

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 6, 2010 7:30 PM Eastern

Walter C. Polson Middle School Auditorium
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
 - III.A.1. National Library Week, April 4-11, 2010; Sandra Bizier; Dawn Fiorelli; Larry Halpern; Noel Heimer; George Petrakopoulos; John Wiggins-Strada; Debbie Gilbert; Fran Guidone; Barbara Gulick; Mary Ann Kunst; Becky Otwell; Eileen Regan; Dawn Tiscia; Sandra Long; Jane Ash; Chris Angeli
 - III.B. Public Participation
- IV. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report
- V. Superintendent's Report
 - V.A. Report on Out of State Travel
 - V.B. 2010-2011 BOE Budget; Public Hearing - April 26, 2010, 7:30 p.m.,
Walter C. Polson Middle School Auditorium
 - V.C. Technology Demonstration
- VI. Board Members' Comments
- VII. Board Committees / Liaison Updates
 - VII.A. Planning Committee
 - VII.B. Personnel Committee
 - VII.C. Policy Committee
 - VII.D. Finance Committee
 - VII.E. LEARN Liaison
- VIII. Audience Response to Information Presented
- IX. Consent Agenda (9.1-9.3) Ref. Bylaw #9540.2 and #9540.8
 - IX.A. Bills Payable: \$2,783.80 (08-09); \$945,154.65 (09-10)
 - IX.B. Line Transfers: \$22,153.03
 - IX.C. Budget Expenditure Report as of March 30, 2010
- X. Action Item: Minutes of the March 16, 2010 Board of Education Meeting
- XI. Old Business
- XII. New Business
- XIII. Future Agenda Items
 - XIII.A. Technology Update - Infinite Campus and Finals site
- XIV. Meetings of Importance
 - XIV.A. April 7, 2010: Planning Committee Meeting; 7:30 a.m., Central Office Room B
 - XIV.B. April 7, 2010: Personnel Committee Meeting; 5:30 p.m.; Central Office Room B

XIV.C. April 20, 2010: Policy Committee Meeting; 6:00 p.m., Central Office
Room B

XIV.D. April 20, 2010: Board of Education Meeting; 7:30 p.m., Town Campus
Hammonasset Room

XIV.E. April 26, 2010: Public Budget Hearing; 7:30 p.m., Walter C. Polson
Middle School Auditorium

XV. Adjournment

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Walter C. Polson Middle School Faculty Lounge
April 6, 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

- **Student Discipline Updates**

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
March 16, 2010
Town Campus

Meeting Minutes

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

Present: Bill Clorite; Becky Coffey; John Dean; Jean Fitzgerald; Debra Frey; Seth Klaskin; Pamela Meier; Robert Ruggiero; Cindy Wood

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

2. Executive Session

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Dean to enter Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Personnel matters involving confidential issues were discussed.

Legal issues were discussed.

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Coffey to adjourn Executive Session at 7:10 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

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: Bill Clorite; Becky Coffey; John Dean; Jean Fitzgerald; Debra Frey; Seth Klaskin; Pamela Meier; Robert Ruggiero; Cindy Wood

Also present: Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; District administrators; staff; community members.

3. School / Community Session

3.1. Recognitions:

Ms. Coffey announced that Superintendent Klein was not able to be at the meeting, and turned the floor over to Assistant Superintendent Anita Rutlin for the Recognitions.

**3.1.1. *Choiwing Yeung, Walter C. Polson Middle School Grade 7 Student
Merit Award Winner in the 22nd Annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest***

Ms. Rutlin stated that it was a special privilege to honor Miss Yeung, a very talented Walter C. Polson Middle School student. She introduced Miss Yeung, along with Polson School Assistant Principal Jill Hale and Polson Art Teacher Christa Radziunas, and asked them to speak about this award. Ms. Radziunas explained that one of her

students' Trimester 1 projects each year are the Peace Posters for the annual contest sponsored by The Lions Club. She announced that Miss Yeung's poster won at both the District level and the State level, and moved on to the International level of the competition where she was one of 23 merit award winners. These winners were chosen from more than 350,000 entries drawn by children ages 11 to 13 from 70 different countries. Ms. Radziunas stated that Miss Yeung is an extremely talented artist, and she has very much enjoyed having her in class. Mrs. Hale remarked that not only is Miss Yeung a talented artist, but she does extremely well academically, and is also involved in music, athletics and dance. She acknowledged Miss Yeung's parents in the audience and commented that they must be extremely proud of her. Miss Yeung was presented with a Certificate of Recognition signed by Mr. Klein and Ms. Coffey.

3.1.2. Professional School Social Workers Month

School Social Workers: ***Ben Schreiber***
 Allan Uzwiak
 Linda Young

Student Assistance Counselors: ***Angela Ahern***
 Scott Cochran
 Erin Corbett
 Christy Modine

Ms. Rutlin next introduced Mrs. Cindy Twiss, Director of Special Education and Student Services and asked her to speak about the District Social Workers and Student Assistance Counselors. Mrs. Twiss introduced the staff present: Elementary School Social Worker Ms. Linda Young; and from Madison Youth Services, Mr. Scott Cochran, Assistant Director of Clinical Services and Ms. Erin Corbett, Student Assistance Counselor at Daniel Hand High School. Mrs. Twiss explained that the Social Workers and Student Assistance Counselors contribute greatly to the District, as they make important connections not only with the students, but with their families as well. Mrs. Twiss commented that the Social Workers and Student Assistance Counselors work with compassion and dedication which significantly enhances the programs and services provided to students. She further commented that the community is very fortunate to have these individuals working for the students and families of the District.

3.2. Public Participation

None at this time.

4. Board of Education Student Representatives Report

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

- The third trimester began today. Students are happy to have finals behind them, and sophomores have completed CAPT testing.
- Spring sports start up next Monday.
- The Show Choir finished 4th in the Connecticut State Competition last weekend. They will be performing this coming weekend at Lincoln Center in New York City.

5. Superintendent's Report

5.1. Board of Finance Action on 2010-2011 Board of Education Budget

Ms. Coffey stated that the Board of Finance had carefully reviewed the approved Board of Education 2010-2011 Budget as presented, and had not called for any reductions at this point. She read the following from an email she had received from Board of Finance Chair Helen Burland:

Although we have not taken formal action, the BOF appears to be supportive of the request by the BOE for fiscal year 2010-11. We met the other night with Lynn Gurnham from MDG Associates, Heather Dobson and Rita Umile to review funding for Health Insurance. There

appears to be an opportunity to reduce the funding request for the Board of Ed by \$29K (Dotty Bavin has the exact amount). I believe that we will be recommending that reduction based on the recommendation from the health insurance consultant and Human Resources.

We will be taking final action on all requests on Thursday. I personally appreciate the business like approach to the process. It facilitated our discussion in a significant way.

5.2. Report on Out of State Travel

Ms. Rutlin reported on an upcoming out state field trip for Daniel Hand High School students.

5.3. Discussion: Durham School Services Contract Addendum (Arthur Sickle)

Mr. Arthur Sickle, Director of Administrative Services, provided the Board with information regarding the negotiation of a contract extension with Durham School Services through June 30, 2015. He distributed a copy of "Addendum Number Two" (on file) which is proposed to become the second Addendum to the Transportation Contract between Durham School Services and the Madison Public Schools dated May 4, 2004. He outlined and discussed in detail the terms of the agreement.

Mr. Sickle explained that there will be no increase in transportation rates for the next two years (2010-11 and 2011-12); the following two years (2012-13 and 2013-14) will see rates increase 2% per year and a rate increase of 2.5% for the 2014-15 school year (0%, 0%, 2%, 2%, 2.5%). Additionally, the rates will be based on a 6.5 hour day including mid-day runs (rather than a 5 hour day with additional charges for mid-day runs). The District also agrees to lift the fleet age restrictions from 9 years average and 10 years maximum to 9 years average and 12 years maximum.

These changes are contingent on modifications to the Lease Agreement between the Town of Madison and Durham School Services for the bus yard property on Nathan's Lane. Durham School Services has agreed to make a lump sum payment of \$320,000 in lieu of monthly rent. Additionally, Durham School Services has agreed to fund the construction / installation of the diesel fuel tank and pumping system, at a cost not to exceed \$50,000.

Mr. Sickle and the Board discussed the vehicle age restriction changes, as well as the Department of Motor Vehicle registration process and required inspections. The newly proposed seat belt legislation was also discussed.

Overall, Mr. Sickle stated that he is very pleased with Durham School Services and they are a quality company to do business with. He also commented that he has received very positive feedback on their services from building Administration. He stated that he is hopeful that the Board will support this contract extension and vote in favor of Action Item #12 on tonight's agenda.

The Board thanked Mr. Sickle for his informative presentation. Ms. Frey commented that as always, Mr. Sickle represented the Madison Public Schools and the Town of Madison in an outstanding manner, and all members of the Board concurred.

6. Board Member Comments

Ms. Coffey reminded the Board to read all CABA Legislative Updates they receive in order to stay informed.

Ms. Coffey next stated that the location of the April 6, 2010 Board of Education meeting will be changed from the Town Campus Hammonasset Room to the Library Media Center at Walter C. Polson Middle School. At this meeting, members of the Technology Department will give a demonstration of how technology is applied as part of the curriculum. Members of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance will be invited as well.

Atty. Klaskin commented on the upcoming M.A.D.E. in Madison presentation to the Boards of Education, Selectmen and Finance. This meeting is being held on March 24th from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Town Campus Hammonasset Room, and he urged all Board of Education members to attend to learn about the results of the youth drug and alcohol survey.

7. Reports from Board Committees / Liaisons

7.1. Planning Committee

Ms. Frey gave a brief report on the last Planning Committee meeting, though she had not been present at the meeting.

The Committee received a status report on the school roofing projects. After review, Mr. McMinn, Director of Facilities, and Mr. Klein will report back to the Committee.

The potential School Resource Officer program is still under consideration.

All questions posed to Top Driver, the company which wants to provide a driver's education program have been answered satisfactorily.

Ms. Frey next asked Mr. Clorite to speak about the proposed installation of solar panels at Walter C. Polson Middle School. Mr. Clorite explained that the Town has earned 20 solar panels by participating in the CCEF (Connecticut Clean Energy Fund) Communities Program. Several locations were considered for these panels and Polson was selected because it has the infrastructure, educational component and visibility required by the Madison Town Energy Committee and the CCEF. The panels will generate approximately \$1,000 of electricity per year and there is no cost to the Board of Education or the Town of Madison for the installation of this system. Mr. Clorite and Ms. Frey both emphasized that Mr. Bill McMinn will closely monitor the project and it would not go forward if he is not satisfied that the roof warranty will not be compromised. Mr. Clorite commented that although this will not result in a huge cost savings, there will be an educational benefit to the students and the community. Ms. Coffey asked for a Motion to add agenda item 12A to move this project forward.

MOTION by Klaskin, seconded by Fitzgerald to add agenda item 12A regarding the installation of solar panels at Walter C. Polson Middle School.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

7.2. Personnel Committee

Mr. Dean reported the Committee met this afternoon with the insurance consultant to gather information to be presented at the MAESS negotiations, which are just underway and the MEA negotiations which will begin this summer.

7.3. Policy Committee

Atty. Klaskin reported that the Committee met earlier in the evening and wrapped up discussion on the modification to the 2010-2011 school year calendar. The 2010-2011 calendar approved by the Board of Education on April 7, 2009 has the first day of school as Monday, August 30th and the last day is Tuesday, June 14th. The proposed revision has school starting on Tuesday, August 31, 2010 and ending on Wednesday, June 15, 2011. The administrators feel that having an abbreviated first week of school is better for students and makes it a bit easier for them to ease back into the routine.

The Committee also discussed the draft 2011-2012 calendar. The only area in question at this point is the April break. Mr. Klein will be meeting with the Middlesex Shoreline Superintendent's Association on Friday, March 19th and hopes to have a better sense after that meeting when other area districts will schedule their April vacations.

General discussion took place regarding the calendar. Mr. Clorite inquired about having Columbus Day as a holiday. Ms. Rutlin explained that in the past it was recognized as a day off for students, with teachers participating in Professional Development that day. However, the Town requested that the Professional Development day be switched to Election Day because Brown Middle School is used as a polling place. Mr. Clorite commented that he

would be interested to find out how many area Districts recognize Columbus Day as a school holiday. Atty. Klaskin then reviewed Board of Education Policy #6030, Annual School Calendar.

Finally, Atty. Klaskin reported that the Committee reviewed policy topics under review by the Administration and two technical revisions that will be brought to the full Board for approval on April 20th.

7.4. Finance Committee

No report.

7.5. LEARN Liaison

Mr. Ruggiero reported that LEARN met on Thursday, March 11th and there were two items on their agenda. First was a discussion on social networking presented by a representative from ACES. Mr. Ruggiero stated that it was a very informative and enlightening presentation. A brief discussion followed regarding social networking sites and Ms. Wood commented that she was pleased to see that this topic will be covered at Polson's upcoming Law Day.

Mr. Ruggiero also reported he learned at the meeting that the ground breaking for the new magnet school in Groton is scheduled for April 7th.

8. Audience Response to Information Presented

None at this time.

9. Consent Agenda

9.1. Bills Payable: \$277.02 (08-09); \$442,369.34 (09-10)

9.2. Line Transfers: \$10,505.14

9.3. Donation: \$1,085 to Walter C. Polson Middle School for Cultural Arts Programs from the Polson School PTO.

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

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Atty. Klaskin pointed out and thanked the Polson School PTO for their generous donation to fund cultural arts programs.

10. Action Item: Minutes of the March 2, 2010 Board of Education Meeting

MOTION: by Wood, seconded by Klaskin to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2010 Board of Education meeting.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

11. Action Item: Revised 2010-2011 School Year Calendar

MOTION: by the Policy Committee to approve the revised 2010-2011 School Year Calendar.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin,
Meier, Ruggiero, Wood
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

12. Action Item: Addendum to the Transportation Agreement between the Madison Public Schools and Durham School Services.

MOTION: by Frey, seconded by Ruggiero to approve Addendum Number Two to the Transportation Agreement between the Madison Public Schools and Durham School Services dated May 4, 2004. Approval is contingent upon Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance approval of the necessary modifications to the 82 Nathan's Lane Lease Agreement.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin,
Meier, Ruggiero, Wood
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

- 12A. Action Item: Installation of Solar Panels on Walter C. Polson Middle School.

MOTION: by Frey, seconded by Clorite to approve in concept the installation of solar panels on Walter C. Polson Middle School as proposed by the Madison Town Energy Committee pending consensus between the Madison Public Schools and the Energy Committee regarding the location of the panels. In addition, this approval is contingent upon continued validity of the existing roof warranty.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin,
Meier, Ruggiero, Wood
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

13. Old Business

Ms. Coffey requested a motion to change the location of the April 6, 2010 Board of Education meeting.

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Frey to change the location of the April 6, 2010 Board of Education Meeting from the Town Campus Hammonasset Room to the Walter C. Polson Middle School Library Media Center.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin,
Meier, Ruggiero, Wood
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Mr. Sickle commented that there is an 8th grade classroom adjacent to the Library Media Center where the technology demonstration will be held.

14. New Business

No new business was discussed.

15. Future Agenda Items

16. Meetings of Importance.

Ms. Coffey pointed out the list of meetings on the Board agenda.

17. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Fitzgerald to
adjourn the meeting Fitzgerald at 8:52 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Submitted for approval at the 04/06/10 Board of Education Meeting
dmd