

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 9, 2026 6:30 PM Eastern

Beman Middle School
1 Wilderman's Way
Middletown, CT 06457

Kelly Bee: Present
Chris Cardella: Present
Sheila Daniels: Present
Rakim Grant: Absent
Deborah Kleckowski: Present
Dean Krupa: Present
Susan Owens: Absent
Harold Panciera: Present
Kim Riordan: Present

Present: 7, Absent: 2.

Deborah Kleckowski: Absent 7:40PM

Present: 6, Absent: 3.

Deborah Kleckowski: Present 8:10PM

Present: 7, Absent: 2.

I. Call to Order

Ms. Daniels called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

II. Salute to the Flag

Mr. Cardella led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Adoption of Agenda

A motion to adopt the agenda was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Chris Cardella, Carried.

Rakim Grant: Absent, Susan Owens: Absent, Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

A motion was made to add the Facilities Committee with possible action to the agenda. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Dean Krupa, Carried.

Rakim Grant: Absent, Susan Owens: Absent, Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

IV. Updates

IV.A. Budget FY 26-27

Ms. Cannata shared that the Board of Education approved their budget on June 3, 2026 with a vote of 6-1.

IV.B. Math Pathways

Ms. Daniels shared that the Board has received emails and correspondence from the community regarding the course catalog draft for the upcoming school year. Ms. Cannata shared that Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II are full year stand-alone courses. Ms. Cannata asked that the board allow time for further investigation into the concerns brought forward. Mr. Panciera asked for clarification on the Statistics course. Ms. Cannata shared that the half year Statistics course was approved by the Board of Education in 2024. Mr. Cardella asked if students and parents are aware that the courses will be full year. Ms. Cannata shared that guidance is working with students are signing up for the correct courses.

V. District Highlights

V.A. TEAM Completion Recognition

Mr. Roberts introduced Mr. Paul Griswold. Mr. Griswold shared that beginning teachers have completed the TEAM (Teacher Education and Mentoring) program. The program pairs the new teachers with mentors and professional development. He shared the names of the beginning teachers and mentor teachers.

V.B. Pathways Video

Mr. Roberts introduced and played the Pathways video, produced by Luis Revilla. The video highlights many of Middletown High School's students, staff, activities and programs. Mr. Roberts thanked Ms. Forbes and Luis Revilla. Luis thanked everyone for the opportunity to showcase Middletown High School.

V.C. Retirees

Ms. Cannata shared that Middletown Public Schools has 13 retirees this year. She thanked them for their time and commitment to the district. She read the names of the retirees.

VI. Public Session

Chair Daniels explained the rules of Public Session.

Ms. Cris Freer, 108 David Drive. Ms. Freer thanked the Board Members for being receptive to her concerns this week. She expressed her concerns regarding the math sequencing and graduation requirements. She discussed the misinformation that was given and asked for an investigation into the actions that led to this.

Ms. Liz Crooks, 125 Preston Ave. Ms. Crooks spoke of the Math Pathways that was a failed Board of Education vote in 2024. She shared that the pathways limit students and board decisions should be followed and also spoke of an investigation.

Ms. Brooke Carta, President of AFSCME Local 1467. Ms. Carta shared the concern over the budget decisions, process and outcomes. She shared the uncertainty that students, parents and staff feel.

VII. Communications

VII.A. Report of Student Representative

Ms. Cannata shared that although Sal could not be present, we will be meeting with him later this week and thanked him for his time and reports.

VIII. Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Kelly Bee, Carried.

Rakim Grant: Absent, Susan Owens: Absent, Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

Mr. Cardella pulled Item VIII. E. Ultimate Frisbee for the National Tournament. Mr. Cardella asked about the timeline of the submission. Ms. Daniels and Mr. Gaylord provided clarification.

VIII.A. Minutes of May 12, 2026 BOE Regular Meeting

VIII.B. Minutes of May 18, 2026 BOE Special Meeting

VIII.C. Minutes of May 27, 2026 BOE Special Meeting

VIII.D. Minutes of June 2, 2026 BOE Special Meeting

VIII.E. MHS Ultimate Frisbee to National Tournament

VIII.F. Grants Status Report

VIII.G. Curriculum Committee

IX. Department Reports

IX.A. Financial Report

Ms. Forbes shared that there is a modest surplus. There is a shift in the benefits section due to retirement contributions with changes to staff. Purchase services deficit has increased due to increased needs in special education, transportation and repair and maintenance expenditures. Tuition for special education has increased due to Middletown welcoming new families with additional needs for outplacement. Mr. Cardella asked about substitutes, legal services, repairs and maintenance and electricity. Ms. Forbes responded to each line item. Ms. Forbes further elaborated on the Eversource billing for Beman and the Recreation Center.

IX.B. Facilities Department

Mr. Gaylord shared that the Beman benches were reinstalled and tripping hazards prevented. The cafeteria was repainted and vehicles have been fixed and replaced. The Moody oil tank project is moving forward. The Macdonough School building committee also met this evening. Interviews for the district plumber position will be scheduled for next week.

IX.C. Personnel Report

Mr. Snyder shared that Beman principal search has reopened. Macdonough principal interviews with the Superintendent have been postponed. The Assistant Principal position at MHS has been posted internally. The Preschool Supervisor job description is being reviewed. Position eliminations and vacancies are being reviewed. Mr. Snyder shared that he is leaving the district as of June 30th and that he has enjoyed his time. He thanked Ms. Cannata for being a mentor and his HR team for their hard work.

IX.D. Transportation Report

Ms. Erin Stevenson shared that field trips are wrapping up, Xavier, Mercy and Saint John Paul have started summer break. Summer transportation is set up and ready to begin on July 6th.

X. Superintendent's Report

X.A. Special Education Analysis

Ms. Cannata shared that the analysis was done to better understand organizational strengths, identify growth opportunities, and develop actionable strategies to improve operational efficiencies, communication and collaboration across the district. Ms. Spaulding shared that the purpose was to better understand organizational strengths, identify growth opportunities and improve outcomes. The review included interviews with district leaders, building administrators, teachers, PPS specialists, paraprofessionals and support staff. The findings showed several strengths in the department. Feedback was also given regarding communication systems, organizational processes, leadership practices, workplace relationships and overall department functioning.

The review showed that the department has a strong student-centered mission, dedicated staff and collaborative practices across schools. The review also identified opportunities to strengthen communication systems, clarify processes, improve consistency in implementation practices, increase accountability and build greater trust and collaboration across stakeholder groups. As a result of this review, several improvement efforts have already begun and will continue to guide the department's priorities. Ms. Spaulding shared the strengths that the study revealed and growth areas.

Ms. Cannata thanked Ms. Spaulding and her leadership team for participating in the analysis. She also thanked everyone across the district for their time and work related to the analysis.

X.B. Exit and Stay Interviews

Mr. Snyder gave an overview of the number of surveys sent out and responses received. There are 10 questions and one open-ended question. Out of 159 surveys sent out, only 12 were returned. Employees reported safety and peer relations are the most positive responses. Leadership experiences vary across the organization. There is an opportunity to strengthen communication, visibility and employee engagement with practices throughout the organization. The district has also implemented Stay Interviews with existing employees to see what is going well and opportunities for growth.

Ms. Daniels asked if the questions were standard or created by the district. She gave suggestions to improve the survey. Mr. Snyder discussed the continuity of data. Ms. Bee asked if the data could be broken down into quarters. Mr. Snyder explained that there is no cut-off date for the surveys to be returned, and they are anonymous, so it would not be possible to know the last day of employment.

Ms. Cannata thanked the board for their suggestions. She shared that they are looking for trends and to make improvements beginning with onboarding.

Mr. Snyder shared data from the stay interviews. Employees provided positive responses with onboarding and experience with HR, working with students and peers and watching students

grow. Challenges included student behaviors and classroom disruptions. Employees responded that communication and staffing can be improved within the district. 92% felt valued and reported a good relationship with peers. Plans are in place to develop a Stay Longer Interview. This would be for employees that have been with the district for several years.

Facilities Committee (Added during Consent Agenda)

Mr. Krupa spoke of the many facilities needs of the district. He would like to keep the Facilities Committee meet monthly. June 17th is the next meeting. Ms. Bee stated support for quarterly meetings and Mr. Cardella shared support for monthly meetings and Ms. Kleckowski agreed. Dr. Macary shared that his current Facilities Committee meets 5 times a year.

A motion was made to approve the Facilities Committee meetings to once a month was made by Mr. Krupa and a second by Mr. Cardella -

Kelly Bee - nay

XI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:16 PM. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Harold Panciera, Carried.

Rakim Grant: Absent, Susan Owens: Absent, Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2