

- I. Call to Order / Attendance
- II. School / Community Session - 7:30 p.m.
 - II.A. Recognitions:
 - II.A.1. DHHS Students - "Art From the Heart" Project: Emily Atton, Jessica Atton, Cassandra Barrow, Benjamin Bednarczyk, Karina Campos, Amanda Daniels, Damon Fischer, Erica Fulton, Justine Grato, Elizabeth Griffin, Uchemma Ogbejesi, Katherine Schurk
 - II.A.2. National Library Week, April 8-14, 2012: MSP Staff: Sandra Bizier, Larry Halpern, John Wiggins-Strada, Noel Heimer, Dawn Fiorelli, Mary Ann Kunst, George Petrakopoulos; Scranton Library Staff: Beth Crowley, Katie Fargo, Jane Ash
 - II.B. Public Participation
- III. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report
- IV. Superintendent's Report
 - IV.A. Overview: K-12 Summer Reading List 2012 - Dream Big...Read!
 - IV.B. Discussion: Optional Healthy Foods Program
 - IV.C. Report on Out of State Travel (Ref. Policy #6100.16.1)
 - IV.D. Update on Senate Bill 24, An Act Concerning Educational Competitiveness
 - IV.E. Other
- V. Board Members' Comments
- VI. Board Committees / Liaison Updates
 - VI.A. Planning Committee
 - VI.B. Personnel Committee
 - VI.C. Policy Committee
 - VI.D. Finance Committee
 - VI.E. LEARN Liaison
- VII. Audience Reponse to Information Presented
- VIII. Consent Agenda (8.1-8.3) Ref. Bylaw #9540.2 and #9540.8
 - VIII.A. Bills Payable: \$442.00 (10-11); \$797,463.49 (11-12)
 - VIII.B. Line Transfers: \$38,672.43
 - VIII.C. Budget Expenditure Report as of March 29, 2012
- IX. Action Item: Minutes of the March 20, 2012 Board of Education Meeting
- X. Action Item: State of Connecticut Healthy Foods Certification Program
- XI. Old Business
- XII. New Business
 - XII.A. Textbook Adoption Preview (April 3-24, 2012) (Ref. Policy #6100.10): Chemistry Principals and Reactions; Seventh Edition; Brooks/Cole CENGAGE Learning; ECE/UCONN General Chemistry I & II; Chem 1127Q / CHEM 1128Q; Science Grades 11 & 12; Daniel Hand High School
- XIII. Future Agenda Items

XIV. Meetings of Importance

XIV.A. April 10, 2012: Ad-Hoc Community Relations Committee Meeting;
3:30 p.m., Town Campus Hammonasset Room

XIV.B. April 11, 2012: Planning Committee Meeting; 7:30 a.m.; Central Office
Room B

XIV.C. April 23, 2012: Budget Public Hearing; 7:30 p.m., Walter C. Polson
Middle School Auditorium

XIV.D. April 24, 2012: Policy Committee Meeting; 6:30 p.m., Central Office
Room B

XIV.E. April 24, 2012: Board of Education Meeting; 7:30 p.m., Town Campus
Hammonasset Room

XV. 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 20, 2012
Meeting Minutes

1. The public meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Frey at 7:38 p.m. Ms. Frey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Bill Clorite; Jean Fitzgerald; Debra Frey; Seth Klaskin; Pam Meier; Ryan Suerth; Cindy Wood

Also present: Anita Rutlin, Interim Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; district administrators; faculty; staff; students; community members

Mr. Thomas Scarice, recently appointed Superintendent of Schools, was also in attendance.

2. School / Community Session

2.1. Public Participation

Mrs. Dana Weinstein of 10 Prospect Street, who is the parent of an Island Avenue Elementary School student, addressed the Board regarding the March 7, 2012 incident at Island Avenue. Mrs. Weinstein stated that while she was appreciative of the way the incident was handled, she is concerned about the lack of security at Island Avenue, as anyone can walk in the front door and directly into the cafeteria/gym unseen by school staff members. She noted that while Madison is a relatively safe community, she believes it is time that the Board members review the security at this building as well as at the other schools. She asked that the Board of Education consider making some changes to improve school security.

Mrs. Marilyn Langille of 24 Ridgewood Drive, also an Island Avenue parent, echoed Mrs. Weinstein's comments. She reiterated that there is no one to monitor people entering the building. Mrs. Langille noted that the school secretary is the first person visitors come in contact with as they walk by the main office, but she is not, nor should she be, responsible for security.

Ms. Frey thanked Mrs. Weinstein and Mrs. Langille for attending the meeting and for their comments.

Ms. Rutlin also thanked Mrs. Weinstein and Mrs. Langille, and stated that the Planning Committee has discussed the March 7th incident at Island Avenue as it relates to security. This topic was to be addressed later in the meeting during the Planning Committee report.

3. Student Representatives' Report
(Jessica Buller and John Ovia)

Mr. Ovia reported on the following:

- Trimester Exams and CAPT testing are finished; trimester 3 began today.
- The Show Choir placed third at FAME in New York City this past weekend, qualifying for the National Championship in Chicago on April 21st. The Show Choir Band placed first.
- The spring musical, "Legally Blonde," begins on Wednesday, March 28th with performances running through Sunday, April 1st.
- Over 600 hundred students are trying out for spring sports this year; that is approximately half the student body.

Ms. Buller reported on the following:

- Many scholarships are being announced, including the Johnson Scholarship.
- The College Fair has been scheduled for April 26th with over 100 schools attending.

- ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) test is being given at Daniel Hand.
- Registration for A.P. testing has closed, and the Guidance Department is ordering the tests.

4. General Discussion: Legislative Update

- Senator Edward Meyer
- State Representative Noreen Kokoruda

Ms. Frey welcomed Senator Meyer and Representative Kokoruda and asked them to join the Board at the table for ease of dialog with the Board. Mr. Scarice was also invited to sit at the Board table and participate in the discussion.

Discussion focused on Senate Bill 24, An Act Concerning Educational Competitiveness. Some points of the discussion included:

- Educational Cost Sharing
- Teacher evaluations, tenure and professional development
- Accountability of teachers and administrators
- The Achievement Gap, specifically as it relates to urban and suburban districts
- Charter and Magnet Schools, and how they affect public education
- Low performing districts
- Common Core Standards and Curriculum

After presentations by both legislators, Board members asked questions of Senator Meyer and Representative Kokoruda. Ms. Frey commented that more funding will be given to urban schools to advance achievement, which means there could be less funding for towns like Madison. She asked how we can advance student achievement in an already high achieving district with less and less state support. Madison's budgets over the past few years have allowed us to maintain what we have but not move forward. Ms. Frey noted that we cannot advance student achievement if we are 'treading water'.

Mr. Clorite asked what the Madison Board of Education can do to help the district get more money from the state. Senator Meyer suggested they put their requests in writing and send it to Hartford, where he and Representative Kokoruda can share the request with their colleagues.

All Board members were in agreement that students in Madison come to school prepared to learn. Mr. Scarice commented that this bill does not apply to districts like Madison, and he is concerned about the unintended consequences that could result if the bill passes as proposed. Both Senator Meyer and Representative Kokoruda agreed that they believe there were be many reforms before it passes.

In conclusion, Ms. Frey and the Board thanked Senator Meyer and Representative Kokoruda for their time and the opportunity to discuss issues impacting Madison.

5. Superintendent's Report

5.1. Report on Out of State Travel

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

5.2. Other

Ms. Rutlin noted that as of today, kindergarten enrollment for 2012-2013 is at 110, noting that the number has already exceeded the ADS projection.

6. Board Members' Comments

Atty. Klaskin expressed his appreciation to Senator Meyer and Representative Kokoruda for coming in to speak with the Board.

Ms. Frey gave the following statements regarding the March 7th incident at Island Avenue School:

I would like to thank the administration, the staff and all of the emergency responders, and there were many, for their rapid and purposeful actions in response to the US mail incident at Island Avenue School on March 7. It is unfortunate that Madison Public Schools became one of the most recent targets in a rash of mail-related offenses throughout the country. While it is an unwelcome occurrence, the District was well prepared to manage the situation due to the Safety and Security Audit that was performed in 2007 by the Homeland Security Task Force, Inc. and the development of the Emergency and Crisis Management Plan that the Madison Public Schools adheres to. This plan was developed in cooperation with local first responders and the health department and contains precise protocols to deal with all emergency situations to address the health, safety and welfare of students and staff throughout the district. It is important for the greater community to know that employees of the Madison Public Schools each possess a copy of the District Plan and are versed in these protocols and procedures. This was evidenced by the prompt actions taken on March 7. I would also like to thank Chartwells Food Service for the healthy lunch provided to the school.

More information will be given during the Planning Committee report.

Ms. Frey next announced that Mr. Scarice's contract has been finalized, and he will officially join Madison on Monday, June 4, 2012. She stated how happy she is to have him on board and that Madison is very fortunate to have a Superintendent of his caliber. Ms. Frey then read the following statement:

On Tuesday March 13, the Board of Education appointed Mr. Thomas Scarice as the District's new Superintendent of Schools. Since the evening was a celebration of Mr. Scarice's appointment, I delayed some necessary comments and commendations until this evening when they would be appropriate and carried to a wider audience via the television camera.

First, I want to recognize each and every member of this Board of Education whose flexibility, diligence and dedication during the seven month Superintendent Search is commendable. Their personal and professional sacrifices, of which there were many, are a testament to their commitment to their elected responsibilities. The best interest of the Madison Public Schools was always at the forefront of thinking during the many weekdays, weeknights and weekends performing their due diligence to find the right fit for the Madison Superintendency. The Town is fortunate to be served by such a committed group of volunteers, and I stress volunteers, and I am truly honored and consider it to be a privilege to be a colleague of each and every one of them.

I also want to recognize Anita Rutlin who has so graciously served as Interim Superintendent since October of 2011. While I will have much more to say when Mr. Scarice takes the helm, I do want to communicate publicly that Ms. Rutlin's devotion to the Madison Public Schools knows no bounds. She has masterfully and with a smile kept the ship righted and on course. The Board of Education, the Madison Public Schools and the greater community owe you a tremendous debt of gratitude. You are admirable women and a consummate professional and I consider it a privilege to work so closely with you.

7. Reports from Board Committees / Liaisons

7.1. Planning Committee

Ms. Fitzgerald read the following report from the Planning Committee:

Planned and Cycled Maintenance:

The committee is working with Bill McMinn to identify the Polson facility needs for the summer of 2013.

Since we are taking Polson off line to do the boilers, we are looking at other facility needs we can address at the same time. We have identified three important maintenance projects: the gym floor needs to be redone, the gym needs to be painted and the sound system needs fine tuning. The main gym floor has not been redone or resurfaced in over 20 years. It has been impossible to find a time to strip and sand all the layers off the floor and then repaint it. Secondly, the gym needs to be painted including the ceiling, and finally we need to upgrade the sound system in the gym and fitness center. The sound system is important because it is used for making announcements from the main office, which could potentially be safety and emergency announcements and we need to make sure that it well maintained and updated. Again, it makes sense to do all these projects at once as to minimize the disruption of programs at the facility.

Next, the committee wanted to highlight how well the faculty, staff and students at Island Avenue handled the incident last week. The faculty and staff proved they were well versed with our Emergency Response and Crisis Management Plan. The building was calm under the circumstances and the students' safety was first and foremost in everyone's thoughts and actions. Art Sickle and his staff did an excellent job providing continual updates throughout the day to all members of the Madison Community through emails, phone calls and text messages. And finally, we would also like to thank the families at Island Avenue School for their understanding and respect of the emergency procedures that were are put in place and were necessary to keep all the children safe and happy during the incident. It is always the hope of the school district that The Emergency Response and Crisis Management Plan will never have to be used, but it is reassuring that when it was needed, it was successful.

And finally, the committee is reviewing our Security and Vulnerability Assessment Project, which was a report done by an outside consultant in 2007. The report reviewed the process and procedures for keeping our schools safe.

7.2. Personnel Committee

In Mr. Dean's absence, Ms. Wood commented on the very successful negotiations with incoming Superintendent Scarice. She also noted that negotiations with the Teamsters Union will begin soon.

7.3. Policy Committee

Atty. Klaskin reported that the Committee met prior to the Board meeting and discussed the following items:

- Draft 2013-2014 School Year Calendar

The Committee reviewed the Administration's recommended calendar; they will have further discussion. Atty. Klaskin reminded the Board that they recently revised their policy regarding calendar approval, and they will vote on the calendar by the second meeting in April. Mr. Clorite once again stated his wish to

have Columbus Day reinstated as a day when school is not in session. Atty. Klaskin replied that at this time it is not a scheduled school holiday, but the Committee is looking at other options. Discussion then turned to Election Day, which in recent years has been used as a Professional Development Day for staff, with no school for students. Mr. Clorite suggested moving the voting location for District 2 out of Robert H. Brown Middle School so that school could be in session on that day and Columbus Day could be reinstated as a school holiday. Atty. Klaskin replied that this was part of the Policy Committee's discussion, and the Planning Committee will also be involved in requesting the consideration of other voting locations.

- Revised Policy #5080.2, Truancy

Atty. Klaskin noted that this Policy is on tonight's agenda for third and final reading and approval. However, the Committee is still reviewing the revised draft, so the Action Item to approve it will be tabled until the second meeting in April.

- Board of Education Bylaws

The Policy Committee will continue their review of the Board of Education's Bylaws. Atty. Klaskin noted that the Planning Committee will also be involved in the review.

- Policy for the Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect

Atty. Klaskin reported that a draft policy on Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect was distributed to the committee. It is a lengthy policy and the committee will begin its review.

7.4. Finance Committee

Mr. Clorite reported that the Committee had not met, but he announced that the Board of Finance officially endorsed the Board of Education's Budget as presented. Due to favorable renewal rates for health insurance, the Board of Education Budget increase is 0.76%, rather than the 1.31% originally proposed. He reminded the viewing members of the community of the Public Budget Hearing on Monday, April 23rd at 7:30 p.m. at Walter C. Polson Middle School Auditorium.

7.5. Ad-Hoc Community Relations Committee

Mr. Suerth reported that the Committee had not met, but it was confirmed that they have a meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 29th.

7.6. LEARN Liaison

There was no report.

8. Audience Response to Information Presented

There was no response at this time.

9. Consent Agenda

9.1. Bills Payable: \$4,000.00 (10-11); \$536,831.73 (11-12)

9.2. Grid for Line Item Transfers \$9,152.73

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

AYES: Clorite, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin, Meier, Suerth; Wood

NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

10. Action Item: Minutes of the March 6, 2012 Board of Education Meeting.

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Meier to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2012 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Clorite, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin, Meier, Suerth, Wood
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

11. Action Item: Minutes of the March 13, 2012 Board of Education Special Meeting

MOTION: by Meier, seconded by Wood to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2012 Board of Education Special Meeting.

AYES: Fitzgerald, Frey, Meier, Suerth, Wood
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: Clorite, Klaskin
MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

12. Action Item: Approval of revised Policy #5080.2, Truancy.

MOTION: by the Policy Committee to table this action item until April.

AYES: Clorite, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin, Meier, 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 discussed.

16. Meetings of Importance

Ms. Frey referred to the list of upcoming meetings on the agenda.

17. Executive Session

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Wood to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue at 9:08 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin, Meier,
Suerth, Wood
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

17.1 Discussion: Personnel Issues

MOTION: by Wood, seconded by Clorite to
adjourn Executive Session at 9:44 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin, Meier,
Suerth, Wood
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

The Public Session of the Board of Education Meeting reconvened at 9:44 p.m.

18. Action Item: Non Renewals (Reduction in Force) for the 2012-2013 School Year

MOTION: by Wood, seconded by Clorite, that the
contracts for employment for Tracey Rossi, Jennifer
Pflomm, Ashley Lunn, John Pluchino, Tina
Cunningham and Catherine Thomson not be renewed
for the following year, based upon a reduction in
force, upon its expiration at the end of the 2011-2012
school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is
directed to advise such persons in writing of this
action.

AYES: Clorite, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin, Meier,
Suerth, Wood
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

19. Action Item: Non Renewals (for Cause) for the 2012-2013 School Year

This item was removed from the agenda as it was no longer needed.

20. Adjournment

MOTION: by Suerth, seconded by Fitzgerald to
adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin, Meier,
Suerth, Wood
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0