

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 9, 2010 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. Public Participation
- IV. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report
- V. Superintendent's Report
 - V.A. Grades K-12 Science Curriculum
- 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 Reponse to Information Presented
- IX. Consent Agenda (9.1 - 9.3) Ref. Bylaw #9540.2 and #9540.8
 - IX.A. Bills Payable: \$10,662.90 (09-10); \$720,532.50 (10-11)
 - IX.B. Line Transfers: \$65,130.38
 - IX.C. Budget Expenditure Report as of November 3, 2010
- X. Action Item: Minutes of the October 19, 2010 Board of Education Meeting
- XI. Action Item: Approval of K-12 Science Curriculum
- XII. Old Business
- XIII. New Business
- XIV. Future Agenda Items
 - XIV.A. Presentation: Daniel Hand High School Program of Studies - December 7, 2010
 - XIV.B. Update: Daniel Hand High School PAW Groups (Date: TBD)
 - XIV.C. Update: RtI / SRBI (Date: TBD)
 - XIV.D. Update: Elementary "Literacy How" Initiative (Date: TBD)
- XV. Meetings of Importance
 - XV.A. November 10, 2010: Planning Committee Meeting; 7:30 a.m., Town Campus Hammonasset Room
 - XV.B. November 16, 2010: Policy Committee Meeting; 6:00 p.m., Central Office Room B
 - XV.C. November 16, 2010: Board of Education Meeting; 7:30 p.m., Town Campus Hammonasset Room
 - XV.D. November 19-20, 2010: CABE / CAPSS Convention; Mystic Marriot, Groton, CT
- XVI. Adjournment

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Central Office Room B
October 19, 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.)

Board of Education Meeting
October 19, 2010
Meeting Minutes

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairperson Coffey at 6:40 p.m.

Present: Bill Clorite; Becky Coffey; Jean Fitzgerald; 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 Coffey, seconded by Fitzgerald to enter Executive Session at 6:48 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Personnel matters involving confidential issues were discussed.

Legal matters were discussed.

MOTION: by Clorite, seconded by Ruggiero to adjourn Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

The Public Session of the Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chairperson Coffey at 7:39 p.m. Ms. Coffey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Becky Coffey; Bill Clorite; Jean Fitzgerald; 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.

3. School / Community Session

3.1. Public Participation

None at this time.

4. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report
(Andrew Chapman and Jessica Buller)

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

- Senior College Planning Night took place on October 13th in the Dining and Assembly Hall;
 - The Senior Class of 2011 had their class photo taken for the yearbook;
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- PSAT testing was held at Daniel Hand on Saturday, October 16th;
 - Progress Reports were distributed earlier today;
 - The College Bowl will be held on Sunday, October 24th from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. There will be guest speakers and attendees will learn about the college selection and application process.
 - Daniel Hand has been nominated for the football Game of the Week this Friday, which is a home game. If the game is chosen, a reporter will be sent to Daniel Hand on Thursday to do a story on something special or unique about the curriculum, and crews will be at the game on Friday.
 - This Friday night will also be the Polson School Band Night and they will join the DHHS Marching Band for the half time performance.
 - Wake Up Call – on Fridays when there is a home football game, the DHHS Marching Band walks and performs through the hallways of Daniel Hand during 2nd period.

5. Superintendent's Report

5.1. Class of 2010 Update

Mr. Klein introduced Ms. Jean Baker, Daniel Hand High School Director of Guidance, to give her annual update to the Board on the prior year's graduating class. Ms. Baker stated that she was happy to be presenting this report to the Board once again. She expressed her appreciation to the Guidance Department Counselors and Secretaries for the work they do on behalf of the students and families of Daniel Hand High School. She also expressed her gratitude for the support of the teachers and the Administrative Team, as well as the support of the Board of Education.

Ms. Baker distributed a report and introduced a PowerPoint presentation (both on file) highlighting the accomplishments of the graduating class of 2010.

Ms. Baker reported that of the 289 graduates from the Class of 2010, 89% of the class went on to a four year college. 90 students were accepted to the 44 colleges ranked as "most" competitive with 33 students attending 24 schools in that ranking. For schools ranked as "highly" competitive, 247 acceptances were reported, with 67 students attending 22 colleges in that ranking. Ms. Baker noted that the top indicated major for the Class of 2010 was Business / Finance.

With regard to AP (Advanced Placement) scores, Ms. Baker next reported that 38 AP tests were administered with 83% of students scoring 3 or higher. She noted that 50% of students taking an AP class also take the AP exam.

Ms. Baker next discussed the UCONN Early College Experience that is available and stated that 204 students from Daniel Hand are enrolled in these courses, a number which is significantly higher than the state average. She commented that this is an opportunity offered to all students, not just those at the top tier for their class. Ms. Meier asked if students are able to participate in courses at other colleges. Ms. Baker replied that students who express an interest may be able to study at schools such as Wesleyan and Yale.

Ms. Baker discussed the SAT and the ACT tests and provided scoring data for the SAT. She pointed out that Madison's SAT scores are well above the state and national level, and remain fairly consistent over the past five years. She explained that the ACT is a more curriculum driven test focusing on subject areas, and research shows that students perform about the same on the ACT's as the SAT's. She also commented that many students take both, and she does not see the ACT replacing the SAT.

Ms. Baker then reviewed some of the initiatives set by the Guidance Department for 2009-2010 and the results they have achieved:

- Enhanced NAVIANCE implementation, with the goal of total electronic submission of college applications for 2010. Ms. Baker stated that this is going extremely well and she is very pleased with the rate of success of this program.
 - The Guidance Department is working closely with the Administration to provide opportunities for our students to participate in internships, student advisory groups and senior projects.
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- Ms. Baker is a Co-Chair for the NEASC Self Study for 2009-2011, and the work of the committee is progressing.

Ms. Baker also discussed some Guidance initiatives for 2010-2011:

- Implement NAVIANCE for the middle school grades to track student success plans.
- Continue to update school counseling curriculum with a focus on student success plans and SRBI.

Atty. Klaskin asked if the Guidance Department works with local alumni chapters to bring different schools to the College Fair. Ms. Baker replied that many of the representatives who attend the fair are Daniel Hand graduates who live in our community. She also commented that Hand doesn't generally have to reach out to many colleges, as they approach us to participate in the fair.

Ms. Meier asked if the Guidance Department was seeing a trend in students taking a 'gap year', or a year off between graduating high school and attending college. Ms. Baker replied that while it is becoming more of a trend in other parts of the state, it has not yet hit Daniel Hand.

Members of the Board thanked Ms. Baker for her informative presentation.

5.2. Update: Minds in Motion Day

Mr. Klein next asked Ms. Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment to talk about this upcoming event.

Ms. Rutlin stated that Minds in Motion will take place on Saturday, December 4th from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. at Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School. This is a day of fast paced / hands on workshops for students in grades K-8 and will give the participants opportunities for activities that are not typically part of the normal school day. The event is sponsored by the Madison Public Schools and the Connecticut Association for the Gifted. Staff members and parents are currently working together to plan the event, and brochures will be sent home via backpack express in the next week or so. Registration dates are November 1st through the 19th. This event is open to all students and any child who wishes to participate is encouraged to attend. There will be multiple workshop choices at each grade level and there will also be workshops available to parents.

Mr. Klein stated that this event is not targeted only to Gifted and Talented students; the workshops are designed to be appropriate for the grade level participants and there is a wide range of workshops that will be offered and appeal to many different interests. Ms. Rutlin and Mr. Klein both stated that they are excited about this event and they think it will be wonderful for the Madison community.

6. Board Member Comments

None at this time.

7. Reports from Board Committees / Liaisons

7.1. Planning Committee

No report.

7.2 Personnel Committee

Ms. Coffey stated that Committee Chair John Dean was ill and therefore not able to attend the meeting. She stated that the Board would vote shortly to ratify the agreement with the MEA (Madison Education Association) and she would have more comments about the contract prior to the Motion.

7.2. Policy Committee

Atty. Klaskin reported that the Committee met earlier in the evening and discussed the following items:

- A proposed regional calendar for 2011-2012 from the Middlesex County and New London County Superintendents groups. Atty. Klaskin stated that after discussion, the Committee concluded that they are happy with the calendar already developed and approved for 2011-12 for Madison.
- PA 10-62 – An Act Concerning Student Athletes and Concussions. Atty. Klaskin stated that while Madison does not have a formal policy on this topic, we are ahead of the curve in dealing with the issue by way of the IMPACT program which is in place at Daniel Hand High School. This issue will be discussed with the District’s Medical Advisor to determine if a policy is warranted to codify the practices already in place.
- A new draft policy on Tracking was discussed. Atty. Klaskin pointed out that Madison (and Connecticut) disfavor tracking and do not use such a model. A draft policy has been created, again, to codify current practices, and will be discussed further by the Committee.
- Lastly, Atty. Klaskin reported that Director of Administrative Services Arthur Sickel is continuing his review of the need for policies relating to student and staff use of social networks.

7.4. Finance Committee

No report.

7.5. LEARN Liaison

Mr. Ruggiero reported that he had recently attended a Legislative Breakfast along with four state legislators and about 12 area superintendents, including Mr. Klein. Mr. Ruggiero stated that the legislators were very candid about the state of the state with regard to the budget, and the outlook is ‘gloomy’. The deficit that Connecticut is experiencing is not expected to be resolved quickly. It took a while to get to this point, and it will take a while to recover. Many school districts have already made difficult cuts and will now be forced to cut programming and areas that affect students. Mr. Ruggiero remarked that he believes Madison is in very good shape comparatively. We have already ‘tightened our belts’ and will continue to act prudently with regard to the budget and education expenditures, while maintaining the integrity of the programming offered to the students of the district.

8. Audience Response to Information Presented

None at this time.

9. Consent Agenda

9.1. Bills Payable: \$11,530.36 (09-10) \$236,512.41 (10-11)

9.2. Line Transfers: \$19,055.45

9.3. Donation: \$2,040 to Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School for student field trips from the Ryerson School PTO.

9.4. Request for Removal of Used Books/Equipment (*Reference Policy #3260*)

9.5. District Consolidated Application for Title 1, Part A and Title 2, Part A Elementary and Secondary Education (ESEA) Federal Grants (*Reference Policy #3281*)

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

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Atty. Klaskin pointed out and expressed appreciation for the generous donation from the Ryerson PTO.

Ms. Coffey commended Ms. Rutlin for her work on the Consolidated Grant application.

10. Action Item: Minutes of the October 5, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Meier to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

11. Action Item: Agreement between the Madison Public Schools and the MEA (Madison Education Association) July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2013

Before calling for a vote on the proposed contract, Ms. Coffey read the following statement from Board member Debra Frey, who was not able to be present at the meeting:

Fellow Board Members,

Although not in attendance to vote I do wish to express my support for ratification and my confidence in the Personnel Committee's commitment to negotiate and bring forward a settlement that is fair, equitable and considerate of the current economic times.

Although I personally would have preferred a three-year contract, it is not a deal-breaker and I feel that the terms of the negotiated contract would have been unattainable should a two-year commitment have been rejected. Based upon all relevant information, I also personally believe the committee acted in the best interest of the Madison Public Schools and the Town of Madison in negotiating the end product before you this evening.

I hope you will all support the recommendation of the Personnel Committee and vote to ratify the MEA Contract.

*Respectfully submitted,
Debra Frey*

Ms. Coffey then read comments from Personnel Committee Chair John Dean in his absence:

"The new contract is a fair and equitable settlement that reflects the difficult economic times our townspeople have faced in the past two years. We applaud the teachers for recognizing that tough times call for new understandings. This is a settlement that respects the needs of all parties: the school district, the Town and the teachers".

Ms. Coffey next thanked the members of the Negotiations Team and the teachers for negotiating what she believes is a contract that is fair to all parties in the current economic climate. She outlined the following details of the agreement:

The contract agreement reflects a 0.9 percent increase in salary in the contract's first year. There are no incremental or step advances in the contract's first year. In the second year of the agreement, there is total wage increase of 2.8 percent which includes step advancement.

Ms. Coffey stated that *“both the Board and the teachers union came to the negotiations table ready to listen and learn. It is through this open collaborative process that the parties were able to negotiate and reach agreement on contract terms. The settlement offers wage advancement for the teachers but also provides value to the town”*.

Ms. Coffey then opened the floor to Board members for discussion or comments on the proposed contract.

Mr. Clorite thanked the Negotiations Team but stated that he would have preferred a standard three year contract. He commented that he did understand that there were tradeoffs.

Ms. Wood applauded the teachers for the process in which they negotiated during these difficult times. She commented that all families are making tough decisions right now, and she is grateful to the teachers for responding to the Team and negotiating fairly. Ms. Wood expressed her respect and appreciation to the teachers for all they do.

Atty. Klaskin thanked the teachers and the negotiating team for all their hard work and for reaching a responsible and fair contract.

As there were no further comments, Ms. Coffey called the Motion.

MOTION: by the Personnel Committee to ratify the agreement between the Madison Public Schools and MEA (Madison Education Association) for the period July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2013

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

NAYS: Clorite

MOTION CARRIED: 6-1

12. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

13. New Business

No new business was discussed.

14. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Klein stated that updates on the following items will be given at future Board meetings. Based on discussion during Ms. Baker's presentation, he added item number 14.4.

14.1. Update: Daniel Hand High School PAW Groups

14.2. Update: RtI / SRBI

14.3. Update: Elementary “Literacy How” Initiative

14.4. NAVIANCE Presentation: Grades 5-8

15. Meetings of Importance

Ms. Coffey pointed out the meetings listed on the agenda and reminded the Board about the FOI workshop scheduled for Tuesday, October 26th.

16. Adjournment

MOTION: by Meier, seconded by Wood to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Submitted for approval at the 11/09/10 Board of Education Meeting
dmd
