

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 5, 2013 7:30 PM

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

I. Call to Order / Attendance	Speaker (s) : Debra Frey, Chair
II. School / Community Session	Speaker (s) : Debra Frey, Chair
II.A. Public Participation	Speaker (s) : Debra Frey, Chair
III. Enter Executive Session	
III.A. Personnel Matter	
IV. Adjourn Executive Session	
V. Superintendent's Report	Speaker (s) : Thomas R. Scarice
V.A. Presentation: Teacher Evaluation Plan	Speaker (s) : Thomas R. Scarice
VI. Board Members' Comments	
VII. Reports from Board Committees / Liaison	
VII.A. Planning Committee	Speaker (s) : Members: Jean Fitzgerald, Chair; Bill Clorite; Pam Meier
VII.B. Personnel Committee	Speaker (s) : Members: John Dean, Chair; Cindy Wood, Vice Chair; Robert Ruggiero
VII.C. Policy Committee	Speaker (s) : Members: Seth Klaskin, Chair; Ryan Suerth; Cindy Wood
VII.D. Finance Committee	Speaker (s) : Members: Bill Clorite, Chair; Jean Fitzgerald; Cindy Wood
VII.E. Ad-Hoc Community Relations Committee	Speaker (s) : Members: Ryan Suerth, Chair; Pam Meier; Cindy Wood
VII.F. LEARN Liaison	Speaker (s) : Liaison: Robert Ruggiero
VIII. Audience Response to Information Presented	
IX. Consent Agenda	
IX.A. Bills Payable: \$8,692.35 - 2011-2012 Budget and \$749,991.79 - 2012-2013 Budget	
IX.B. Line Transfers: \$161,075.55	
IX.C. Budget Expenditure Report as of January 30, 2013	

IX.D. Donation: \$1,085.20 to J. Milton Jeffrey
Elementary School for student resources for
extended learning from the J. Milton Jeffrey
School PTO (Boxtops for Education Program)

X. **Minutes of the January 22, 2013 Board of
Education Meeting**

XI. **Personnel Matter**

XII. **Old Business**

XIII. **New Business**

XIV. **Future Agenda Items**

XV. **Meetings / Dates of Importance**

XVI. **Adjournment**

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting
January 22, 2013
Town Campus Hammonasset Room**

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order / Attendance

The public meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Debra Frey at 7:34 p.m. Chairman Frey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Bill Clorite; John Dean; Jean Fitzgerald; Debra Frey; Pamela Meier; Robert Ruggiero; Ryan Suerth; Cindy Wood.

Also Present: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools, Anita L. Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, District Administrators; Community Members.

2. School / Community Session

2.1. Recognition:

**Daniel Hand High School Football Team Class L State Champions and
Walter Camp Foundation Kelly Award**

Athletic Director Craig Semple asked Coach Steve Filippone to introduce the captains of the Daniel Hand High School Football Team and to give a brief history of the program. Captains Alex Tuccero, Danny Padelli, Peter Gerson and Matt Walsh were credited with leading their team to the Class L State Championship and to receiving the Walter Camp Foundation Kelly Award. Coach Filippone stated that these four men have exhibited outstanding leadership throughout the year with their participation in community service and their overall leadership by example. He emphasized the difficulty of the schedule and the demands on the athletes. He expressed gratitude for the Madison community support of all athletic programs and for the great people of Madison who support all the extracurricular activities in which students participate.

Chairman Frey presented the Certificate of Recognition to the Captains and their teammates.

2.2. Public Participation

3. Student Representatives' Report

Jane Butler and John Oviaan, DHHS Students

Student Representative Jane Butler reported that it has been relatively quiet at the high school. The doors have been secured for safety at the lower level of the building, requiring students to use the Bridge when changing buildings. This in turn has made some students late for class since the Bridge and stair wells are more crowded.

- DHHS Cabaret featuring VIBE show choir performed on Sunday, January 13, 2013.
- Practices continue for the spring musical, Grease, to be presented on May 1st, May 2nd and May 3rd.
- The school has a poster design competition for the spring musical.
- The School NEON Dance is coming up.
- College acceptances are being received. All Ivy League Schools have sent acceptances to students.
- Scholarship season will start soon.

Ms. Wood asked Ms. Butler how late students are arriving to class. Ms. Butler responded as late as five minutes. Superintendent Scarice referred to the crowded halls as an "incredible traffic jam" and asked if the student body had recommendations to improve the conditions. Ms. Butler responded, "Dig a Junior tunnel." Laughter filled the room.

Superintendent Scarice asked Ms. Butler about her sense of students having access to WiFi and using mobile devices to enhance the educational experience. Ms. Butler was pleased to report that the devices have been accepted

and are utilized in the classroom as learning tools. She gave an example of how text messaging was useful in her Debate class.

4. Superintendent's Report

4.1. Update: Education Summit

Superintendent Scarice reported that two follow-up sessions to the Madison Education Summit held in November 2012 are scheduled for Tuesday, February 26 and Thursday, April 11, 2013. These sessions will include the same group of 45 individuals. A series of activities are planned. All work produced from those sessions will go back to the Board of Education and used to prepare a final draft of the District's vision as well as to develop goals and objectives for a long-term plan.

Mr. Scarice invited the community to engage in a "Book Club" by reading Allison Zmuda's book, Breaking Free From Myths About Teaching and Learning: Innovation as an Engine for Student Success. He feels by engaging members of the Education Summit as well as members of the community in reading the book, there will be a better understanding of the District's next level of work.

4.2. Update: Teacher Evaluation Plan

Superintendent Scarice informed the Board of Education that at the February 5th Board of Education Meeting, there would be a comprehensive review of what is required by the Connecticut Legislature relative to the mandated teacher and principal evaluation policies. The plan will be piloted by eleven administrators and eleven teachers between January and March. The evaluation of the pilot will be reported in April.

Mr. Klaskin asked if there has been any response from state officials. Mr. Scarice stated he is aware that the first draft of the Teacher Evaluation Plan may not meet all the requirements, but he wants to share the Advisory Council's thinking.

4.3. Report: Out of State Field Trip Request

The DHHS Marching Band and twenty-two adult chaperones will travel to Florida's Disney World on March 22, 2013.

5. Board Members' Comments

Atty. Klaskin congratulated the DHHS football team for their achievements. Since this is the second championship year in a row, he feels the football program has been a very rewarding, entertaining and valuable experience for the athletes as well as the community. He thanked them for being "clean athletes," i.e., respectful and responsible law-abiding students.

6. Reports from Board Committees / Liaison

6.1. Planning Committee

Members: Jean Fitzgerald, Chair
Bill Clorite
Pam Meier

Ms. Fitzgerald, Chair, reported that the committee meets again on January 31, 2013.

6.2. Personnel Committee

Members: John Dean, Chair
Cindy Wood, Vice Chair
Robert Ruggiero

Mr. Dean, Chair, reported that the Personnel Committee will begin their planning for contract negotiations with MAESS, Madison Association of Educational Supportive Services and NAGE, school lunch employees. The next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2013.

6.3. Policy Committee

Members: Seth Klaskin, Chair
Ryan Suerth
Cindy Wood

Atty. Klaskin, Chair, reported that earlier this evening the committee met to discuss and review the Board of Education Bylaws. They continue to review the current Board of Education Committees (Reference Bylaws #9450 and #9460). In addition, they intend to review and develop a plan to secure the safety of students in school. Future meetings are scheduled for March 19, 2013 and April 22, 2013.

Chairman Frey asked when the Policy Committee anticipates the first reading of the Bylaws before the Board of Education. Atty. Klaskin stated that revisions need to be made, and he plans to submit these recommendations after they are complete in a month.

6.4. Finance Committee

Members: Bill Clorite, Chair
Jean Fitzgerald
Cindy Wood

Mr. Clorite, Chair, reported that the Finance Committee met last week to review the proposed budget. The amendments will be handed out to the Board members. He mentioned that there is nothing new; everything has been discussed at the Budget Workshops.

6.5. Ad-Hoc Community Relations Committee

Members: Ryan Suerth, Chair
Pam Meier
Cindy Wood

No report

6.6. LEARN Liaison

Liaison: Robert Ruggiero

No report

7. Audience Response to Information Presented

No comments were offered.

8. Consent Agenda (Reference Bylaw #9540.2 and #9540.8)

8.1. Bills Payable: \$368,621.56 -2012-2013 Budget

8.2. Line Transfers: \$46,690.50

MOTION: by Meier, seconded by Clorite to approve the Consent Agenda
AYES: Clorite, Dean, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin, Meier, Suerth, Ruggiero, Wood
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Chairman Frey requested a Motion to amend the Minutes of the January 8, 2013 Board of Education Meeting.

9. Action Item: Amend Minutes of the January 8, Board of Education Meeting.

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Wood to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2013 Board of Education Meeting.

Corrections were made to Section 3.1, page 2, paragraph six to read: In response to Mr. Suerth's **question regarding...**
Section 3.1, page 2, and paragraph 7 to read: Jeffery School received **\$1,500.00**
Section 3.1, page 3, and paragraph 2 to read: The administrators also requested **consideration for items omitted**

MOTION: by Wood, seconded by Suerth to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2013 Board of Education Meeting as amended.

AYES: Clorite, Dean, Fitzgerald, Frey, Meier, Suerth, Ruggiero, Wood

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Klaskin

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

10. Action Item: Minutes of the January 15, 2013 Board of Education Budget Workshop

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2013 Board of Education Budget Workshop.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Clorite, Ruggiero

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Chairman Frey asked the Board of Education for comments relative to the Administration's recommended budget. She read the following statement:

I fully support the motion to approve the 2013-2014 Administrations' Recommended Budget as amended by the Finance Committee.

For the past three fiscal years, the Madison Board of Education has proposed budgets that have allowed the District to preserve existing programming. While these maintenance budgets recognized the difficult economic climate, they occurred over a period of time when the common core standards were being developed and mandated expectations for learner outcomes were on the rise; even at the earliest grade levels. Since 2010 it has been clearly communicated that flat budgeting could not be sustained long-term without ultimately impacting the integrity and quality of education within the Madison Public Schools. It is my opinion that the District has reached that turning point, in fact, I would argue that Madison is lagging behind in the areas of math and language arts and in meeting the social emotional needs of students at the elementary level. Having said that, I must recognize and commend the staff for their professionalism and the amazing work they have accomplished given the resources they have had to work with. But the next level of work needs to begin and the 2013-2014 BOE budget needs to reflect that work.

The budget that has been proposed by the administration begins to address the needs of the District in a responsible manner while aligning with the vision work that has been completed by the greater community. Budget assumptions have been adhered to, value judgments have been made, efficiencies have been realized and staffing has been reduced commensurate with enrollment.

The requested 1.84% increase to the operational budget is prudent given that it not only provides the necessary funding to begin the next level of work, but also affords the resources to meet contractual obligations for four newly negotiated settlements and absorbs nearly \$133,000 in reduced Federal Special Education grant funding and an anticipated \$400,000 reduction in special education excess cost reimbursement. Let me repeat that, this budget takes into account roughly \$533,000 in eliminated and reduced State and Federal Funding.

Unfortunately, debt service and health insurance account for roughly 48% of the comprehensive budget. If not for those below the line accounts, the bottom line would fall to 2%+/-

In summation, the proposed budget balances district needs with sound fiscal management. By adopting an incremental, multi-year plan, the BOE can continue to employ a responsible approach to meeting additional needs. Again, I will be voting in support of the recommended budget.

Ms. Fitzgerald stated the Board of Education has the responsibility to adopt and propose an appropriate budget to the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance. She continued by saying,

“Three important bylaws that relate directly to our responsibilities can be found in section 9210.1: The Responsibilities of Board Members.

First, ‘work with the Superintendent and the community to develop a vision for the schools;’

Second, ‘establish a structure and create an environment that will help the school system achieve its’ vision;’

And finally, for the purpose of this discussion, ‘work to ensure that the district has the necessary funds and that a balance is maintained between needs and resources in the distribution of available monies.’

With these in mind, we have done an excellent job of creating a district vision with input from all major stakeholders. Our Board-adopted Operating Budget Assumptions focus on creating an environment that will help the district achieve our vision. And it is my firm belief that the proposed, fiscally responsible 1.84% Operational 2013-14 School Budget will insure the necessary funds to do the next level of work that is essential to achieving the district vision.

It is unfortunate that our total comprehensive budget must include Debt Service, unlike other districts where the debt service is carried in the town budget. This, combined with a large unexpected spike in Health Insurance, contributes to 1.67% of our total Comprehensive Budget. Although these are our legal obligations they do not directly contribute to the “instructional vision of the district which aims to prepare all students for the challenges of the 21st Century”.

I believe that this is an appropriate budget that will allow the Madison Public Schools to meet its contractual and legal obligations while supporting the integrity of our district’s vision and responsibilities.”

Mr. Dean stated that he is comfortable with the 1.84% increase in the budget and expressed concern about the bottom line passing the budget approval process.

Mr. Clorite’s echoed Mr. Dean’s comments. The bottom line is higher due to the debt service, higher health claims and lower grants.

Ms. Wood stated that she strongly supports the budget and thanked Superintendent Scarice for the hard work. She discussed that there has been ample opportunity to dissect the numbers, understand the efficiencies and the next level of work. Again, she thanked the Board for the process and for providing a budget she supports.

Ms. Meier reiterated it has been a very thorough and responsible process.

Atty. Klaskin mentioned in this economic climate, choices are questioned and values are scrutinized. Every step has been taken relative to the efficiencies of All Day Kindergarten. The only cost increase will be the transportation component. He is proud to put forward the budget.

Chairman Frey stated that the health insurance claims drive the bottom line. This year includes an 18% increase in claims. If the Town had claims consistent to the last two years, the Board would be looking at a 2% increase in the bottom line including the implementation of Full-Day Kindergarten.

Superintendent Scarice explained that health insurance average increases in the state are between 12-20%. Madison averages 6%, with increases as high as 9% and as low as 0%.

Mr. Suerth mentioned the Board of Education’s responsibility is to provide the best budget possible to push Madison children to the next level and questioned if security is the financial piece missing in the budget.

Mr. Ruggiero stated, “Security is a very important program improvement.”

11. Action Item: 2013 – 2014 Administration’s Recommended Budget

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Fitzgerald to adopt the 2013-2014 Administrations’ Recommended Budget as amended by the Finance Committee.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

12. Old Business

13. New Business

14. Future Agenda Items

Chairman Frey highlighted upcoming meeting dates of importance.

15. Meetings / Dates of Importance:

Meetings / Dates of Importance	Date	Time	Location
Superintendent’s Brown Bag Lunch	January 25, 2013	12:00 Noon	Scranton Memorial Library
Board of Education Budget Presentation to Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance	January 30, 2013	7:30 p.m.	Hammonasset Room
Planning Committee Meeting	January 31, 2013	7:30 a.m.	Conference Room B
Board of Selectmen Review and Action on Town and Board of Education Budget	February 5, 2013	2:00 p.m.	James Madison Room
Personnel Committee Meeting	February 5, 2013	6:30 p.m.	Conference Room B
Board of Education Meeting	February 5, 2013	7:30 p.m.	Hammonasset Room
Budget Public Hearing	February 11, 2013	7:30 p.m.	Polson Middle School
Planning Committee Meeting	February 14, 2013	7:30 a.m.	Conference Room B
Board of Finance Review and Action on Board of Education Budget	February 27, 2013	7:00 p.m.	Hammonasset Room
Finance Committee Meeting	March 5, 2013	6:30 p.m.	Conference Room B
Board of Education Meeting	March 5, 2013	7:30 p.m.	Hammonasset Room

16. Adjournment

MOTION: by Ruggiero, seconded by Dean to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Meetings / Dates of Importance	Date	Time	Location
Budget Public Hearing	February 11, 2013	7:30 PM	Polson Middle School Auditorium
Planning Committee Meeting	February 12 and 14, 2013	7:30 AM	Conference Room B
February Break	February 18 – 22, 2013		
Kindergarten Registration	February 28, 2013	3:00-7:00 PM	Town Campus James Madison Room
Kindergarten Registration	March 1, 2013	9:00 AM-3:00 PM	Town Campus Hammonasset Room