

Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, November 13, 2012 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. Recognition: In Honor of American Education Week, November 11-17, 2012 Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) Superintendent / Student Leadership Award - Demiana J. Azmy - Mathew Griffin
  - II.B. Recognition: In Honor of American Education Week - National Educational Support Professionals Day November 16, 2012
  - II.C. Public Participation
- III. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report
- IV. Superintendent's Report
  - IV.A. Follow-up: Full Day Kindergarten Research
  - IV.B. Report: Town Campus Learning Center
  - IV.C. Discussion: 2013-2014 Budget Assumptions
- 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. Ad-Hoc Community Relations Committee
  - VI.F. LEARN Liaison
- VII. Audience Reponse to Information Presented
- VIII. Consent Agenda Ref. Bylaw #9540.2 and #9540.8)
  - VIII.A. Bills Payable: \$30,118.36 - 2011-12 Budget and \$970,113.86 - 2012-13 Budget
  - VIII.B. Line Transfers: \$50,859.96
  - VIII.C. Budget Expenditure Report as of November 7, 2012
- IX. Action Item: Minutes of the October 16, 2012 Board of Education Meeting
- X. 2013-2014 Budget Assumptions
- XI. Old Business
- XII. New Business
- XIII. Future Agenda Items
- XIV. Meetings of Importance: November 14 Planning Committee Meeting / November 15 Finance Committee Meeting / November 16 & 17 CABE/CAPSS Convention / November 27 Policy Committee Meeting / November 27 Board of Education Meeting
- XV. Adjournment

**Madison Public Schools  
Board of Education Meeting  
October 16, 2012  
Town Campus Hammonasset Room**

**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to Order / Attendance**

The public meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Frey at 7:30 p.m. Chairman Frey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: William Clorite; John Dean; Debra Frey; Seth Klaskin; Robert Ruggiero; Ryan Suerth; Cindy Wood.

Also Present: Thomas R. Scarice, Superintendent, Anita L. Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, district administrators and community members.

**2. School / Community Session**

**2.1. Recognition of Staff**

Chairman Frey stated that she would like to publicly recognize the recipients of the awards for 2013 Madison Public Schools Teacher of the Year and 2013 Madison Public Schools Paraprofessional of the Year before the Board of Education and will be honored with a certificate of recognition.

Anita L. Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment reported that The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDA) and the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council has for the first time established the Connecticut Paraprofessional of the Year Program to recognize the important role of the paraprofessional in supporting student achievement. The program honors one paraprofessional who has demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication in the performance of his/her job, thereby earning them the respect and admiration of students, teachers, administrators, coworkers and parents.

The recipients of this years' awards were recognized at the Statewide ceremonies held at the Bushnell and received thunderous applause.

- 2013 Madison Public Schools Teacher of the Year  
Peter Bizier, Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Teacher
- 2013 Madison Public Schools Paraprofessional of the Year  
Maryann Kunst, Walter C. Polson Middle School Library Media Paraprofessional

**2.2. Public Participation**

Madison resident, Linda Macy of 93 Flintlock Road shared her opinion on the disadvantage of a Full Day Kindergarten program. She highlighted her background as a graduate of St. Josephs College as a certified teacher, Director of North Guilford Nursery Schools and a paraprofessional in the Madison Public Schools. She does not like a Full Day Kindergarten Program for children who are not yet five years of age. She referred to the cut off date to send children to school in Connecticut is December 1<sup>st</sup>, therefore having children as young as four years attending an all day program. In disagreement with the full-day program there are concerns of becoming too academic, concentrating on basic skills before children are ready for them. Linda is in favor of the benefits of full-day programs based on the model of Brookfield, CT where children attend full-day kindergarten just two days a week.

**3. Student Representatives' Report**

Jane Butler and John Ovia, Daniel Hand High School Students

Ms. Butler and Mr. Ovia reported on the following:

- The Madison Football team beat Xavier 40-20 and is now considered the #1 team in the state
- Boys' Soccer is now #1 in the State and is playing Guilford this Saturday at Strong Field at 6 pm.
- Boys' and Girls' cross-country SCC championships are this Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at Hammonasset.
- Perspectives is performing a skit for all classes tomorrow and then follow-up activities will be performed by Perspectives' members and Peer Advocates in homerooms on Thursday.
- Seniors are sending our applications to colleges with the October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline, the first major one, having just passed. The Early Action deadline is November 1 and is approaching quickly.
- The fall play, Sherlock Holmes is coming along well with the cast and crew practicing and preparing. The date of the fall play is December 8<sup>th</sup> weekend.
- PSAT's for juniors and sophomores are this Saturday, October 20 at the high school.
- Senior portraits are finishing up.

#### **4. Superintendent's Report**

Thomas R. Scarice, Superintendent of Madison Schools

Mr. Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools presented a power point presentation on Madison Public Schools Full Day Kindergarten Program Research to the Board of Education (on file). Kindergarten has changed and evolved over the past 10 years, squeezing out the social aspect – staying on task – getting ready for academics. This has happened across the entire state, not just Madison. He stated that the Planning Committee had a pre-view. The Full Day Kindergarten Committee was introduced.

**Present:** Margaret Borden, J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School; Jennifer Soja, J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School; Kathryn Hart, J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School; Lizzie Sharp, J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School; Kathy Nutley, Island Avenue Elementary School, Rachel Weiss, J. Milton Jeffery Elementary School; Kelly Spooner, Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School.

##### 4.1. Report of Findings: Full Day Kindergarten Research

After a comprehensive administrative review of programmatic options, financial impact and current practices state-wide and regionally, the administration recommends implementation of a Full Day Kindergarten Program within a neighborhood model for the 2013-2014 school year.

Mr. Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools, stated that formal budget assumptions will be discussed at the November Board of Education meeting.

#### **5. Board Members' Comments**

Mr. Dean believes a Full-Day Kindergarten Program is a great idea, however he brought to our attention the increase to Madison Tax payers, noting the economic climate and asking to look at other programs for reductions in spending.

Mr. Scarice mentioned that we may be hard pressed to look at a budget decrease.

Mr. Klaskin stated he was in agreement with the program and asked about busing and the ration of students to the number of seats on the bus.

Ms. Wood asked for additional supporting documentation to include literature of evidence based research, citations in which conclusions were drawn both advantages and disadvantages of a Full-Day Kindergarten Program. In addition she expressed concerns of leaving a centralized model.

Chairman Frey asked about an "opt-out" option for parents who desire a half-day program. Superintendent Scarice responded indicated that the administration would include an "opt out" as an option with the understanding that the parent would be responsible for transportation.

Robert Ruggiero stated kindergarten is a critical year in development for all children and is an opportunity to lay important foundations to facilitate learning skills verses later in education, therefore being the best "bang for the buck".

## **6. Reports from Board Committees / Liaison**

### **6.1. Planning Committee**

Members: Jean Fitzgerald, Chair  
Bill Clorite  
Pam Meier

No Report

### **6.2. Personnel Committee**

Members: John Dean, Chair  
Cindy Wood, Vice Chair  
Robert Ruggiero

Mr. Dean reported that negotiations with the Teamsters have continued and they have accepted the latest contract. He thanked Heather Dobson and Cindy Wood for their hard work over the summer. The Board will go into Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing the agreement between the Madison Board of Education and the Teamsters Local 443, affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

### **6.3. Policy Committee**

Members: Seth Klaskin, Chair  
Ryan Suerth  
Cindy Wood

The Policy Committee met on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:40 p.m. to discuss Pre-K class size guidelines. They are still waiting on new information and my erect a new policy. The committee continued the discussion on Excused and Unexcused absences / Addendum to Daniel Hand High School Student Handbook (Reference Policy #5080 and 5080.2). Changes may be made to the policy at the next meeting. Ms. Frey stated practices should move more toward in school suspension verses out of school suspension in accordance with state law.

Future Policy Committee Agenda Items:

- Discussion: Out of School Suspension (Reference Policy #5110.4)
- Review: Board of Education Bylaws
- Discussion: Board of Education Member Handbook
- Discussion: Board of Education Committees (Reference Bylaws # 9450 and # 9460)

### **6.4. Finance Committee**

Members: Bill Clorite, Chair  
Jean Fitzgerald  
Cindy Wood

Mr. Clorite discussed the importance of keeping track of the enrollment increase, understanding where spending takes place and how this impacts the budget as a whole.

### **6.5. Ad-Hoc Community Relations Committee**

Members: Ryan Suerth, Chair  
Pam Meier  
Cindy Wood

No report

### **6.6. LEARN Liaison**

Liaison: Robert Ruggiero

No Report

**7. Audience Response to Information Presented**

No response from audience

**8. Executive Session**

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Wood to enter Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the agreement between the Madison Board of Education and the Teamsters Local 443, affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

AYES: Clorite, Dean, Frey, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Suerth, Wood

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

The Board of Education reviewed the agreement between the Madison Board of Education and the Teamsters Local 443, affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, effective July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015.

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Wood to adjourn Executive Session at 8:40 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Dean, Frey, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Suerth, Wood

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

**9. Consent Agenda**

**9.1. Bills Payable:** 2011-2012 Budget - \$25,616.56 and 2012-2013 Budget - \$327,245.58

**9.2. Line Transfers:** \$97,971.69

**9.3. Donation:** \$3,000 from the Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School PTO to cover the cost of a cultural arts program for students in Grades 5 and 6, presented by Gerety Presentations.

**9.4. Grant Application:** District Consolidated Application ESEA Federal Grants  
Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies  
Title II, Part A – Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting

MOTION: by Wood, seconded by Klaskin, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

AYES: Clorite, Dean, Frey, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Suerth, Wood

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Mr. Klaskin expressed appreciation to the Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School PTO for their generous donation.

**10. Action Item:** Minutes of the October 2, 2012 Board of Education Meeting.

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Ruggiero, to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2012 Board of Education meeting as presented.

AYES: Clorite, Dean, Frey, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Suerth, Wood

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

**11. Action Item:** Superintendent authorization to survey eligible certified employees regarding participation in a potential 2012 – 2013 Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Plan (VERIP), providing three (3) years of service credit with the Connecticut Teachers' Retirement Board (TRB).

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Wood, to authorize the Superintendent to survey eligible certified employees regarding participation in a potential 2012-2013 Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Plan (VERIP) providing three (3) years of service credit with the Connecticut Teachers' Retirement Board (TRB)

AYES: Clorite, Dean, Frey, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Suerth, Wood  
NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

**12. Action Item:** Agreement between the Madison Board of Education and the Teamsters Local 443, affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, effective July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015.

MOTION: by the Personnel Committee to ratify the agreement between the Madison Board of Education and the Teamsters Local 443, affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, effective July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015.

Ms. Wood explained that the proposed contract is a 3-year agreement that includes an overall wage increase of 3.25%. Broken down by year, this increase equates to 1% in Year 1, 1% in Year 2 and 1.25% in Year 3. In recognition of the responsibilities incurred by the District's lead custodial and maintenance staff, a wage differential was also added to the contract for these employees. The negotiations resulted in concessions in Health Care Benefits that help to contain costs over time in addition to the stabilization of the long-term effects (costs) of the Teamster's Pension Plan.

Chairman Frey thanked the Personnel Committee for the extended time devoted to successfully negotiating a contract with this bargaining unit. She stated: "This was a long and complicated, 4-month negotiation and I witnessed, first hand, the committee's commitment to act in best interest of the Town and Board of Education."

AYES: Clorite, Dean, Frey, Klaskin, Ruggiero, 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**

- Teacher / Administrator Evaluation Plan
- Town Campus Learning Center

**16. Meetings / Dates of Importance:**

<b>Meetings</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Finance Committee Meeting	October 18, 2012	7:30 a.m.	Conference Room B
Planning Committee Meeting	October 24, 2012	7:30 a.m.	Conference Room B
Finance Committee Meeting	November 1, 2012	7:30 a.m.	Conference Room B
Board of Education Meeting	November 13, 2012	7:30 p.m.	Hammonasset Room
CABE / CAPSS Convention	November 16, and 17, 2012	8:00 AM	Mystic Marriott

**17. Adjournment**

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Wood to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Dean, Frey, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Suerth, Wood

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Submitted for approval at 11/13/2012 BOE meeting.

L. Duffy