

Board of Education Meeting
March 17, 2026 6:30 PM
Middletown High School Library
200 LaRosa Lane, Middletown, CT 06457
DRAFT

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Daniels called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

II. Public Comment

Mr. Logan Dancy, 135 Mount Vernon St. Mr. Dancy spoke in support of the TAG program in Macdonough. He would like to know why the program is being phased out.

Ms. Sigrid Atherton, 116 Bretton Rd. Ms. Atherton spoke about the STEM program and the STEM teacher.

Ms. Kelly Torgerson, 83 Old Mill Rd, Ms. Torgerson spoke about the cuts to teachers and the effects on the students.

Ms. Latasha Williams, 92 Sbona Drive. Ms. Williams spoke in support of the IB program at Lawrence School. She discussed the time and effort that have gone into the program and her concerns about Project Lead the Way.

Ms. Vanessa Green, 330 Butternut St. Ms. Green spoke in support of the IB program. She suggested fundraising with people to fund some programs.

Sandy Mackie, 865 Newfield St. Ms. Mackie spoke in support of the IB program. She shared the skills that will assist students in employment later in life.

Mr. Jessie Torgerson, 83 Old Mill Rd. He spoke of the length of the initiatives that are in place in town. He asked for the Board to consider consistency for the teachers and the students. He urged the Board to not cut teachers.

Kaitlyn Styles, MHS teacher. Ms. Styles spoke of her experience in looking at town and BOE budgets. She discussed the feelings of students and teachers. She shared her relationships with students.

Brooke Carta, Employee, Middletown Resident, Local 1466 President. Ms. Carta asked the Board to look at how our resources are being used. She urged the Board to talk to the teachers and staff in the schools.

III. Budget Workshop

Dr. Addley thanked everyone for being present this evening. He shared that he tried to create a reasonable budget that would be acceptable to the community. The board submitted questions and those are now posted on the website. Ms. Daniels discussed the challenges of creating the budget and the structure of the meeting.

Mr. Grant shared his feelings about the budget. He stated that the Board should take teachers, key programs and vital support services off the table for cuts. He encouraged the Board to fight for what the students need.

Ms. Kleckowski asked questions regarding Special Education Compliance positions, mandates, Project Lead the Way, insurance. Ms. Riordan asked about the grant funding for Project Lead the Way and removing interventionists. Mr. Grant discussed equity and expanding programs and not making difficult decisions yet. Mr. Panciera asked about the Science Coordinator position and Project Lead the Way, interventionists, removing 6th grade Spanish and replacing it. Mr. Krupa asked about the unfunded state mandates. Ms. Owens discussed that cutting employees would not help the students. Mr. Cardella discussed the Special Education Compliance position, sending children from Farm Hill back to their home district of Macdonough and 6th grade Spanish being replaced by intervention. Ms. Bee discussed the IB model at Lawrence and to look at test results.

Other topics included KPA, class sizes at MHS, high need area teacher shortages, and learning at Legacy.

Dr. Addley reviewed the procedure for the next meeting to be held with the Common Council on March 23.

Mr. Krupa asked about expenditures and salaries at the Central Office level. Dr. Addley responded that it is contractual. He kept the infrastructure of the district in place for the next Superintendent.

IV.VI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:47PM by Mr. Cardella, second by Ms. Daniels - unanimous vote.