

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 3, 2009 7:30 PM

Town Campus Hammonasset Room, 10 Campus Drive , Madison, CT 06443

I. Call to Order / Attendance

II. Executive Session - 7:00 p.m.

II.A. Personnel Items

II.B. Legal Items

III. School Community Session - 7:30 p.m.

III.A. Recognitions:

III.A.1. Josh Hettrick, Daniel Hand High School Grade 10 Student, 2nd Place Award, "Tech & Learning's Portraits of Learning Contest" sponsored by Adobe (postponed from February 3, 2009 Meeting)

III.A.2. Connecticut Board of Education Member Appreciation Month

III.A.3. Reception

III.B. Public Participation

IV. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Speaker (s): Thomas Presti and Anna Balakrishnan

V. Superintendent's Report

Speaker (s): David J. Klein

V.A. Update: 2008-2009 Enrollment

Speaker (s): David J. Klein

V.B. Discussion: 2009-2010 School Year Calendar

Speaker (s): David J. Klein

V.C. Presentation: Tiger Fitness Center Update

Speaker (s): Craig Semple

VI. Board Members' Comments

VII. Board Committees / Liaison Updates

VII.A. Planning Committee

Speaker (s): Members: Debra Frey, Chair; Bill Clorite, Becky Coffey

VII.B. Personnel Committee

Speaker (s): Members: John Dean, Chair; Becky Coffey; Robert Ruggiero

VII.C. Policy Committee

Speaker (s): Members: Harriet Gowanlock, Chair; Seth Klaskin

VII.C.1. Technical Revision Reading: Policy #5090.3.2. Vandalism

VII.D. Finance Committee

Speaker (s): Members:

Becky Coffey, Chair;
Harriet Gowanlock;
Holly Sellers

VII.E. Community Outreach Committee

Speaker (s) : Members:
Seth Klaskin, Chair;
Becky Coffey

VII.F. LEARN Liaison

Speaker (s) : Liaison:
John Dean

VIII. **Audience Response to Information
Presented**

IX. **Consent Agenda**

IX.A. Bills Payable: \$441.12 (07-08);
\$1,396,026.48 (08-09)

IX.B. Line Transfers: \$58,340.49

IX.C. Budget Expenditure Report as of February
26, 2009

X. **Action Item: Minutes February 3, 2009 Meeting
(Ref. Bylaw #9540.8)**

XI. **Action Item: Minutes February 10, 2009 Sepcial
Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.8)**

XII. **Action Item: Educational Specifications for
Asbestos Removal from the boiler at the
Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School (Ref.
Bylaw #9540.8)**

XIII. **Action Item: Revised 2009-2010 School
Year Calendar (Ref. Policy #6030)**

XIV. **Old Business**

XV. **New Business**

XVI. **Future Agenda Items**

XVI.A. Presentation: Madison Public Schools
Guidance Program (Jean Baker, School Counselors)

XVI.B. Presentation: Instructional Technology in
the Classroom (Michael Kiefer)

XVII. **Meetings of Importance**

Speaker (s) : Chairman
Hale

XVII.A. March 4, 2009; CABE A Day on the Hill;
8:30 a.m., Capitol Avenue, Hartford

XVII.B. March 4, 2009; Board of Selectmen/Board
of Education Budget Presentation; 7:30 p.m.,
Walter C. Polson Middle School Auditorium

XVII.C. March 10, 2009; Board of Finance Budget
Review and Action; 7:30 p.m., Town Campus
Hammonasset Room

XVII.D. March 11, 2009; Planning Committee / IAS
Building Committee; 7:30 a.m., Central Office
Room B

XVII.E. March 17, 2009; Community Outreach
Committee; 6:00 p.m., Central Office Room B

XVII.F. March 17, 2009; Board of Education
Meeting; 7:30 p.m., Town Campus Hammonasset Room

XVIII. **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
February 3, 2009
Town Campus

Meeting Minutes

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Bill Clorite; Becky Coffey; John Dean; Debra Frey; Harriet Gowanlock; Robert Hale; Robert Ruggiero

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

2. Executive Session

MOTION: by Coffey seconded by Ruggiero to enter Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Ruggiero

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Personnel matters involving confidential issues were discussed.

Legal issues were discussed.

MOTION: by Clorite seconded by Frey to adjourn Executive Session at 7:28 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Ruggiero

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

The public session of the Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 7:33 p.m. Chairman Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Bill Clorite; Becky Coffey; John Dean; Debra Frey; Harriet Gowanlock; Robert Hale; Robert Ruggiero

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

Due to the inclement weather, Chairman Hale suspended the reports of the Board Sub Committees in order that Superintendent Klein could present additional information on the proposed 2009-2010 budget and allow time for discussion.

3. School / Community Session

3.1. Recognitions (Postponed to March 3, 2009 Board of Education Meeting)

- 3.1.1. Josh Hettrick, Daniel Hand High School Grade 10 Student
Runner Up, "Tech & Learning's Portraits of Learning Contest" sponsored by Adobe

3.1.2. National School Counseling Week, February 2-6, 2009

Madison Public Schools Counselors:

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| <i>Jean Baker</i> | <i>Director of Guidance</i> |
| <i>Phyllis Annunziata</i> | <i>Daniel Hand High School</i> |
| <i>Michelle Boss</i> | <i>Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School</i> |
| <i>Christine Coyle</i> | <i>Daniel Hand High School</i> |
| <i>Donald Cramer</i> | <i>Walter C. Polson Middle School</i> |
| <i>Mary Curran</i> | <i>Daniel Hand High School</i> |
| <i>Charlene Doane</i> | <i>Walter C. Polson Middle School</i> |
| <i>Patricia Judson</i> | <i>Daniel Hand High School</i> |
| <i>Cynthia Skarsten</i> | <i>Daniel Hand High School</i> |

3.2. Public Participation

None at this time.

4. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report (Thomas Presti and Anna Balakrishnan)

Due to the inclement weather, the student representatives were not present.

5. Superintendent's Report

5.1. Update: 2008-2009 Enrollment (this update was suspended in order to expedite the meeting due to the inclement weather)

5.2. Discussion of 2009-2010 Budget

Mr. Klein first distributed a copy of the Power Point presentation (on file) from the State of the Town meeting which was held on January 27th. He did not go through this packet but suggested that members of the Board review it, as it provides a lot of wonderful information. Mr. Klein stated that there is a great deal to be proud of in the Madison Public Schools, and the district should be a great source of pride to all members of the community.

Next, Mr. Klein introduced a Power Point presentation (on file) that expanded on the January 20, 2009 Budget Presentation to the Board of Education. It included additional resource materials and budget information pertaining to athletics, facilities and technology.

Mr. Klein's presentation focused mainly on the pre-school program, enrollment history and projections in relation to class sizes and the net expenditures per pupil for Madison students in relation to the rest of our District Reference Group. Much discussion took place and Mr. Klein and Ms. Rutlin addressed questions raised by Board members.

Ms. Coffey asked the other members of the Board to review the proposed budget materials and forward any questions to her no later than noon on Friday, February 6th. She will compile any questions received and pass them on to Mr. Klein so that he and the Administrators can have the answers at the Board's Special Meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, February 10th.

Mr. Klein stated that a great deal of time and energy went into developing this budget and he believed it demonstrated firm guidelines and fiscal restraint, while preserving the integrity of the very fine educational system in Madison.

Chairman Hale reminded the Board members that this is a 'transition year' in that the presentation of the proposed budget is very different than in past years. There is much less data in this budget document, reflecting that the only increases are for contractual items. He further stated that he believes 3.91% is a very responsible budget and the Superintendent and Administration did an outstanding job. Chairman Hale further commented that he hopes the Board adopts this budget very soon, as they are required to present it to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance on February 12th.

Ms. Gowanlock expressed her appreciation for the time and effort put forth by the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, administration and staff on this budget. She urged people to not focus on the 3.91% increase in that it is only relevant as a number and cannot be compared with a lower budget number in another district that may not operate as efficiently.

Ms. Coffey applauded all involved with the development of this budget, which will continue the programs the Board has worked so hard to put into place. She reiterated again that Board member questions should be forwarded to her by noon on Friday so she can pass them on and allow Mr. Klein and the administration enough time to prepare their response in advance of the February 10th meeting.

Chairman Hale reminded the Board that the purpose of the February 10th meeting is to have any final discussions on the proposed budget and vote to adopt it.

6. Board Member Comments

None at this time.

7. Reports from Board Committees / Liaisons (Committee Reports were tabled due to the inclement weather)

7.1. Planning Committee

7.2. Personnel Committee

7.3. Policy Committee

7.4. Finance Committee

7.5. Community Outreach Committee

7.6. LEARN Liaison

8. Audience Response to Information Presented

None at this time.

9. Consent Agenda

9.1. Bills Payable: \$714,026.05 (08/09)

9.2. Line Transfers: \$5,377.15

9.3. Budget Expenditure Report as of January 29, 2009.

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Dean to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Ruggiero

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

10. Action Item: Minutes of January 20, 2009 Board of Education Meeting

MOTION: by Frey, seconded by Coffey to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2009 Board of Education meeting.

AYES: Coffey, Clorite, Dean, Frey, Hale, Ruggiero
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: Gowanlock
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

11. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

12. New Business

No new business was discussed.

13. Future Agenda Items

13.1. Presentation on Madison Public Schools Guidance Program (Jean Baker, Director of Guidance)

13.2. Presentation on Tiger Fitness Center (Craig Semple, Director of Athletics)

14. Meetings of importance.

Chairman Hale referred to the list of upcoming meetings on the agenda. Ms. Coffey also mentioned that on February 25, 2009, the Board of Selectmen will meet to review the Board of Education budget and the Public Hearing on the budget is scheduled for March 4, 2009.

Ms. Frey requested an Executive Summary on the Tiger Fitness Center. Mr. Klein replied that he would have that ready for the February 10th meeting.

15. Adjournment

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Clorite to
adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale,
Ruggiero
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Submitted for Approval at the 03/03/09 Board of Education Meeting
dmd

Board of Education Special Meeting
February 10, 2009
Walter C. Polson Middle School Library Media Center

Meeting Minutes

1. The special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 6:05 p.m. Chairman Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Bill Clorite; Becky Coffey; John Dean; Debra Frey; Robert Hale; Seth Klaskin; Robert Ruggiero; Holly Sellers

Also present: David J. Klein, Superintendent; Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; district administrators; community members.

2. Discussion of 2009-2010 Proposed Budget

Mr. Klein stated that a draft of the Board of Education's budget presentation to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance has been distributed. He asked members of the Board to review the draft and contact Marilyn Bovee at the Central Office with any suggested edits or revisions as soon as possible. The presentation is scheduled for this Thursday. Mr. Klein also stated that he intends to distribute a copy of his presentation from January 27th on the State of the Schools at the February 12th meeting.

Mr. Klein next reported that he had also distributed a revised report on expenditure history and projections for the Department of Athletics. This revision corrects a discrepancy that was discovered in the prior report; specifically, money which should have been tracked under coaching stipends was originally under the line item for projected program improvements. The reports have been carefully reviewed and reconciled. Mr. Klein explained that this was a paper discrepancy only and there is no discrepancy in the tracking of funds in the Athletics Department. He expressed thanks to Director of Athletics Craig Semple and Jacqui Garner of the Athletics Department, as well as Director of Fiscal Services Dotty Bavin, and Jo-Ann Marron and Marilyn Bovee of the Central Office who all worked collaboratively, going through the report line by line, to confirm the accuracy of the revised report.

Mr. Klein also reminded the Board that athletic registration fees are projected, based on anticipated participation in a given program. Actual receipts are also carefully monitored by Mr. Semple and Ms. Bavin on a regular basis. He reiterated that there are no new programs proposed for Athletics for the 2009-10 school year.

Ms. Coffey expressed her appreciation for the revised report and commented that the format was very clear and easy to follow.

Mr. Klein next distributed a copy of an Executive Summary on the Tiger Fitness Center, and reported that Mr. Semple and his team will give a presentation on the Fitness Center at the March 3rd Board of Education meeting.

3. Action Item: Adoption of the 2009-2010 Board of Education Budget

MOTION: by Coffey, to adopt the 2009-2010 Board of Education Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee which represents a request for \$40,293,851 or a 3.91% increase over the 2008-2009 operating budget baseline. MOTION was seconded by Klaskin.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Chairman Hale stated that he believed the budget is fiscally responsible, allowing for contractual increases only and adding no new programs or staff. He pointed out that many accounts had no increases whatsoever. He commented that there has been a lot of recent publicity about neighboring school districts which are seeking union concessions to keep their budgets low. He stated that opening public contracts is a very “slippery slope” and once those contracts are re-opened, the entire contents may be subject to renegotiation. These contracts were negotiated in good faith and in accordance with Connecticut statutes. Chairman Hale stated that he believed the Administration and Board have put forth a very responsible and reasonable budget at 3.91%.

Chairman Hale next commented that Governor Rell’s proposed budget has proposed no decrease in funding for education and has the support of the Legislature. He also stated that the Federal government is looking at increased funding for special education.

In closing, Chairman Hale stated that he personally supports the budget as presented and is pleased that the vote of the Board was unanimous.

Ms. Coffey applauded the Administration for finding creative ways to fund required software. Other expenditures, such as increasing the print collection and replacing aging computers have been deferred but this was necessary in order to replace systems that are no longer available. Ms. Coffey stated that she also supports the budget as presented.

Ms. Frey echoed the comments of Chairman Hale and Ms. Coffey, stating that she believed it to be a very responsible budget. Ms. Frey also applauded the Administration for finding creative ways to bring the budget in at 3.91% while maintaining the quality of education offered to the students in the district, with no decreases in programs offered.

Atty. Klaskin also expressed his thanks to the Administration and the Finance Committee for developing a responsible budget and stated that he is also impressed with the creative ways that have been found to stretch the budget dollars. He voiced his appreciation as both a tax payer and a Board member, and stated that he is pleased that the district will maintain its standard of excellence in these difficult economic times.

Mr. Dean commented that he believed the budget was fair to both students and tax payers. He asked when the last time the Board of Education came in with such a low requested increase. Ms. Coffey responded that it had been at least 10 years. She is also grateful that the proposed budget calls for no decrease in programming or the quality of education offered to the students in the district.

Mr. Clorite also expressed his appreciation for the hard work of the Administration and stated that it is his hope that every possibility has been looked at in order to give back to the town.

Atty. Sellers commented that what she sees in this budget is that the Superintendent is focusing on the students of the district and keeping budget compromises as far as possible from the classroom, and she supports the budget for this reason.

All Board members agreed that this budget will not impact students in a negative way.

Mr. Ruggiero stated that he believes the Administration did a fantastic job and kept the focus on students during these tough economic times. He is pleased that this budget will allow the district to maintain the present level of academic excellence. He commented that this is a very positive budget for these difficult economic times.

Mr. Klein concluded the discussion by commenting that the Administration purposely didn’t look for gimmicks as a means to come in with a low budget for one year. This budget maintains a foundational level of funding which can be sustained by the district without creating issues that will negatively impact next year’s budget.

4. Action Item: Connecticut State Department of Education Carl D. Perkins Innovation Grant Application, for the Grant Period February 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009.

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Sellers to approve the Carl D. Perkins Innovation Grant Application

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Atty. Sellers stated that this grant application is a perfect example of how the Administration works to seek additional funding to keep the district moving forward in line with the Board's strategic plan, and is an ideal complement to last year's grant funded initiative "Engineering By Design". She thanked Pat Drew and Anita Rutlin for continuing their efforts in this regard.

5. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Klaskin to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Submitted for approval at the 03/03/09 Board of Education Meeting
dmd