

# Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 2013 5:30 PM

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

<b>I. Call to Order / Attendance</b>	<b>Speaker (s) :</b> Debra Frey, Chair
<b>II. Executive Session</b>	
II.A. Discussion: Candidate for the position of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment	
II.B. Adjourn Executive Session	
<b>III. School / Community Session</b>	<b>Speaker (s) :</b> Debra Frey, Chair
III.A. Recognition	
III.A.1. Joshua Stokes, Daniel Hand High School Senior, Grand Prize Winner C-SPAN's 2013 StudentCam Competition	
III.A.2. Luke Arsenault, Daniel Hand High School Career and Technology Education Teacher, Faculty Advisor, C-SPAN's 2013 StudentCam Competition	
III.B. Public Participation	
<b>IV. Student Representatives' Report</b>	<b>Speaker (s) :</b> Jane Butler and John Ovian
<b>V. Superintendent's Report</b>	<b>Speaker (s) :</b> Thomas R. Scarice
V.A. Report: Out of State Field Trips	
V.B. Update: 2013-2014 Budget	<b>Speaker (s) :</b> Thomas R. Scarice
V.C. Report: 2013-2014 Kindergarten Registration	
<b>VI. Board Members' Comments</b>	
<b>VII. Reports from Board Committees / Liaison</b>	
VII.A. Planning Committee	<b>Speaker (s) :</b> Members: Jean Fitzgerald, Chair; Bill Clorite; Pam Meier
VII.B. Personnel Committee	<b>Speaker (s) :</b> Members: John Dean, Chair; Cindy Wood, Vice Chair; Robert Ruggiero
VII.C. Policy Committee	<b>Speaker (s) :</b> Members: Seth Klaskin, Chair; Ryan Suerth; Cindy Wood
VII.D. Finance Committee	<b>Speaker (s) :</b> 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: \$291,054.05

IX.B. Line Transfers: \$46,883.74

IX.C. Donation: \$7,000 to Walter C. Polson  
Middle School from the Walter C. Polson Middle  
School PTO for school beautification, school  
safety, and Polson Pride activities

IX.D. Donation: 12' X 20' Cape Style Storage  
Building to the Daniel Hand High School Baseball  
Program from Madison Baseball, LLC

X. **Minutes of the March 5, 2013 Board of Education  
Meeting**

XI. **Appointment of the Assistant Superintendent for  
Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment**

XII. **Old Business**

XIII. **New Business**

XIV. **Future Agenda Items**

XV. **Meetings / Dates of Importance**

XVI. **Adjournment**

**Madison Public Schools  
Board of Education Meeting  
March 5, 2013  
7:30 PM  
Town Campus Hammonasset Room**

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**Meeting Minutes**

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**1. Call to Order / Attendance**

The public meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Robert Ruggiero at 7:35 p.m. Chairman Frey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Bill Clorite; Jean Fitzgerald; Seth Klaskin; Pamela Meier; Robert Ruggiero; Ryan Suerth; Cindy Wood.

Also Present: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools

**2. School / Community Session  
No Comment**

**2.1. Recognition:**

**2.1.1 Connecticut Board of Education Member Appreciation Month**

The month of March is Board Appreciation Month. A gift was presented to each of the Board Members.

**2.2. Public Participation**

**3. Student Representatives' Report**

Presenters: Jane Butler and John Ovian, Daniel Hand High School Students

Ms. Butler stated the students are getting ready for upcoming testing. Also, the scholarships for \$18,000 per year one for a female and one for a male student have been mailed .

Mr. Ovian gave updates on all of the sports team's current standings. He also stated that the students don't seem to have any issues with when school gets out. They would be fine with trimming a few days off of April vacation.

He also noted that some students would start working around June 20<sup>th</sup> before school would end.

**4. Executive Session**

MOTION: by Ruggiero, seconded by Meier to enter Executive Session at 7:47p.m. for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

#### **4.1 Personnel Matter**

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Wood adjourn Executive Session at 8:00p.m.  
AYES: Clorite, Fitzgerald, Klaskin, Meier, Ruggiero, Suerth, Wood  
NAYS: None  
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

### **5. Superintendent's Report**

#### **5.1 Education Summit (February 26, 2013)**

Superintendent Scarice stated that in November a process of engaging members of the community began through an "education summit". Community leaders from a variety of roles were invited to attend, including those from the PTO, the Rotary, the public library, and youth sports leagues.

The purpose of the education summit is to inform the thinking and deliberating of the Board of Education in adopting a compelling vision that will drive the work and decision making in our schools.

The essential question driving the work is, "Are we preparing our students for the world they will be entering when they graduate?"

Participants from the education summit shared their experiences and their enthusiasm for the work of the education summit.

#### **5.2 School Safety/Security Update**

Superintendent Scarice stated that the special appropriation of \$45,000 has resulted in successful installation of security systems at front doors of each of the schools. A new protocol has been put in place for entering the schools and the early results are very positive. Police presence in the schools will lessen slightly as the front door security systems have been installed. Police presence will continue with the purpose of continuing to develop relationships between the Madison Police Department and all members of the school community. Superintendent Scarice stated that the administration has taken this opportunity to educate our police officers about our buildings.

Superintendent Scarice reported that detectives from the Madison Police Department have completed an assessment of the school facilities. He reported some of the suggestions made by the MPD. A subcommittee of the district-wide Safety and Security Committee will analyze the suggestions and bring a proposed plan to the BOE Planning Committee in the near future.

#### **5.3 Schools of Distinction**

Superintendent Scarice reported that four schools have been recognized by the CT State Department of Education as "Schools of Distinction". A new formula developed by the State Department of Education identifies schools meeting a certain criteria for achievement on CMT and CAPT for overall performance, performance for particular subgroups, and for overall growth from year to year. Mr. Scarice reported that Brown Middle School and Daniel Hand High School have been recognized as Schools of Distinction for achievement by subgroups. Brown Middle School, Island Avenue School and Polson Middle School have been recognized for overall performance.

#### **5.4 Staffing/VERIP Update**

Superintendent Scarice reported that 27 certified staff members will be retiring as a result of the voluntary early retirement incentive packages (VERIP) offered this year. Postings have already begun for the positions.

In addition, Superintendent Scarice reported that kindergarten registration began last week, and as of March 5<sup>th</sup> 107 students have officially registered for the 2013-2014 school year.

## 6. Board Members' Comments

Ms. Meier reported that she attended a seminar on gun violence during February break. She stated that the seminar focused on school violence and how to prevent it from occurring in the schools. In addition, Ms. Meier reported that the role of mental health in the process of keeping schools safe and improving school climate was emphasized in the seminar.

Atty. Klaskin emphasized the need to address socialization, as well as academics in school. He stated that the district would be well served to focus on raising good citizens, not just students.

## 7. Reports from Board Committees / Liaison

### 7.1. Planning Committee

Members: Jean Fitzgerald, Chair  
Bill Clorite  
Pam Meier

During the Executive Session later in the evening the school safety and security recommendations made by the police department will be discussed and prioritized.

### 7.2. Personnel Committee

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

Ms. Wood reported that the meeting dates were set for upcoming negotiations.

### 7.3. Policy Committee

Members: Seth Klaskin, Chair  
Ryan Suerth  
Cindy Wood

- Discussion: 2012-2013 Calendar

The Policy Committee met prior to the BOE Meeting to discuss the 2012-2013 school calendar.

Superintendent Scarice noted that due to Hurricane Sandy, January 2<sup>nd</sup> was changed from a Professional Development Day to a student day.

It was recommended to eliminate 3 student days from the current school calendar so that students attend 180 days, rather than 183 days. This change would make the last day of classes, an early dismissal, on June 24, 2013. Since 2005 the school year has never gone past June 24<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that a graduation date will be set by the Board at the first Board meeting in April.

Superintendent Scarice reported that an informal survey of teachers was taken at one school and that 18 teachers had nonrefundable trips planned for April vacation.

Ms. Meier asked Superintendent Scarice how other districts are handling the impact of the weather-related cancellations. Superintendent Scarice stated that the other superintendents he has spoken to reported that prior notice of a potential loss of a scheduled vacation was in place at the beginning of the year. One district that he spoke to that removed days from February vacation anticipated that 80-90% of their staff would be reporting to work.

**7.4. Finance Committee**

Members: Bill Clorite, Chair  
Jean Fitzgerald  
Cindy Wood

Mr. Clorite, Chair, reported that the current budget was being watched closely. He mentioned that snow removal and legal accounts are areas of concern. The next meeting for the 2013-2014 budget is the public hearing, scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Clorite also reported that a reduction in the health care projections for the 2013-2014 budget might result in a decrease in the overall budget request.

**7.5. Ad-Hoc Community Relations Committee**

Members: Ryan Suerth, Chair  
Pam Meier  
Cindy Wood

A meeting will be scheduled to take place in the next few weeks.

**7.6. LEARN Liaison**

Liaison: Robert Ruggiero

There was nothing new to report.

**8. Audience Response to Information Presented**

A representative for the high school seniors was concerned about not having a date in place for graduation. They are on hold with signing contracts for Night and Hand until a date is set. Superintendent Scarice stated there will not be a graduation date set until at least April 1<sup>st</sup> per Board of Education policy.

A member of the public asked about safety issues going to school later in the summer. She stated that windows and doors being open could be a potential security/safety hazard.

Jen Aguzzi, Daniel Hand High School teacher and Madison resident, stated that if days were taken away from April vacation, completing the curriculum for the school year would be difficult if student attendance was poor.

**9. Consent Agenda**

**9.1. Bills Payable: \$4,000.00 2011-2012 Budget and \$1,694,623.77 2012-2013 Budget**

**9.2. Line Transfers: \$3,544.81**

**9.3. Budget Expenditure Report as of February 27, 2013**

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Meier to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

**10. Action Item: Minutes of the February 5, 2013 Board of Education Meeting**

MOTION: by Meier, seconded by Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2013 Board of Education meeting as presented.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTION: Klaskin

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Meier to add to the agenda action on an employee request for a leave of absence extension.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

**11. Action Item: Employee Request for Leave of Absence Extension**

MOTION: by Meier, seconded by Fitzgerald to approve an employee request for a leave of absence extension.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Wood to add to the agenda action on adjusting the 2012-2013 School Year Calendar.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

**12. Action Item: 2012-2013 School Year Calendar Adjustment**

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Wood to reduce the number of instructional days from 183 to 180 for the 2012-2013 school year.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

**13. Old Business**

No old business was discussed.

**14. New Business**

No new business was discussed.

**15. Future Agenda Items**

No future agenda items were requested.

**16. Meetings / Dates of Importance**

Meetings / Dates of Importance	Date	Time	Location
Planning Committee Meeting	March 7, 2013	7:30am	Conference Room B
Finance Committee Meeting	March 12, 2013	7:30am	Conference Room B
Policy Committee Meeting	March 19, 2013	6:30 p.m.	Conference Room B
Board of Education Meeting	March 19, 2013	7:30 p.m.	Hammonasset Room

**17. Executive Session**

MOTION: by Ruggiero, seconded by Fitzgerald to enter Executive Session at 9:30p.m. for the purpose of discussing the School Safety / Security Audit.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

**17.1 Discussion: School Safety / Security Audit**

MOTION: by: Ruggiero seconded by Wood to adjourn Executive Session at 10:30 p.m.  
AYES: Clorite, Fitzgerald, Klaskin, Meier, Ruggiero, Suerth, Wood  
NAYS: None  
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

**18. Adjournment**

MOTION: by: Ruggiero seconded by Wood to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 p.m.  
AYES: Clorite, Fitzgerald, Klaskin, Meier, Ruggiero, Suerth, Wood  
NAYS: None  
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Submitted for approval at 3/19/2013 BOE meeting  
L. Feinn

<b>Meetings / Dates of Importance</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Finance Committee Meeting	March 26, 2013	7:30am	Conference Room B
Planning Committee Meeting	March 28, 2013	7:30 a.m.	Conference Room B
Ad Hoc Community Relations Committee Meeting	March 28, 2013	10:00am	Conference Room B
Good Friday Holiday	March 29, 2013		
Board of Education Meeting	April 2, 2013	7:30 p.m.	Hammonasset Room