

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 17, 2009 7:30 PM Eastern

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. Recognition: National School Counseling Week, February 2-6, 2009 (postponed from February 3rd Meeting): Jean Baker; Phyllis Annunziata; Michelle Boss; Christine Coyle; Donald Cramer; Mary Curran; Charlene Doane; Patricia Judson; Cynthia Skarsten
 - III.B. Public Participation
- IV. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report
- V. Superintendent's Report
 - V.A. Discussion: Dissolution of the Joint Task Force on Youth Substance Abuse
 - V.B. Discussion: Carl D. Perkins Innovation Grant
 - V.C. Presentation: Madison Public Schools School Counseling Update
- VI. Board Members' Comments
- VII. Board Committees / Liaison Updates
 - VII.A. Planning Committee
 - VII.B. Personnel Committee
 - VII.C. Policy Committee
 - VII.C.1. Technical Revision 2nd Reading: Policy #5090.3.2., Vandalism
 - VII.C.2. Technical Revision 1st Reading: Policy #5010.4, Suspension / Expulsion / Exclusion from School / School Activities
 - VII.D. Finance Committee
 - VII.E. Community Outreach Committee
 - VII.F. LEARN Liaison
- VIII. Audience Response to Information Presented
- IX. Consent Agenda
 - IX.A. Bills Payable: \$294,517.57 (08-09)
 - IX.B. Line Transfers: \$29,700.37
 - IX.C. Donation: \$5,140 to the J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School for field trips from the Jeffrey PTO
 - IX.D. Donation: \$1,061 to the Island Avenue Elementary School for picnic tables from the Island Avenue PTO
 - IX.E. Safe Schools / Healthy Students Grant Application
- X. Action Item: Minutes March 3, 2009 Meeting
- XI. Action Item: Minutes March 11, 2009 Special Meeting
- XII. Action Item: Non Renewal for the 2009-2010 School Year
- XIII. Action Item: Technical Revision to Policy #5090.3.2, Vandalism

- XIV. Action Item: Technical Revision to Policy #5010.4, Suspension / Expulsion / Exclusion from School / School Activities
- XV. Old Business
- XVI. New Business
- XVII. Future Agenda Items
 - XVII.A. Presentation : Madison Public School Edublogs - April 2009
- XVIII. Meetings of Importance
 - XVIII.A. March 24, 2009; Board of Finance Budget Review and Action; 7:30 p.m., Town Campus Room A
 - XVIII.B. March 25, 2009; Planning / IAS Building Committee; 7:30 a.m., Central Office Room B
 - XVIII.C. March 31,2009; Board of Finance Budget Review and Action; 7:30 p.m., Town Campus Room A
 - XVIII.D. April 3, 2009; Policy Committee Meeting; 4:15 p.m., Central Office Room B
 - XVIII.E. April 7, 2009; Finance Committee Meeting; 5:30 p.m., Central Office Room B
 - XVIII.F. April 7, 2009; Board of Education Meeting; 7:30 p.m., Town Campus Hammonasset Room
- XIX. 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
March 3, 2009
Town Campus

Meeting Minutes

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Bill Clorite; Debra Frey; Robert Hale; Seth Klaskin; Robert Ruggiero

Also present: David J. Klein, Superintendent

2. Executive Session

MOTION: by Clorite seconded by Frey to enter Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues.

AYES: Clorite, Frey, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

Personnel matters involving confidential issues were discussed.

Legal issues were discussed.

MOTION: by Ruggiero seconded by Klaskin to adjourn Executive Session at 7:23 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Frey, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

The public session of the Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 7:36 p.m. Chairman Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Bill Clorite; Debra Frey; Robert Hale; Seth Klaskin; Robert Ruggiero

Also present: David J. Klein, Superintendent.

3. School / Community Session

3.1. Recognitions:

- 3.1.1. Josh Hettrick, Daniel Hand High School Grade 10 Student
2nd Place Award, "Tech & Learning's Portraits of Learning Contest" sponsored by Adobe
(postponed from February 3, 2009 Meeting)

Superintendent Klein announced that Josh Hettrick placed 2nd in this competition with the submission of his digital photograph of the American flag. Mr. Klein introduced Daniel Hand High School Art Teacher Kris Connors and asked him to tell the Board more about this award. Mr. Connors explained that Josh's photo was chosen out of 6,000 entries and that he was extremely that Josh was chosen for this prestigious honor. He further stated that the same photo was recently submitted to the Future Choices Show at Lyme Academy of Art in Old Lyme sponsored by the Shoreline Art Alliance, and Josh won first place in that competition. Mr. Klein stated that copies of the photo were at each Board members place, and they were passed around the room for the audience to see as well. Josh was presented with a Certificate of Recognition signed by Mr. Klein and Chairman Hale.

3.1.2. Connecticut Board of Education Member Appreciation Month

Mr. Klein spoke on behalf of himself and the Administration and thanked the Board of Education for their focused and dedicated service to the Madison Public Schools. He stated that the students of the district were the direct beneficiaries of the Board's commitment and hard work.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m. for a brief reception in honor of the Board of Education.

The meeting reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

3.2. Public Participation

None at this time.

4. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report (Thomas Presti and Anna Balakrishnan)

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

Show Boat – the annual talent show in support of the Daniel Hand High School Interact Club was held on Friday, February 27th. The show was a great success, and most all seats in the auditorium were full to watch the many great performances.

CAPT – sophomores will begin the CAPT tests on Wednesday morning, March 4th. First and last periods are being modified for all other grades to minimize lost time in Period 1.

Disney – on Thursday, March 4th, the entire Daniel Hand Marching Band is meeting in preparation of this year's Disney trip. The band goes every four years to march in a professional parade at Disney World. In order to participate, the band must apply and be accepted to participated based on skill and professionalism.

Exams – Trimester 2 exams will take place beginning next Friday, March 13th and continue on the following Monday and Tuesday, the 16th and 17th.

CDA / Show Choir – the Connecticut Drama Association Preview and Show Choir performance is scheduled for this Friday, March 6th at 7:00 p.m.

5. Superintendent's Report

5.1. Update: 2008-2009 Enrollment

Mr. Klein reported that enrollment is currently at 3,713; the ADS projection was 3,698. ADS has historically been very accurate, within 2% of our actual numbers. Ms. Frey asked about current kindergarten enrollment for next year versus where we were at this time last year. Mr. Klein reported that as of today, kindergarten enrollment is at 126, which is 30-40 students ahead of last year at this time. Mr. Klein stated that the reason for the increased enrollment compared to this time last year is unknown, but could possibly be due to the economic times in that people who would have sent their children to private school for a full day kindergarten program are going to instead enroll them in the half day program offered by the district.

5.2. Discussion: 2009-2010 School Year Calendar

Mr. Klein stated that a revised version of the 2009-2010 school year calendar is included in the Board packet and on the agenda for approval. The calendar was revised to move the Professional Development Day originally scheduled for October 12, 2009 to November 3rd, Election Day. This model worked very well this past year, especially at Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School which is a polling place. Mr. Klein further stated that he has been in touch with both the AMA and the MEA regarding this change and both parties were supportive of the change. He stated that he hoped the Board would approve this revision, and if so, he will communicate directly with parents this week to let them know of the change. He will also notify parents that students will not be penalized for being absent on October 12, 2009 if their families have already made plans for that day.

Mr. Klein also reported on a recent out of state field trip for Daniel Hand High School students. These trips do not required Board approval, but Mr. Klein stated that he will continue to keep the Board informed of any out of state travel.

5.3. Presentation: Tiger Fitness Center Update (Craig Semple)

Mr. Klein next introduced Craig Semple, Director of Athletics to give an update on the Tiger Fitness Center.

Mr. Semple first presented each Board member with a token gift from the Athletics Department in recognition of Board of Education Member Appreciation Month. He next introduced the team he brought with him for the presentation: Mr. Steve Filippone, Daniel Hand High School Head Football Coach; Mr. Dave Mastroianni, one of the Fitness Center Supervisors; and three student athletes who use the Fitness Center regularly: Hunter Brown, Rebecca Church, and Nick Merrullo.

Mr. Semple stated that it has been two years to the day since the Center opened, and preparing the responses to questions posed by members of the Board provided a good opportunity to reflect on the Fitness Center. He stated that it can be easy to forget how much work went into such a great facility, but he was proud to say they have created the welcoming environment which was intended for student athletes.

Mr. Semple reviewed a list of the questions posed by the Board and his responses, which had been distributed previously to the Board in writing. Some of the items covered were the hours of operation; usage; costs associated with operating the Center; programs and equipment; security, safety and insurability; challenges faced and future needs of the Center. The packet also contained sample logs and sample exercise programs used Center.

Mr. Clorite inquired as to how many students use the Fitness Center on a regular basis. Mr. Semple said that it would be difficult to give a firm number, but he could state that 80-90% of the student body participates in athletics in some manner, and all of those students have used the Center at one time or another. Discussion ensued and it was the consensus of Mr. Semple, Mr. Filippone and Mr. Mastroianni that approximately 50 students use the center on a regular basis.

Atty. Klaskin asked if Fitness Center personnel attempt to target the 'at risk' population who may not otherwise use the Fitness Center. Mr. Semple stated that all students are encouraged to use the Center, and its benefits will be addressed at the upcoming Health Fair at Daniel Hand. They have also used the buddy system and paired at risk students with student athletes with positive results. Mr. Filippone stated that in his opinion, all student athletes could be considered 'at risk' but one thing this Center allows coaches to do is to actively participate in the training of their athletes. Being involved in their training allows the coaches to help the athletes reach their goals in the proper manner. He stressed that the face to face interaction is very important, and that all coaches want their athletes to be their best but to achieve that in the appropriate ways.

Mr. Semple next asked the student athletes to give their views on the Fitness Center.

Mr. Brown stated that he looks forward to using the Fitness Center and likes the feeling of having a purpose when he goes. Besides the fact that there is no cost to students to use the Center, he likes the size of the facility and the fact that it's not too crowded. He does go to another facility occasionally where he gets a personalized training plan but he then uses that plan when he works out at the Tiger Fitness Center. He has encouraged other members of the baseball team to use the Center as well. In response to the question, Mr. Brown responded that the only negative about the Fitness Center was that there are no televisions, and it's difficult to run on a treadmill staring at a white wall.

Ms. Church also commented that a sound system would be nice, but she also enjoys using the Center. She stated that she likes being able to go in and work out with her team mates in a non intimidating atmosphere.

Mr. Merrullo stated that he plays football in the fall and baseball in the spring, and enjoys having the Fitness Center available to him during the winter months which are his off season. He also stated that he enjoys working out with his peers and not having to worry about 'keeping up' in a public facility where he might feel pressured to lift more weight or push himself harder than he should.

General discussion regarding the Fitness Center continued. Mr. Clorite asked about the additional equipment needs of the Center and the associated costs. Mr. Semple replied that they could use more dumbbells, core machines, steppers, balance balls and jump ropes at a cost of approximately \$2,000.

Mr. Semple concluded the presentation by stating that he did not believe the Fitness Center required any major modifications, but there were a few small things that could be tweaked to make it even better. He stated that he and his staff would continue to work to improve the Tiger Fitness Center. He then presented a brief DVD, edited by Coach Steve Filippone, which showed the Fitness Center in action.

The Board thanked Mr. Semple and his team for the informative presentation.

6. Board Member Comments

Chairman Hale reported that he was recently invited to be a “Mystery Reader” at J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School. He was appreciative of the invitation and enjoyed reading to the students. He shared with the Board a thank you note he had received from the class he visited.

He next stated that he receives many different publications that other members of the Board might be interested in. He will leave them in Room B at the Central Office if anyone would like to take a look at them. He mentioned that the Town’s Annual Report is now available and urged Board members to review it, as it contains some excellent information.

Finally, Chairman Hale stated that he occasionally receives anonymous letters and discussed the difficulties involved in dealing with the issue(s) raised when a letter is sent anonymously; primarily that there is no way to let the sender of the letter know how the issue has been dealt with or resolved. Chairman Hale stated that if anyone wants to send him a letter confidentially, to mark it as such and he guarantees that the content of the letter will be kept confidential. He will then be able to contact the letter writer to let them know that their concerns have been addressed.

7. Reports from Board Committees / Liaisons

7.1. Planning Committee

Ms. Frey stated that the Committee has not met. They have a meeting scheduled for March 11th and she will have a report for the Board at their March 17th meeting.

7.2. Personnel Committee

No report.

7.3. Policy Committee

7.3.1. Technical Revision Reading: Policy #5090.3.2., Vandalism

Chairman Hale referred to the above mentioned policy which was on the agenda for a Technical Revision Reading, and reminded the Board that a Technical Revision does not require three readings.

7.4. Finance Committee

Ms. Coffey was not present at the meeting. In her absence, Chairman Hale stated that the Board of Education’s 2009-2010 Budget has been approved by the Board of Selectmen and reminded all present about the Public Hearing scheduled for Wednesday, March 4th in the Walter C. Polson Middle School auditorium. At this time the Superintendent will present the Board’s budget and answer any questions raised by members of the audience. Many questions have already been received in the Central Office and the answers to those questions have been provided.

7.5. Community Outreach Committee

The Committee has not met, but Atty. Klaskin stated that a meeting is schedule for March 17th. He reminded the public that any civic organizations that were interested in having the budget presented to their group should contact the Central Office and it will be arranged.

7.6. LEARN Liaison

No report.

8. Audience Response to Information Presented

Kathi Traugh of the Board of Selectmen stated that she was pleased that the Board of Selectmen had voted unanimously to approve the Board of Education's 2009-2010 budget. She stated that she thought the presentation to the Board of Selectmen was very easy to follow and the answers to questions raised were comprehensive. Ms. Traugh thanked the Board of Education for sending a great budget to the Board of Selectmen and stated that it next goes to the Board of Finance and it is her hope that this is a budget that the public will support and pass.

Atty. Klaskin thanked Ms. Traugh for her support of the Board of Education's budget.

9. Consent Agenda

9.1. Bills Payable: \$441.12 (07-08); \$1,396,026.48 (08-09)

9.2. Line Transfers: \$58,340.49

9.3. Budget Expenditure Report as of February 26, 2009

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

AYES: Clorite, Frey, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

10. Action Item: Minutes of February 3, 2009 Board of Education Meeting

MOTION: by Frey, seconded by Ruggiero to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2009 Board of Education meeting.

AYES: Clorite, Frey, Hale, Ruggiero

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Klaskin

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0

11. Action Item: Minutes of the February 10, 2009 Special Meeting

MOTION: by Clorite, seconded by Klaskin to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2009 Board of Education Special meeting.

AYES: Clorite, Frey, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

12. Action Item: Educational Specifications for Asbestos Removal from the boiler at the Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School

MOTION: by Frey, seconded by Clorite to approve the Educational Specifications for Asbestos Removal from the boiler at the Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School

AYES: Clorite, Frey, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

Ms. Frey reminded the Board that they are required to approve the Educational Specifications for projects such as this in order for the district to be able to apply for state reimbursement.

Mr. Clorite asked at this time if he could add an item to the agenda for the Board to accept as complete the asbestos removal project at Island Avenue Elementary School. The Board complied and Chairman Hale stated that it would be added after the remaining Action Item.

13. Action Item: Revised 2009-2010 School Year Calendar (Ref. Policy #6030)

MOTION: by Ruggiero, seconded by Frey to approve the revised 2009-2010 School Year Calendar.

AYES: Clorite, Frey, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

14. Action Item: Accept the asbestos removal project at Island Avenue Elementary School as complete.

MOTION: by Clorite, seconded by Klaskin to accept the Asbestos Removal Project at Island Avenue Elementary School as complete.

AYES: Clorite, Frey, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

15. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

16. New Business

No new business was discussed.

17. Future Agenda Items for March 17, 2009 Board of Education meeting

16.1. Presentation: Madison Public Schools Guidance Program (Jean Baker, School Counselors)

16.2. Presentation: Instructional Technology in the Classroom (Michael Kiefer)

18. Meetings of importance.

Chairman Hale referred to the list of upcoming meetings on the agenda. Mr. Clorite also mentioned the upcoming CABE Area 8 Meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2009 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Town Campus Hammonasset Room.

19. Adjournment

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Ruggiero to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Frey, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

Submitted for approved at the 03/17/09 Board of Education Meeting
dmd

Board of Education Special Meeting
March 11, 2009
Town Campus

Meeting Minutes

1. The special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 7:30 a.m.

Present: Bill Clorite; Becky Coffey; John Dean; Debra Frey; Robert Hale

Also present: Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

2. Appointment of an impartial Hearing Officer to hear expulsions, per CGS 10-233d.

MOTION: by Dean seconded by Frey to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Education to appoint an impartial hearing officer in accordance with CGS 10-233d to hear expulsion cases when a three-member panel of the Board is unable to be present and / or when a stipulated agreement has been recommended.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to amend the Motion as follows:

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Frey to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Education to appoint an impartial hearing officer in accordance with CGS 10-233d to hear expulsion cases when a three-member panel of the Board is unable to be present.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey, Hale, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

3. Adjournment

MOTION: by Frey seconded by Coffey to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 a.m.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey, Hale, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0