

Board of Education Regular Meeting #1
Tuesday, April 3, 2007 7:30 PM Eastern

Town Campus Hammonasset Room
10 Campus Drive
Madison, CT 06443

- I. Call to Order / Attendance
- II. Executive Session - 6:30 p.m.
- III. School Community Session
 - III.A. Recognition: Connecticut Drama Association Awards (Daniel Hand High School Drama Students)
 - III.B. Recognition: Connecticut Debate Association Championship (Daniel Hand High School Debate Team)
 - III.C. Recognition: National Academic WorldQuest Competition (Daniel Hand High School Students)
 - III.D. Recognition: School Library Media Month Celebration (Library Media Specialists and Media Paraprofessionals)
 - III.E. Public Participation
- IV. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report
- V. Superintendent's Report
 - V.A. Presentation: Information and Technology Literacy Program Curriculum Guide K-12
 - V.B. Update: Kindergarten Enrollment 2007 - 2008
- VI. Board Member Comments
- VII. Distribution of Executive Summaries from Board Committees / Liaisons
- VIII. Audience Response to Information Presented
- IX. Consent Agenda (Items 9.1 - 9.6)
 - IX.A. Bills Payable: \$648,215.61
 - IX.B. Line Transfers: \$106,265.88
 - IX.C. Budget Expenditure Report as of 3.29.07
 - IX.D. Donation: \$6,000 for Island Avenue School Field Trips from Island Avenue PTO
 - IX.E. Donation: \$4,000 for Brown School Grade 5 Field Trips from Brown School PTO
 - IX.F. Donation: \$4,000 for Brown School Grade 6 Field Trips from Brown School PTO
- X. Action Item: Minutes 3.20.07 Meeting
- XI. Old Business
- XII. New Business
- XIII. Future Agenda Items
- XIV. 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.

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Consent Agenda:

The following agenda items are designated as routine and appropriate for approval as a single action by the Board of Education, if so desired. A Board member may request removal of any item from the consent agenda for review and discussion.

Board of Education Meeting
March 20, 2007
Town Campus

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order / Attendance

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Becky Coffey, John Dean, Debra Frey, Harriet Gowanlock, Robert Hale, Kathleen Rossini, Holly Sellers, David Youngerman.

Also present: Dr. H. Kaye Griffin, Superintendent.

MOTION: by Gowanlock, seconded by Frey to enter Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

2. Executive Session

Contract Negotiations were discussed.
Personnel issues were discussed.

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Sellers to adjourn Executive Session at 7:28~~8~~p.m.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

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

Present: Becky Coffey, John Dean, Debra Frey, Harriet Gowanlock, Robert Hale, Kathleen Rossini, Holly Sellers, David Youngerman.

Also present: Dr. H. Kaye Griffin, Superintendent; Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; district administrators; faculty; staff; students; community members.

3. School Community Session

Chairman Hale stated that at the last Board meeting he failed to recognize 3 young ladies in the audience as students of the Madison Public Schools who spoke during the Public Participation segment. He has since sent a letter of apology to each student because of his handling of the situation. He has received a letter back from one student thanking the Board for opening the fitness center and for reinstatement of Mr. Semple and shared copies of the letter with the Board.

3.1 Public Participation

Craig Semple, Director of Athletic Programs, read a statement to the Board in which he stated that he is glad to be back in his position and assured the Board that he will work hard for the district, the students and the community. He is pleased that the Tiger Fitness Center is open and thanked the Board members, staff, community volunteers and donors for their efforts in this endeavor. He stated that the fitness center will be a great addition for the student athletes.

Mr. Semple added that he has no intention of publicly discussing his reinstatement and hopes to move forward from this point. He stated that solutions require acknowledgement of past mistakes and he plans to work toward mutual cooperation in the future. He asked students, the community and the administrators in joining him in this effort.

Peter Manko, 15 Lawson Drive, asked to Board to reconsider its current policy on out-of-school suspensions in light of the incidents from the high school dance in February. He believes that a ten-day automatic out-of-school suspension is counter-productive to the educational process. Due to vacation and snow days, the children suspended were out of school for a total of 23 days. He suggested that the consequences be made to "fit the crime" and that the automatic suspension resulted in children being home alone which could have led to further issues with alcohol use. Mr. Manko asked to Board to consider consequences such as in-school suspension or peer advocacy.

Dr. Griffin responded that the Administrative Council will follow its original plan to implement the Code of Conduct and monitor its implementation prior to making revisions, where needed, in the summer of 2007.

Atty. Sellers added that the current legislative session is revisiting suspension policies and this issue was discussed at this evening's Policy Committee meeting.

Dr. Irwin August, 128 Five Fields Road, commented that the dance held on February 10th was the worst managed school affair. He stated that it was reported to him that a breathalyzer was done inside the dance without parents present or notified. He feels the breathalyzer was used improperly and that the school personnel did not have the proper training on its use. He son was affected by the suspension and has since seen a drop by one letter grade in each subject. He added that no tutors were made available for his son during his out-of-school suspension.

Dr. Griffin responded that the staff is properly trained in the use of a breathalyzer. She added that it is the district's expectation that students come to dances sober and that students will be observed and checked to benefit the student population as a whole. At the February dance, 17 students were tested due to observation of alcohol use and these students admitted to drinking alcohol. The 10 day suspension was in keeping with the current Code of Conduct and it was unfortunate that a school break and snow days were in the middle of the suspension period. Dr. Griffin added that the suspension affected both school and extracurricular activities and that the vacation period was not counted as part of the 10 days for the suspension from extracurricular activities because that would have resulted in students begin excluded from extracurricular activities for 15 days rather than the 10 provided for in the Code of Conduct.

Barbara August, 128 Five Fields Road, questioned the date selected for the dance and expressed frustration with the administrators in her attempts to provide alternate proposals to the automatic 10 day suspension. She added that parents should be notified of the use of a breathalyzer and the tests should be conducted at the door as a deterrent.

Chairman Hale reiterated that the entire policy will be reviewed this summer.

Steve Lutz, 66 High Hill Circle, commented that he has attended the last few Board meetings and it is clear to him that there is not clear communication from the schools and administration. He urged the Board to look internally to understand why the communication is not what it should be.

Susan Greenbaum, teacher at Daniel Hand High School, commented that she was a faculty advisor at the charity dance and that the breathalyzer was not used randomly on students but on those who exhibited outward signs of having used alcohol. She added that the suspensions at the charity dance have overshadowed the fact that it raised over \$6,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

4. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Ms. Norris reported that the spring musical is being performed at the end of the week and will include a Saturday matinee. She added that the musical performers are giving shortened performances at various schools in Connecticut.

Ms. Norris also reported that CAPT tests and mid-term exams have been completed. The 3rd trimester started today along with spring athletics.

5. Superintendent's Report

5.1 Information Share: Educational Opportunities for Students and Staff at the Rockland Preserve.

Joe Oslander, on behalf of the Madison Land Conservation Trust, presented an environmental donation in the amount \$1,000 to the Daniel Hand High School Science department. The donation will be used to purchase instruments for the marine science and ecology classes.

Mr. Oslander provided a report to the Board on educational opportunities at the Rockland Preserve in Madison. The Preserve includes 12 miles of hiking trails and a 10 acre pond. A replica of a charcoal site has been built on the Preserve along with an outdoor classroom with tables and benches. Mr. Oslander stated that some of the educational areas of interest include animal and plant life, and geological areas of interest.

5.2 Presentation: Final Report of Madison Public Schools' Athletic Department Self-Study 2006-2007 based on the CIAC Standards of Exemplary Interscholastic High School Athletic Programs (Developed by CIAC Visiting Committee)

Frank Henderson, Chairman of the Athletic Program Self-Study Steering Committee, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the *Madison Public Schools Athletic Program Self Study 2006* (on file) which outlined the commendations, recommendations and next steps in the *CIAC Report* (on file).

Mr. Henderson stated the Madison was the first district in Connecticut to pilot the athletic program review by the CIAC and he thanked all the administrators, staff, students, parents and CIAC members involved in the process. He added that the report will be presented on Thursday at the Athletic Directors conference.

Dr. Griffin distributed to the Board the *Historical Context for the CIAC Visiting Team Final Report* (on file) that outlines the process leading up to the completion of the Athletic Program Self-Study by the CIAC.

5.3 Update: Kindergarten Enrollment 2007-2008:

Dr. Griffin reported to the Board that current enrollment for Kindergarten for the upcoming school year is 148. The projections indicate the enrollment should be around 160 at this point in time.

6. Board Members' Comments

No Board member comments were presented.

7. Board Committees / Liaison Updates

7.1 Planning Committee

Ms. Rossini reported that the Planning Committee met this morning and continued with projects related to the Tiger Fitness Center which opened today. At this point, the consultant has arranged the equipment; the Fire Marshal has inspected the space; and the insurance consultant conducted a review of the facility. Training has been provided for 75% of the relevant staff, coaches and PE teachers. Two Strength and Conditioning Coaches have been hired to supervise the facility in the afternoons. Five pieces of equipment for the center were purchased with funds from the spring registration fees.

Ms. Rossini also reported that Mike Ott presented the Committee with a report on traffic patterns at the DHHS/Polson complex. She added that the softball field on Green Hill Road should be usable in mid-April due to weather-related construction delays.

7.2 Personnel Committee

Mr. Dean reported that MAESS negotiations are under way and five sessions are currently scheduled.

7.3 Policy Committee

Atty. Sellers reported that the Policy Committee is working on finalizing the new guidelines related to the revised policy on Community Use of School Facilities. This information should be available on-line by the end of the month. She also reported that the Committee began discussions on reviewing the Code of Conduct.

7.4 Finance Committee

Ms. Coffey reported that the Board of Finance will hold a public hearing on Wednesday March 28th which will include discussions of the town and school budgets.

7.5 LEARN Liaison

Ms. Rossini reported that LEARN had a meeting last week. One presentation at the meeting related to tracking CAPT and CMT scores relative to prediction of scores based upon demographic data. The intent is to determine which districts are performing higher than demographic expectations would indicate. Ms. Rossini reported that Madison was one of 6 districts that out-performed demographic indicators.

8. Audience Response to Information Presented

Mike Ciotti, 170 Dorset Lane, commented that the Fitness Center facility is great and that it was a good idea to add the classroom onto the space. He added that he was not impressed with the company that performed the orientation for the fitness center and questioned the cost of the services provided by the consultant.

9. Consent Agenda (Items 9.1 – 9.3)

9.1 Bills Payable: \$715,470.33

9.2 Line Transfers: \$76,281.05

9.3 Notice of Intent for Instruction of Student at Home

MOTION: by Frey, seconded by Sellers to approve the consent agenda.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

10. Action Item: Donation of \$1,000 to Daniel Hand High School Science Department from Madison Land Conservation Trust.

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Gowanlock to approve the donation of \$1,000 to the Daniel Hand High School Science Department from the Madison Land Conservation Trust.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

11. Action Item: Request for Overnight Travel / CMEA All-State Music Festival

MOTION: by Frey, seconded by Rossini to approve the request for over-night travel from Daniel Hand High School to attend CMEA All-State Music Festival at Central Connecticut State University from 3/29/07 – 3/31/07.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

12. Action Item: Minutes 1.31.07 Meeting

MOTION: by Sellers, seconded by Coffey to approve the minutes of 1.31.07.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

13. Action Item: Minutes 3.6.07 Meeting

MOTION: by Rossini, seconded by Sellers to correct page 2, line 37 of the 3.6.07 minutes to “arrival of fitness equipment on January 22”.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Sellers to approve the minutes of 3.6.07 as amended.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

14. Action Item: Minutes 3.14.07

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Dean to approve the minutes of 3.14.07.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

15. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

16. New Business

Dr. Griffin informed the Board that a report called *Conditions of Education* (on file) has been posted on the website as a companion document to the budget.

17. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Gowanlock requested an update on the Daniel Hand High School scheduling. Dr. Griffin suggested a progress report at the second April meeting.

Ms. Coffey requested a discussion on the Code of Conduct and tutoring / support of students when out of school. It was suggested this be a roundtable discussion at the May meeting.

Mr. Youngerman requested an update on the Academy Facilities Plan. Dr. Griffin indicated that she would assist in collecting data on future operational budgets in light of the facilities plans under discussion. It was suggested that this item be part of a discussion for a September workshop.

18. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Rossini to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Submitted for approval at the 4.3.07 BOE meeting.
hgd