

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, August 24, 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. Superintendent's Report

Speaker (s): David J. Klein

IV.A. Update: 2010-2011 Enrollment

Speaker (s): David J. Klein

IV.B. Overview: 2010-2011 "Back to School" Activities / Information

Speaker (s): David J. Klein

V. Board Members' Comments

VI. Board Committees / Liaison Updates

VI.A. Planning Committee

Speaker (s): Members: Debra Frey, Chair; Bill Clorite, Jean Fitzgerald

VI.B. Personnel Committee

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

VI.C. Policy Committee

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

VI.D. Finance Committee

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

VI.E. LEARN Liaison

Speaker (s): Liaison: Robert Ruggiero

VII. Audience Response to Information Presented

VIII. Consent Agenda (8.1-8.5) (Ref. Bylaw #9540.2 and 9540.8)

VIII.A. Bills Payable: \$493,296.75 (09-10); \$211,031.91 (09-10; 150 Accounts); \$859,061.33 (10-11)

VIII.B. Line Transfers: \$46,867.78; \$151,888.09 (Salary Reconciliation)

VIII.C. Donation: Podium with Amplifier for Walter C. Polson Middle School, valued at \$1,500 from the Polson School PTO

VIII.D. Donation: \$1,000 from the Madison Youth Basketball Association to benefit the Daniel Hand High School Boys and Girls Basketball program

VIII.E. Textbook Adoption (Ref. Policy #6100.10)

VIII.E.1. The Connecticut Adventure; Elementary Fourth Grade Social Studies; Gibbs Smith c 2008

IX. Action Item: Minutes of the July 20, 2010 Board of Education Meeting

X. Old Business

XI. New Business

XII. Future Agenda Items

XIII. Meetings of Importance

Speaker(s) :

Chairperson Coffey

XIII.A. August 27, 2010: Convocation / Welcome Back; 8:00 a.m., Daniel Hand High School

XIII.B. August 31, 2010: First Day of School for Students

XIII.C. September 7, 2010: Finance Committee Meeting; 6:00 p.m., Central Office Room B

XIII.D. September 7, 2010: Board of Education Meeting; 7:30 p.m., Town Campus Hammonasset Room

XIII.E. September 8, 2010: Planning Committee Meeting; 7:30 a.m., Central Office Room B

XIV. Adjournment

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Central Office Room B
August 24, 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.)

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
July 20, 2010
Town Campus

Meeting Minutes

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairperson Coffey at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Bill Clorite; 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 Frey, seconded by Ruggiero to enter Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Personnel matters involving confidential issues were discussed.

Legal issues were discussed.

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Clorite to adjourn Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Fitzgerald, Frey, 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 7:36 p.m. Ms. Coffey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Bill Clorite; 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; District administrators; staff; community members.

Ms. Coffey asked for a motion to open the agenda to add a textbook adoption preview per a request by Ms. Rutlin.

MOTION: by Frey, seconded by Wood to open the agenda.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Frey to add a textbook adoption preview as Agenda Item 15.1.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

3. School / Community Session

3.1. Public Participation

None at this time.

4. Information Share:

4.1. Presentation: The Strong Center Project

(Larry Ciotti; Duo Dickinson; Board of Directors, Strong Center Project)

Ms. Coffey welcomed Mr. Larry Ciotti and Mr. Duo Dickinson to the meeting. Mr. Ciotti began by thanking the Board for allowing them to give what he called an 'awareness presentation'. He explained that they will be making the same presentation to many various groups in town. Mr. Ciotti stated that as many students in Madison will be the beneficiaries of this project, he wanted to give the the Board of Education an opportunity to learn more about it.

Mr. Ciotti gave an overview of the history of Strong Field and the proposed project. He explained that when he was asked to start a football program in Madison in 1970, Harold Strong came forward and offered to fund the building of the Strong Field facilities at the Surf Club. Mr. Ciotti commented that a great many people have enjoyed the activities that take place on the field over the past 40 years. However, the field has begun to show signs of decay because of overuse. Mr. Ciotti explained that the field is now used for not only football, but also girls and boys soccer as well as girls and boys lacrosse. He stated that it is very difficult to grow / maintain grass on the field because of its proximity to Long Island Sound and the salt water. There is also inadequate seating, and the bleachers are not handicap accessible.

The proposed Strong Center project entails a complete overhaul of the facility. The football and softball fields would be resurfaced with artificial turf; the seating capacity would be doubled and made compliant / handicap accessible; there would be two field houses – one each for boys and girls. Mr. Ciotti also noted that there would be a grand entrance plaza and that a Hall of Fame of Madison athletes would be incorporated into each of the field houses. The facility would also be used as a venue for cultural events – plays, concerts, theatrical performances, etc. Mr. Ciotti stated that this would be a great asset to the entire community, benefiting not only athletics but also the arts community. Mr. Ciotti stated that the project is being funded by private donations and they have also applied for several grants.

Mr. Ciotti explained the roles of the members of the Board of Directors, and remarked that they all share a passion for this project and have already devoted countless pro bono hours. Mr. Ciotti also explained the levels of gifting and the naming rights that tie in with each level.

Mr. Dickinson next talked about the absence of a large scale outdoor performing arts facility between New Haven and New London, and stated that the ability to utilize the new Strong Center for cultural events makes it even more valuable to the community. He also remarked that the facility would be an environmental showpiece in that the artificial turf will require no fertilizer or pesticides and never have an adverse affect on the existing infrastructure. He explained that the turf they are looking at has a base of ground walnut hulls rather than tires. The rubber bases have raised some health concerns, though no health risks have been proven. Mr. Dickinson also remarked that the field houses could be used as dressing rooms for actors or musicians and actors and that there will be concession amenities in place to allow this facility to be a unique cultural center for all of Connecticut.

Mr. Dickinson commented that the downturn in the economy has actually been somewhat of a benefit to this project. The original cost of the project was estimated to be around \$3 million, but has been revised to about \$2.5 million. In addition to private donations, there are also companies making "in kind" donations – materials and/or services at reduced fees or no fees. He also commented that as they are not starting from scratch and will use the existing lights and structure of the bleachers, the project will cost less than it would if there was nothing to build on. Mr. Dickinson and Mr. Ciotti estimated the timeframe to complete the project is 3-5 years.

Mr. Ciotti and Mr. Dickinson concluded by emphasizing that all donations go directly to the project and all work is subject to approval by Town agencies. After completion, the Center will become property of the Town and it will be managed by the Beach and Recreation Department.

Ms. Frey thanked Mr. Ciotti and Mr. Dickinson for their presentation and stated that she believes the Center will be a win-win for Madison.

Ms. Coffey echoed Ms. Frey's comments and stated that this is a very exciting project which will serve many segments of the community.

5. Superintendent's Report

5.1. Update: 2010-2011 Enrollment

Mr. Klein reported that enrollment currently stands at 3,572, which is 4 students more than the ADS projection of 3,568. He further broke it down by building as follows:

	ADS Projection	Actual Enrollment
TCLC	39	39
Jeffrey School	498	481
<i>Kindergarten</i>	<i>(130)</i>	<i>(149)</i>
Ryerson School	278	272
Island Avenue School	295	297
Brown School	584	578
Polson School	601	613
Daniel Hand	1,273	1,292
TOTAL	3,572	3,568

Mr. Klein commented that the greatest disparity is in kindergarten, as expected, and also that the enrollment for Grade 11 is up 16 from the ADS projection. He stated that he will report to the Board again at their August meeting, and will notify them in the meantime if there are any significant changes to report in enrollment.

5.2. Race to the Top / National Standards

Ms. Rutlin introduced a Power Point presentation (on file) to demonstrate where Madison is today compared to where the district will need to be with regard to the National Standards which must be implemented for the class of 2018. Ms. Rutlin explained that Connecticut is involved with three components under the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act):

- I. Common Standards and Assessments
- II. Data Systems to Support Instruction
- III. Great Teachers and Leaders

Other districts will work toward improving lowest achieving schools.

Ms. Rutlin reminded that Board that should Connecticut be successful in receiving Race to the Top funds, Madison will receive \$183,892 over four years, which will help greatly to support the work we are already doing with regard to these three components.

Ms. Rutlin stated that Connecticut was among the first states to adopt the Common Core State Standards, which are internationally benchmarked so students will be ready for life in a global society. Mr. Klein stated that there are two end goals – college and work place preparedness.

The new standards are in effect beginning with the graduating class of 2018. Ms. Rutlin stated that these are the students entering Grade 5 in August, and Madison is exceptionally well positioned to meet these standards, a full eight years before these students will receive their diplomas.

Ms. Rutlin discussed each of the three components in some detail and discussion ensued. With regard to the Common Core State Standards, in some areas Madison is already very close to meeting the standards and is poised to close any gaps that

exist. Ms. Rutlin and Mr. Klein stated that Madison is clearly focused on the standards for 2018 and the district is well on its way by virtue of what is required at Daniel Hand High School.

With regard to Data Systems to Support Instruction, again, Madison is in very good shape. All required data is available and we will continue to improve on the diagnostic evaluations.

Finally, in relation to the Great Teachers and Leaders component, Ms. Rutlin outlined the new TEAM program, which is replacing BEST and pairs new teachers with experienced teacher mentors.

Ms. Rutlin and Mr. Klein both stressed that Madison is in a very good position to meet these standards. Ms. Rutlin also complimented Madison staff for taking the time to offer input on the surveys conducted by the state prior to releasing these new standards.

Ms. Coffey and members of the Board thanked Ms. Rutlin for her thorough and informative presentation.

6. Board Member Comments

None at this time.

7. Reports from Board Committees / Liaisons

7.1. Planning Committee

Ms. Frey reported that the Committee met on July 7th and provided the following update:

Transportation and traffic safety – the state has approved signage indicating a school zone on Green Hill Road. Work continues toward a plan to provide better signage on Route 79 near the Ryerson / Brown driveway.

There was a discussion about potential benefits of combining the Daniel Hand / Polson bus runs. It was determined that there is no appreciable financial benefit. Ms. Frey also mentioned that this was attempted a few years ago, and resulted in a significant increase in disciplinary issues.

Summer projects that fall under Planned and Cycled Maintenance are progressing as scheduled; all LOCAP projects are on hold pending approval of the Town budget.

The installation of security cameras to monitor school entrances and parking lots at Daniel Hand and Polson will be completed over the next two weeks. Two of the cameras had to be relocated to inside the school buildings. They are pointed directly at the doors to monitor people entering and exiting the buildings.

Ms. Frey stated that there has been some confusion in the community as to how many vehicles are owned by the District. She stated for the record that Madison Public Schools maintains a total of six vehicles, five of which are stored on campus. One vehicle is used by an employee who is on call 24 hours a day, and while the employee takes the vehicle home at night, it is not driven for personal use.

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

Ms. Frey stated that she, Ms. Coffey and Mr. Klein had just received a copy of the legal opinion regarding the status and title of the Academy School building. Once they have reviewed the information, it will be disseminated and reported to the Planning Committee and the full Board.

7.2. Personnel Committee

No report.

7.3. Policy Committee

Atty. Klaskin noted the final policies on the agenda for action later in the meeting.

7.3.1. Policies on for Final Reading / Approval

- Policy #5080, Student Absences
- Policy #5090.9, Electronic Communication Devices
- Policy #6080.23, School-Wide Pre-Referral Approaches and Interventions (Scientific Research-Based Interventions or SRBI)

7.4. Finance Committee

No report. Mr. Clorite and Ms. Coffey noted the upcoming Town budget referendum on July 27th.

7.5. LEARN Liaison

No report.

8. Audience Response to Information Presented

None at this time.

9. Consent Agenda

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

9.2. Line Transfers: \$197,878.76

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

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

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

9.6. Textbook Adoption (*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

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

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Atty. Klaskin commented on the generous donations to Brown Middle School, Polson Middle School and Daniel Hand High School.

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

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Ruggiero to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Coffey, Fitzgerald, Klaskin, Meier, Ruggiero
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: Clorite, Frey
MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

11. Action Item: Policy #5080, Student Absences

MOTION: by the Policy Committee to approve the revisions to
Policy #5080, Student Absences

Atty. Klaskin noted that the changes made were to the definition of excused absences, and the Policy was also modified to reflect the trimester model used in Madison.

AYES: Coffey, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin, Meier, Ruggiero, Wood
NAYS: None
ABSTENTION: Clorite
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

12. Action Item: Policy #5090.9, Electronic Communication Devices

MOTION: by the Policy Committee to approve the revisions to
Policy #5090.9, Electronic Communication Devices

Atty. Klaskin noted that the name of the Policy was changed recently and these latest revisions were made to reflect the actions taken by District with regard to the misuse of electronic devices.

AYES: Coffey, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin, Meier, Ruggiero, Wood
NAYS: None
ABSTENTION: Clorite
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

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

MOTION: by the Policy Committee to approve Policy #6080.20,
School-Wide Pre-Referral Approaches and Interventions (Scientific
Research-Based Interventions or SRBI)

Atty. Klaskin noted that this is a new policy to codify the teaching model that Madison has been using for some time.

AYES: Coffey, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin, Meier, Ruggiero, Wood
NAYS: None
ABSTENTION: Clorite
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

14. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

15. New Business

15.1 Textbook Adoption Preview (July 20 – August 3, 2010) (*Reference Policy #6100.10*)

The Connecticut Adventure
Elementary Fourth Grade Social Studies
Gibbs Smith c 2008

Ms. Rutlin stated that this book will be available for preview in her office over the next two weeks.

16. Future Agenda Items

None at this time.

17. Meetings of Importance.

Ms. Coffey pointed out the meetings listed on the agenda, in particular the July 27th Town Budget Referendum.

18. Adjournment

MOTION: by Clorite, seconded by Wood to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Submitted for approval at the 08/24/10 Board of Education Meeting
dmd