be two policies on the agenda for technical revisions.

7.4. Finance Committee

Mr. Clorite reported that the Committee met earlier in the evening and everything is in good order. The April 26th Public Hearing went extremely well and there was very little concern over the Board of Education's budget. Mr. Clorite reminded everyone that the referendum is coming up on May 18th.

7.5. LEARN Liaison

No report.

8. Audience Response to Information Presented

None at this time.

9. Consent Agenda

9.1. Bills Payable: \$963,964.5 (09-10)

9.2. Line Transfers: \$28,607.02

9.3. Budget Expenditure Report as of April 29, 2010

9.4. Request for removal of used books/equipment (*Reference Policy #3260*)

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

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Fitzgerald, Klaskin, Meier, Ruggiero, Wood
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

10. Action Item: Minutes of the April 20, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Wood to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.

Ms. Meier pointed out a typographical error in the spelling of "Seussical" on page two of the minutes.

MOTION: by Meier, seconded by Clorite, to approve the minutes as amended.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Fitzgerald, Klaskin, Meier, Ruggiero, Wood
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

11. Action Item: Approval of 2011-2012 School Year Calendar (*Reference Policy #6030*)

MOTION: by the Policy Committee to approve the 2011-2012 School Year Calendar.

Mr. Clorite raised the issue of reinstating Columbus Day as a school holiday, and pointed out that according to research done at Central Office, most districts in the area observe Columbus Day as well as Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, and many also observe Veterans Day. Mr. Klein spoke about Veterans Day, and stated that the Veterans in town have responded very positively with regard to the Veterans Day events held in each of the schools.

Discussion ensued and turned to the fact that Election Day is now a day off for students and a Professional Development Day for staff because Brown Middle School is used as a polling place and it creates too much commotion when students are in school. The possibility of reinstating Columbus Day as a holiday for students in place of Election Day was discussed. Mr. Klein stated that while it is not the decision of the Board of Education or Superintendent, perhaps alternate polling locations can be pursued in order that students could attend school on Election Day. Ms. Coffey stated that the Board could contact the Selectman to discuss other options for voting locations for District 2. Discussion continued, and Ms. Coffey stated while she was hesitant to table the motion on the 2011-2012 calendar, it could always be revised at a later date. Ms. Coffey also reminded the Board that Madison has 183 days of school, while some districts only have 180.

Ms. Coffey called the question with regard to the approval of the 2011-2012 School Year Calendar.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Fitzgerald, Klaskin, Wood
NAYS: Clorite, Meier, Ruggiero
MOTION CARRIED: 5-3

12. Action Item: State of Connecticut's Healthy Snacks Certification Program

MOTION: by Fitzgerald, seconded by Meier to decline to participate in the State of Connecticut's Healthy Snacks Certification Program for the 2010-2011 School Year.

Mr. Sickle stated that the actual name of the program is the State of Connecticut Healthy Foods Certification Program.

Atty. Klaskin stated that while he planned to support the motion tonight, he would like to see some data for future reference. He asked if Chartwells could explore how they might deviate from the current plan in mainly funding the program through the sale of ala carte items. Ms. Coffey stated that the Board has received detailed information from Chartwells in the past, and she is very confident that they are doing all they can to provide healthy food choices in our schools. Mr. Sickle stated that he would work with Mr. Wallace and Mr. Klein to provide more information to the Board.

MOTION: as amended by Fitzgerald, seconded by Wood, to decline to participate in the State of Connecticut's Healthy Food Certification Program for the 2010-2012 School Year.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

13. Action Item: Agreement between the Madison Public Schools and MAESS (Madison Association of Educational Support Services) July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011 (*Reference Bylaw #9540.8*)

MOTION: by the Personnel Committee to ratify the agreement between the Madison Public Schools and MAESS (Madison Association of Educational Support Services) for the period July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Ms. Coffey offered her thanks to the members of MAESS for their work with the Personnel Committee.

Mr. Dean, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, once again expressed his appreciation to MAESS for their cooperation.

14. Action Item: June 1, 2010 Board of Education Finance Committee Meeting and Public Session

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Ruggiero to revise the start time and location of the June 1, 2010 Board of Education Finance Committee Meeting and Board of Education Public Session. The Finance Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. in Room 416 at DHHS and the Board of Education Public Session will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the DHHS Dining and Assembly Hall.

15. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

16. New Business

- 16.1. Textbook Adoption Preview (May 4 – May 18, 2010) (*Reference Policy #6100.10*)

SSA! America's Past

Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School Grade 5 Social Studies

Teacher's Curriculum Institute Publisher c 2010

Ms. Rutlin stated that this text book and the accompanying materials will be in her office should any members of the Board wish to review it. She explained that it was required as the curriculum was shifted to meet new standards, and all middle school Social Studies Teachers were involved.

17. Future Agenda Items

- 17.1. Technology Update – Infinite Campus and Finals site, on June 15th.

Atty. Klaskin requested a progress report at a future meeting on the Town Campus Learning Center Preschool Program since the District took over from ACES.

18. Meetings of Importance.

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

19. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Fitzgerald to adjourn the meeting Fitzgerald at 9:34 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Submitted for approval at the 05/18/10 Board of Education Meeting
dmd