

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 25, 2011 7:30 PM Eastern

Town Campus Hammonasset Room
10 Campus Drive
Madison, CT 06443

- I. Call to Order / Attendance
- II. School / Community Session - 7:30 p.m.
 - II.A. Public Participation
- III. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report
- IV. Superintendent's Report
 - IV.A. Report on Out of State Travel
 - IV.B. Update: RtI / SRBI
 - IV.C. Other
- V. Board Members' Comments
- VI. Board Committees / Liaison Updates
 - VI.A. Planning Committee
 - VI.B. Personnel Committee
 - VI.C. Policy Committee
 - VI.C.1. Second Reading - Policy #TBD, Head Injuries
 - VI.D. Finance Committee
 - VI.E. LEARN Liaison
- VII. Audience Reponse to Information Presented
- VIII. Consent Agenda (8.1 - 8.2) Ref. Bylaw #9540.2 and #9540.8
 - VIII.A. Bills Payable: \$3,730.53 (10-11)
 - VIII.B. Line Transfers: \$22,596.50
- IX. Action Item: Minutes of the January 4, 2011 Board of Education Meeting
- X. Action Item: Adoption of the 2011-2012 Board of Education Budget (Reference Policy #3020.7)
- XI. Old Business
- XII. New Business
- XIII. Future Agenda Items
 - XIII.A. NAVIANCE Presentation for Grades 5 & 6: February 15, 2011
 - XIII.B. Update: Elementary "Literacy How" Initiative: March 15, 2011
- XIV. Meetings of Importance
 - XIV.A. January 26, 2011: Planning Committee Meeting; 7:30 a.m., Central Office Room B
 - XIV.B. February 1, 2011: Finance Committee Meeting; 6:30 p.m., Central Office Room B
 - XIV.C. February 2, 2011: Board of Education Budget Presentation to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance; 7:30 p.m., Town Campus Hammonasset Room
 - XIV.D. February 17, 2011: Public Hearing: Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen and Board of Education; 7:30 p.m., Walter C. Polson Middle School Auditorium
 - XIV.E. March 9, 2011: CAFE A Day on the Hill; 8:30 a.m., Capital Avenue, Hartford

XV. Adjournment

Board of Education Meeting
January 4, 2011
Meeting Minutes

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairwoman Coffey at 7:09 p.m.

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

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

2. Executive Session

MOTION: by Frey, seconded by Clorite to enter Executive Session at 7:09 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Personnel matters involving confidential issues were discussed.

Legal matters were discussed.

MOTION: by Fitzgerald, seconded by Ruggiero to adjourn Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

The Public Session of the Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chairperson Coffey at 7:32 p.m. Ms. Coffey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Bill Clorite; Becky Coffey; Jean Fitzgerald; Debra Frey; 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)

Ms. Buller reported that a one man show entitled "DiRt" on substance abuse and choices will be performed at Daniel Hand High School for all students on Tuesday, January 11th. The same evening, the show will take place at Walter C. Polson Middle School at 7:00 p.m. and is open to the community.

Mr. Chapman shared with the Board the “Acceptances Board” from the Guidance Office at Daniel Hand. When seniors are notified that they have been accepted to a college, they write the name of the school on the board. There are already many, many schools listed and these are only early acceptances. Upon Ms. Coffey’s request, Mr. Chapman shared that he has been accepted to Columbia University for the fall. The Board and audience congratulated him with a round of applause.

5. Superintendent’s Report

5.1. Update: Student Enrollment

Mr. Klein reported that enrollment currently stands at 3,624 students; 47 over the ADS projection of 3,577. He stated that the bulk of the increase lies at the secondary levels, Grades 5-12.

5.2. Update: January 3, 2011 Professional Development Activities (Anita Rutlin)

Ms. Rutlin reported that 346 certified teachers took part in Professional Development activities the previous day. There were 34 workshops being held in total, some half and some full day, at all buildings. Just a few of the workshop topics included developing and adding to curriculum, preparation of NEASC reports and for the upcoming accreditation visit, and improving our capacity for reading instruction.

5.3. Formal Presentation of the Administration’s Recommended 2011-2012 Budget

Mr. Klein stated that he appreciated the opportunity to present to the Board the Recommended Budget for 2011-2012. He acknowledged several members of the administrative team who were in attendance and stated that this budget is a wonderful example of their thoughtful work. Mr. Klein remarked that this proposed budget will allow the district to continue to deliver the current high quality, high integrity program to the students of Madison.

Mr. Klein then introduced a Power Point presentation (on file) of the Superintendent’s and Administration’s recommended 2011-2012 budget.

Mr. Klein’s presentation included some of the achievements of the students and staff in Madison. He also reviewed the Budget Development Guidelines and pointed out that there will be no new athletic programs added, and no current programs will be expanded. Mr. Klein stated that the district has a very significant athletics program as well as other extracurricular and co-curricular offerings. He commented that if a student isn’t participating in one or more of these programs, it is of their choosing, as there is truly something for everyone. Mr. Klein also discussed some of the Administrative positions shared between the Madison Public Schools and the Town. He remarked that these shared positions work because of the high caliber of people in the positions.

Mr. Klein stated that the requested budget as presented represents a 0.48% increase to the operational budget and an increase of 0.78% to the total budget, including accounts managed jointly with the Town. Mr. Klein stated that there were two main contributing factors to the low increase, the first being the recently negotiated contract between the Board of Education and the MEA (Madison Education Association). He commented that the contract reached between the BOE and MEA Negotiating Teams was a respectful compromise and evidence of the commitment to the District of all involved. The second factor is declining enrollment, primarily at the elementary level. Mr. Klein stated that the decline in enrollment will unfortunately force the elimination of seven certified (teacher) and six classified (paraprofessional) positions. He emphasized that these reductions in staff are not at all based on performance or the economy and are entirely due to the real very decline in student enrollment. Mr. Klein stated that it’s very difficult having to tell good people who are highly competent teachers and paraprofessionals that their position is being eliminated, but it is the right thing to do at this time. He further stated that unless there is an influx of families with school age children into Madison, the trend will be for declining enrollment to continue over the next few years.

Mr. Klein presented a history/projection of Excess Cost Reimbursements from the State for unanticipated Special Education costs. The 2011-2012 budget was developed anticipating only 75% of the ECS funds being reimbursed; the same parameters used in developing the 2010-2011 budget. He pointed out that ECS has been fully funded only twice since the 2003-2004 school year. He also commented that if the state were fully funding the Excess Cost

Reimbursement and the district weren't budgeting for this shortfall, the Operating Budget may have come in with no increase at all if not a negative figure.

Mr. Klein reviewed class size projections across all grade levels and showed in detail where the positions at the elementary level are being eliminated. There will be one 'new' position which is a reallocation of staff; a Guidance Counselor will be added at Robert H. Brown Middle School. The school currently has one Guidance Counselor serving 588 students and this position is overdue. Mr. Klein stressed that this is a reallocation, not an added position.

In closing, Mr. Klein shared a slide indicating funding differentials among ten of the top performing districts in Connecticut. Most were from District Reference Group A, with three in DRG B – Avon, Granby and Madison, all of which Mr. Klein commented were models of efficiency. He stated that Madison is among the top performing districts in the state with one of the lowest Net Current Expenditures per Pupil, and that is a victory for our students.

Mr. Klein concluded that at 0.48%, he feels this is a very responsible, thoughtful and prudent budget for the current economic climate. He expressed appreciation to the Administrative team for their diligence and thoughtful decision making in developing the budget. He once again commented on the excellent contract reached by the BOE and MEA which had a significant impact on this budget. He also commended the Board of Education for the honorable commitment they have demonstrated to the other unions in upholding contractual obligations.

6. Board Member Comments

Ms. Coffey stated that she thought Mr. Klein and the Administrators proposed a very thoughtful budget that was reflective of the economic times. She thanked Mr. Klein for an excellent presentation. Ms. Coffey also expressed her appreciation to the MEA and the BOE Negotiations Team for the excellent contract they reached. There was some discussion among the Board and it was decided that a Budget Workshop will be scheduled for Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Coffey asked that Board members direct any questions regarding the budget as proposed to Mr. Clorite and Ms. Donofrio at Central Office, who will compile the questions so Mr. Klein can address them on January 11th.

7. Reports from Board Committees / Liaisons

7.1. Planning Committee

Ms. Frey stated that the Committee has not met and their next meeting is scheduled for January 12th. She reminded the Board that there has been discussion regarding a potential School Resource Officer, and the Committee is waiting for details on the proposal from Chief Drumm. Mr. Klein and Chief Drumm communicate on a regular basis and Mr. Klein will advise the Planning Committee when this topic should be put back on their agenda for discussion.

Regarding the future of Academy School, Ms. Frey reported that as part of the Town's due diligence, they have commissioned an A-2 Survey of the Academy property. Mike Ott, Director of Public Works and Town Engineer, will be completing the survey in house to save on the cost of an outside consultant. Ms. Frey stated that she will report back to the full Board once the survey is completed or if additional information is received.

7.2 Personnel Committee

No report.

7.3. Policy Committee

7.3.1. First Reading: Policy #TBD – Head Injuries

Atty. Klaskin noted the Policy on for first reading.

7.4. Finance Committee

Mr. Clorite thanked Mr. Klein and his team for a great budget, and asked that any questions regarding the proposed budget be sent to him as soon as possible.

7.5. LEARN Liaison

No report.

8. Audience Response to Information Presented

None at this time.

9. Consent Agenda

9.1. Bills Payable: \$2,454.51 (09-10); \$841,588.63 (10-11)

9.2. Line Transfers: \$15,745.19

9.3. Budget Expenditure Report

MOTION: by Ruggiero seconded by Wood to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

10. Action Item: Minutes of the December 21, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Meier to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Coffey, Frey

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

11. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

12. New Business

13. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Klein noted the upcoming presentations and stated that the Literacy How update has been moved and confirmation for March 15, 2011.

13.1. Update: Rtl / SRBI: January 18, 2011

13.2. NAVIANCE Presentation for Grades 5 & 6: February 15, 2011

13.3. Update: Elementary "Literacy How" Initiative: March 15, 2011

14. Meetings of Importance

Ms. Coffey pointed out the list of upcoming meetings of importance on the agenda. Atty. Klaskin noted that the time for the Policy Committee has been changed to 6:30 p.m.

15. Adjournment

MOTION: by Frey seconded by Fitzgerald to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Submitted for approval at the 01/18/11 Board of Education Meeting
dmd
