

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, July 20, 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. Public Participation

IV. Information Share

IV.A. Presentation: The Strong Center Project **Speaker (s)**: Larry Ciotti; Duo Dickinson; Board of Directors, Strong Center Project

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 / National Standards **Speaker (s)**: 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.A.1. Discussion: Elementary Facilities / Future of Academy School Building

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. Policies for Final Reading / Approval

VII.C.2. Policy #5080, Student Absences

VII.C.3. Policy #5090.9, Electronic Communication Devices

VII.C.4. Policy #6080.20, School-Wide Pre-Referral Approaches and Interventions (Scientific Research-Based Interventions or SRBI)

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

IX.A. Bills Payable: \$473.40 (08-09);
\$214,937.68 (09-10); \$610,826.24 (10-11)

IX.B. Line Transfers: \$197,878.76

IX.C. Donation: Granite sign for Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School, valued at \$1,100, from the Brown School PTO

IX.D. Donation: Three patio tables for Walter C. Polson Middle School, valued at \$1,959, from the Polson School PTO

IX.E. Donation: \$1,176.10 to Daniel Hand High School from the Stop & Shop A+ Bonus Bucks Program

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

IX.F.1. Myers' Psychology for AP; Danile Hand High School Advanced Placement Psychology; Worth Publishers c 2011

IX.F.2. Algebra Readiness; Daniel Hand High School Integrated Algebra and Geometry Grade 9; McDougla Littell c 2008

X. **Action Item: Minutes of the June 22, 2010 Board of Education Meeting**

XI. **Action Item: Policy #5080, Student Absences**

XII. **Action Item: Policy #5090.9, Electronic Communication Devices**

XIII. **Action Item: Policy #6080.20, School-Wide Pre-Referral Approaches and Interventions (Scientific Research-Based Interventions or SRBI)**

XIV. **Old Business**

XV. **New Business**

XVI. **Future Agenda Items**

XVII. **Meetings of Importance**

Speaker (s) :
Chairperson Coffey

XVII.A. July 27, 2010: Budget Referendum - Town Budget

XVII.B. August 4, 2010: Planning Committee Meeting; 8:00 a.m., Central Office Room B

XVII.C. August 24, 2010: Board of Education Meeting; 7:30 p.m., Town Campus Hammonasset Room

XVIII. **Adjournment**

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Central Office Room B
July 20, 2010
7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

Executive Session Agenda

1. Executive Session (7:00 p.m.)

1.A. Personnel Issues

- **Status of Open Positions**

1.B. Legal Issues

Adjournment (7:30 p.m.)

Board of Education Meeting
June 22, 2010
Town Campus

Meeting Minutes

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairperson Coffey at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Becky Coffey; Jean Fitzgerald; Debra Frey; 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 Klaskin, seconded by Fitzgerald to enter Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Personnel matters involving confidential issues were discussed.

Legal issues were discussed.

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Frey to adjourn Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

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: Becky Coffey; 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.

3. School / Community Session

3.1. Recognitions

3.1.1. Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Student Leadership Awards

Daniel Hand High School

Anna Balakrishnan

Brian J. Coer

Walter C. Polson Middle School

Rachel Anderson

Michael O'Sullivan

Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School

Coco Charles

Matthew Henry

Mr. Klein welcomed the students and their parents and thanked them for coming to the meeting, especially since school has already ended. Ms. Balakrishnan was not able to attend the meeting. Mr. Klein introduced the rest of the students and congratulated them on being chosen for this impressive award. He commended the students for the manner in which they conduct themselves and the leadership qualities they display each day. Each student was presented with a Certificate of Recognition signed by Mr. Klein and Ms. Coffey.

3.2. Public Participation

None at this time.

4. Superintendent's Report

4.1. Update: 2010-2011 Enrollment

Mr. Klein reported that actual enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year is currently at 3,553; ten students less than the ADS projection of 3,563. Mr. Klein commented that the summer has just begun, and enrollments will continue over the next several weeks. He further stated that he is confident that we will meet, and probably exceed, the ADS projection.

4.2. Technology Update – Infinite Campus and Finalsite

- *Technology Department Staff*

Mr. Klein next introduced Mr. Arthur Sickle, Director of Administrative Services who, along with members of his staff, was in attendance to give an overview of Finalsite and Infinite Campus. Mr. Sickle introduced his staff present to help with the demonstration; Mrs. Rita Boland, Webmaster and Application Support Specialist; Mr. Michael Kiefer, Instructional Technology Specialist and Mr. Stephen Fuest, Assistant Manager of Technology.

Mr. Sickle talked first about Finalsite, which he stated will allow for a District web presence bigger than the website alone, and likened it to a 'web community'. Mr. Sickle commented that both Finalsite and Infinite Campus will allow for improved communication throughout the District.

Mrs. Boland and Mr. Sickle led the Board through an overview of the District's new website, and explained that each school will each have its own page and each teacher will have a web presence as well. Mrs. Boland pointed out features of the site such as the calendar, staff directory, and links to items of interest such as the summer reading list and the athletics page. Mrs. Boland also showed examples of what a teacher web page might look like at the different grade levels and how relevant information and websites will be linked directly from those pages.

Mr. Sickle explained that several workshops have already taken place to orchestrate a 'train the trainer' approach. He stated that the new web site will go live in late July / early August and the expectation is that all teachers will have a basic web presence by October. He stressed that training will be ongoing throughout the coming school year and staff will be encouraged to go forward and use more features of the program as they become comfortable with it. Discussion ensued regarding training in general and the question was raised as to whether there would be training made available to parents. Mr. Sickle explained that he and his staff are working to create tutorials for not only parents, but students and staff as well. He also commented that he does not think that parents will have a problem learning how to navigate the site, and Mr. Klein stated that if training is needed, perhaps 'open hours' sessions could be scheduled where parents would be able to come in for help. Mr. Sickle commented that Finalsite is an excellent product and should meet the District's needs for many years to come.

Mr. Sickle and Mr. Fuest next demonstrated the Parent Portal on the Infinite Campus site and highlighted some of the features that could be made available to parents. One piece discussed in particular was the grade book, and Mr. Kiefer assisted with the explanation of that aspect of the program. Mr. Sickle and Mr. Klein stressed that a very thoughtful approach will be taken in deciding what information will be included with the rollout of the parent portal. It is much easier to add features than to start out with too much information and then try to backpedal and take away something that isn't working. Mr. Sickle explained that this program will be available to students in grades 5-12 without limitations, whereas the Black Board program was only available to a certain number of users.

Mr. Klein commended Mr. Sickle and his staff for all the work they have put into implementing these new programs. Mr. Sickle complimented his staff and stated that they have done exceptional work to get these programs up and running. He commented that while Infinite Campus has been used since September 2009 as the student information system, staff has

had the full year to become acclimated with it in that regard before the rollout of the parent portal. He remarked again that training has gone very well thus far and the response from the teachers has been very positive. Mr. Sickle further stated that the District is in a very good place with these projects and thanked Mr. Klein and the rest of the administrative team for their support.

5. Board Member Comments

Ms. Coffey commented on the June 14th Budget Referendum, and stated that while she was very happy that the Board of Education's budget had passed, she and the rest of the Board were disappointed that the Town budget did not. She stated that the Board of Finance met the previous evening, and it was explained that without a budget in place, the Town cannot disburse money from shared funds for capital projects and Planned and Cycled Maintenance projects that were scheduled for this summer. She explained that some of the stalled projects are the replacement of some siding on Brown Middle School and the upgrading of water piping between Brown and Ryerson School. Ms. Coffey explained that once the Town has an approved budget in place, the Board of Education will determine if there is adequate time to complete these projects this summer. If there is not enough time, the plan will be to complete the projects next summer with 2010-2011 funds. Mr. Klein stressed that the delays in these projects will in no way negatively impact the opening of school and providing students with an excellent education for the 2010-2011 year. He classified these project delays as a "nuisance" and stated that students and staff will return to clean, safe buildings in the fall.

Ms. Coffey asked that all Board members stay connected to the budget discussions and make every effort to attend the public hearings and contribute their views. She stated that while it has not yet been confirmed, there is a tentative referendum date in July. Ms. Coffey stressed the importance of everyone getting out to vote and letting their voices be heard.

6. Reports from Board Committees / Liaisons

6.1 Planning Committee

6.1.1. Discussion: Elementary Facilities / Future of Academy School Building

Ms. Frey was not present. In her place, Ms. Fitzgerald reiterated that all LOCAP projects are on hold for now. She also stated that the Board would hold off on their decision regarding the Academy School building while the Town is conducting an extensive title search.

6.2. Personnel Committee

Mr. Dean was not present. Ms. Coffey stated that negotiations with the MEA (Madison Education Association) will begin soon.

6.3. Policy Committee

6.3.1. Policies for Second Reading

- Policy #5080, Student Absences
- Policy #5090.9, Electronic Communication Devices
- Policy #TBD, School-Wide Pre-Referral Approaches and Interventions (Scientific Research-Based Interventions or SRBI)

Atty. Klaskin reported that the Committee had a very productive meeting earlier in the evening. He stated that the Committee discussed the above policies which are on tonight's agenda for second reading. Minor changes were made by the Committee as follows:

- Policy #5080: Line 52 – the word 'or' is repeated and needs to be deleted; Line 71, #2) - change the word 'defining' to 'determining'. Atty. Klaskin also pointed out changes made to the Policy since the first reading, and stated that these changes were incorporated into the copy at each Board member's place.
- Policy #5090.9: Line 34 – change 'A person' to 'A staff member'. Mr. Klein stated that this policy is reflective of the District's daily practices.

No changes were made to Draft Policy #TBD, and Mr. Klein reiterated that this is a formal policy for practices already in place in Madison.

Atty. Klaskin stated that these policies will be moved for approval at the next Board meeting.

6.4. Finance Committee

There was no report. Ms. Coffey reminded the Board that they have authorized the Finance Committee to approve line transfers to reconcile the 2009-2010 budget at their meeting on Tuesday, June 29th.

6.5. LEARN Liaison

No report.

7. Audience Response to Information Presented

Mrs. Beth Hines of 78 Fawn Brook Circle stated that her family had recently relocated to Madison from Alabama, and she has two children who will attend the Madison Public Schools in the fall. She explained that she was a high school Science Teacher in Alabama and very familiar with how Boards of Education operate. Mrs. Hines stated that she was very pleased with how the Board conducted their meeting and she was happy to hear about what is going on in the District. She stated that the quality of the schools in Madison was a deciding factor in her family's decision to move here. Members of the Board thanked Mrs. Hines for attending the meeting and welcomed her to the community.

8. Consent Agenda

8.1. Bills Payable: \$2,134.45 (08-09); \$830,613.38 (09-10)

8.2. Line Transfers: \$340,333.13

8.3. Donation: \$1,660.54 to J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School from the Jeffrey School PTO (Stop & Shop A+ Bonus Bucks Program)

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

8.5. Textbook Adoption (*Reference Policy #6100.10*)

Math Connects: Concepts, Skills and Problem Solving Course 2
Walter Polson Upper Middle School Seventh Grade Mathematics
Glencoe/McGraw-Hill c 2009

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

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Atty. Klaskin commented on the generous donation from the Jeffrey School PTO.

9. Action Item: Minutes of the June 1, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Coffey, Fitzgerald, Klaskin, Meier, Ruggiero

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Wood

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

10. Action Item: Contract Renewal for the Superintendent of Schools and the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

MOTION: by Meier, seconded by Wood to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Education to renew the contracts with the Superintendent of Schools and the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment consistent with the direction provided by the Board of Education.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

11. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

12. New Business

- 12.1 Textbook Adoption Preview (June 22 – July 20, 2010) (*Reference Policy #6100.10*)

Myers' Psychology for AP

Daniel Hand High School Advanced Placement Psychology
Worth Publishers c 2011

Algebra Readiness

Daniel Hand high School Integrated Algebra and Geometry Grade 9
McDougal Littell c 2008

Ms. Rutlin stated that these books will be available for preview in her office over the next few weeks.

13. Future Agenda Items

None at this time.

14. Meetings of Importance.

Ms. Coffey pointed out the meetings listed on the agenda.

15. Adjournment

MOTION: by Ruggiero, seconded by Wood to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0