

Board of Education Regular Meeting #2
Tuesday, May 20, 2008 7:30 PM Eastern

Town Campus Hammonasset Room
10 Campus Drive
Madison, CT 06443

- I. Call to Order / Attendance
- II. Executive Session - 7:00 p.m.
- III. School Community Session - 7:30 p.m.
 - III.A. School / Community Recognition
 - III.A.1. Odyssey of the Mind
 - III.A.1.a. "The Eccentrics" - Placed 14th in their division
 - III.A.1.b. "Odyssey Road Rally" - 3rd Place, Bronze Medal Winners
 - III.A.1.c. "Tee Structure" - 1st Place, Gold Medal Winners
 - III.B. Public Participation
- IV. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report
- V. Superintendent's Report
 - V.A. Overview: Healthy Food Certification Statement
- VI. Board Members' Comments
- VII. Updates from Board Committees / Liaison
 - VII.A. Planning Committee
 - VII.B. Personnel Committee
 - VII.C. Policy Committee
 - VII.D. Finance Committee
 - VII.E. Community Outreach Committee
 - VII.F. LEARN Liaison
- VIII. Audience Response to Information Presented
- IX. Consent Agenda (Items 9.1 - 9.6)
 - IX.A. Bills Payable: \$439,849.67
 - IX.B. Line Transfers: 15,727.22
 - IX.C. Donation: \$2,004.31 to Daniel Hand High School Band for drum cases, from the Music Boosters
 - IX.D. Donation: \$1,322.00 to the Daniel Hand High School Band for a digital piano, from the Music Boosters.
 - IX.E. Textbook Adoption
 - IX.E.1. An Introduction to Programming Using Visual Basic.Net; Lawrenceville Press Publisher; Daniel Hand High School Topics in Computer Science
 - IX.E.2. Weather and Climate - Science Explorer; Prentice Hall Publisher, Robert H. Brown Middle School Grade 6 Science
 - IX.E.3. Earth's Changing Surface - Science Explorer; Prentice Hall Publisher; Walter C. Polson Middle School Grade 7 Science
 - IX.E.4. Human Biology and Health - Science Explorer; Prentice Hall Publisher; Walter C. Polson Middle School Grade 7 and 8 Science
 - IX.F. Connecticut State Department of Education Carl D. Perkins Secondary Education Basic Grant Application

- X. Action Item: Minutes May 6, 2008 Meeting (Ref. Policy 9540.8)
- XI. Action Item: To re-accept as complete and re-accept the school building project #076-0055 / Daniel Hand High School for public school purposes, as requested by the State Department of Education for their audit. (Ref. Policy #9540.8)
- XII. Action Item: Healthy Food Certification Statement for July 1, 2008 (Ref. Policy 3542.1 and 9540.8)
- XIII. Old Business
 - XIII.A. Schedule Date for Board of Education Retreat
- XIV. New Business
 - XIV.A. Textbook Adoption Preview (May 20-June 3, 2008) Ref. Policy #6100.10)
 - XIV.A.1. Geometry; McDougal Littell Publisher; Daniel Hand High School Geometry, Level 3
- XV. Future Agenda Items
 - XV.A. 2008-2009 Enrollment Report - June 3rd BOE Meeting
 - XV.B. Presentation on IMPACT Program - June 24th BOE Meeting
- XVI. Meetings of Importance
 - XVI.A. May 29, 2008; Planning Committee; 7:30 a.m., Central Office Room B
- XVII. 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
May 6, 2008
Town Campus

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Becky Coffey; John Dean; Debbie Frey; Harriet Gowanlock; Robert Hale, Seth Klaskin; Robert Ruggiero; Holly Sellers

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

1. Executive Session

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Frey to enter Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Confidential personnel matters were discussed.

Legal matters were discussed.

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Klaskin to adjourn Executive Session at 7:34 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

The public session of the Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 7:39 p.m. Chairman Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Becky Coffey; John Dean, Debbie Frey; Harriet Gowanlock; Robert Hale; Seth Klaskin; Robert Ruggiero; Holly Sellers

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

3. School Community Session

3.1. School / Community Recognition

Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School

Jayson Tung, Grade 6 Student; set a new school record at Brown's annual "Day of Pi" event. Jayson memorized and recited 314 digits to set the new school record for the Day of Pi Celebration. He is also a Regional Student Leader of the Continental Math League. Jayson received a certificate of recognition signed by Chairman Hale and Mr. Klein.

Kate Mazzeo, Grade 6 Student; First Place Winner in the "eesmarts Middle School Essay Contest" sponsored by United Illuminating. Mr. Klein reported that he had attended an awards ceremony at the State Capital earlier in the day along with Kate and her family, her teacher, Mrs. Thomas, and Julie Phelps,

Principal of Brown Middle School. Kate was presented with a plaque recognizing her achievement. It was also announced that she won a computer as part of the Essay Contest ceremony at the State Capital. Mr. Klein presented her with a Certificate of Recognition signed by him and Chairman Hale on behalf of the Board.

Daniel Hand High School

Rotary International District 7980 Interact Club Recognition
Daniel Hand High School Interact Club – “Fair Earth Bazaar and Café” Project

Daniel Hand High School seniors Rusty Shomberg (President of the Interact Club) and Rianna DiBartolo-Cordovano (Event Coordinator for the project), were recognized on behalf of the Interact Club for their achievement with the Club’s recent “Fair Earth Bazaar and Café” project. Rusty and Rianna were presented with a Certificate of Recognition signed by Mr. Klein and Chairman Hale. Also in attendance were Art Criddle, Madison Rotary Advisor to the Daniel Hand High School Interact Club; Jim Satterwhite, President, Rotary Club of Madison; and Dick Benson, the District Interact Chair.

Chairman Hale added his commendation for this project, and stated that he participated in the project and appreciates their efforts.

National Teacher Appreciation Day – May 6, 2008

Mr. Klein announced that May 6th is National Teacher Appreciation Day. He began by emphasizing that the teachers in the Madison Public Schools are highly qualified, dedicated individuals who work hard for their students every day.

Each year the Board of Education celebrates National Teacher Appreciation Day by selecting a group of teachers to attend a Board meeting and be recognized by the Board on behalf of all of their colleagues. Mr. Klein explained that this year, the Board is recognizing Speech/Language Pathologists and they were invited to attend this meeting. Coincidentally, May is ‘Better Hearing and Speech Month’ so it is fitting that the Board is recognizing this group of teachers. Mr. Klein then asked Dr. Barbara Macauley, Director of Special Education and Student Services to introduce the District Speech / Language Pathologists, and she, along with Rachel Weiss, Assistant Director of Special Education and Student Services presented them with Certificates of Appreciation signed by Mr. Klein and Chairman Hale. In attendance were:

- Barbara Irzyk
- Mary Megargee
- Linda Rutledge

Not present was Tricia Winton.

National School Nurse Day – May 7, 2008

Mr. Klein next announced that May 7th is National School Nurse Day, and asked Dr. Macauley and Ms. Weiss to introduce the Health Services Staff. Dr. Macauley commented that this is a very important and special group of professionals who care for the students of the district on a daily basis. Certificates of Appreciation signed by Mr. Klein and Chairman Hale were presented to the following Madison Public School Nurses and Health Services Paraprofessionals:

- Joann Boulden, R.N.
 - Stephanie Bulyk, R.N.
 - Candace Cardoza, R.N.
 - Lisa Equi, R.N.
 - Donna Konarski, R.N.
 - Shirley Rinaldi, Health Paraprofessional
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- Shelia Judge, Health Paraprofessional
 - Karin Thelin, Health Paraprofessional

Not present at the meeting were Karen Owen, RN, and Deborah O'Connor, Health Paraprofessional. A warm round of applause thanked the honorees for contributing to the supportive educational environment that is so important to the success of all of our students.

3.2. Public Participation

None at this time.

4. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Ms. Norris was not present at the meeting.

Mr. Presti reported on the following:

Athletics

- The newly implemented IMPACT program is underway for sports teams;
- Scholar-Athlete Awards went to Derek Fish and Katherine Loftus;
- Daniel Hand High School was the 2007 recipient of the Michaels Achievement Cup. This award recognizes achievement in sports records, level of student participation, as well as sportsmanship and chemical free activities. Mr. Presti brought the actual cup with him to share with the Board.

Other

- May 1st was the deadline for seniors to pick their college;
- Junior Prom was held recently and went perfectly. There was an assembly the day before the prom promoting smart choices before and after prom. The Senior Prom is on May 24th.
- AP testing begins this week and students are studying hard;
- The band concert is May 7th at 7:30. There are three performances: the lower band (freshmen and sophomores); the upper band (juniors and seniors) and the stage band (students with exceptional talent);
- Prior to the band concert, art will be displayed for the Art Show. Seniors, Juniors and some Sophomores will be able to showcase their artistic abilities;
- The Virginia Beach trip is Thursday – Sunday, May 8-11th. The chorus and others involved with vocal performance are going;
- The Night of Songs is May 21st. It is a talent show focused on vocal performances;
- Graduation is scheduled for June 18th.

5. Superintendent's Report

5.1. Update: 2008-2009 Enrollment

Mr. Klein reported that actual enrollment for the 2008-2009 school year is at 3,654 and the ADS projected total is 3,698; a variance of 44. The final enrollment for kindergarten remains an unknown, as enrollments will continue through August, but Mr. Klein stated that kindergarten enrollment is on track when compared with this time in prior years.

Actual enrollment at this time is 3,783.

5.2. Overview: K-12 Summer Reading List – *Catch the Reading Bug*

Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, and Cynthia Schneider, Library Media Specialist at Daniel Hand High School distributed copies of the Summer Reading Program for 2008. They

explained that the summer reading list is a collaborative effort between the Madison Public Schools and the E.C. Scranton Memorial Library. The compilation was coordinated by the English and Language Arts teachers, and they solicited suggestions from students, parents and teachers.

Atty. Sellers inquired about the fact that audio books were included on the reading list. Ms. Schneider explained that audio books are more available at the elementary level as opposed to the middle and high school levels, and are a useful tool to help students read books that are above their actual reading level. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of audio books, and Ms. Schneider pointed out that they still provide the exposure to literature. Also, she explained that at the high school level, students already have the ability to read and are still getting the content by listening to a book.

Mr. Ruggiero pointed out one of the books on the list, Bounce, was authored by a Madison resident. Ms. Schneider said they do make an effort in compiling the list to include and give credit to local authors.

6. Board Member Comments

Chairman Hale reported that he had recently attended a conference in Hartford on Statewide High School Reform. Some of the topics of discussion were:

- Changing the mandatory senior projects to a Capstone project that can be started in freshman year;
- Standards for engagements;
- Multiple pathways through core areas;
- Expanding opportunities for technical and engineering education;

Chairman Hale stated that there is a 21st Century Skills Conference in Hartford the weekend of May 10-11.

He next reported that the middle school first report shows that the best predictor of high school graduation is 8th grade reading scores.

Chairman Hale stated that Madison will be presenting at the Connecticut Data Conference on May 14th. Michael Ginsburg will have a Blackboard presentation at that event.

Ms. Gowanlock reminded all present that the Budget Referendum is on Tuesday, May 20th and urged all to get out and vote.

7. Reports from Board Committees / Liaisons

7.1. Planning Committee

Ms. Frey distributed an Executive Summary (attached).

7.2. Personnel Committee

Mr. Dean reported that the Committee had their first meeting earlier in the evening. It was an organizational meeting for the AMA contract negotiation. The next meeting is scheduled for May 20th.

7.3. Policy Committee

Ms. Gowanlock reported that the Committee had not met since April 22nd and did not have anything new to report.

7.4. Finance Committee

Ms. Coffey reported that the Committee had met earlier in the evening to review projections for the remainder of the fiscal year and we are still in the black and expect to finish out the year within budget.

Ms. Coffey also reiterated that the Budget Referendum is on Tuesday, May 20th.

7.5. Community Outreach Committee

Atty. Klaskin reminded all present that the next and final Community Outreach breakfast for this year will be held this Friday, May 9th at the Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School. This event is open to the public and Atty. Klaskin encouraged community members to attend. The discussion topic for this event is the RtI (Response to Intervention) Model with allows for individualized attention to all students.

7.6. LEARN Liaison

Mr. Dean reported that the LEARN meeting for May is scheduled for Thursday, the 8th.

8. Audience Response to Information Presented

Mr. Gus Horvath of 50 Beachwood Drive addressed the Board regarding enrollment. He stated that he has done extensive research which shows that two of the three enrollment parameters are on the decline – birth rates and new housing, and that sales of existing homes have leveled out. He related this information to the Planning Committee's study of facilities utilization at the Elementary level. Per the letter he sent to the Planning Committee (on file) he offered his services to help in this study.

Chairman Hale thanked Mr. Horvath for his comments and offer of help. He reminded Mr. Horvath that the Planning Committee meetings, usually held on Thursday mornings, are posted with the Town and open to the public.

9. Consent Agenda (Items 9.1. – 9.6.)

9.1. Bills Payable: \$40.67 (06-07); \$517,431.65 (07-08)

9.2. Line Transfers: \$84,651.80

9.3. Budget Expenditure Report as of May 1, 2008

9.4. Donation: \$4,760.00 to J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School for field trips, from the Jeffrey PTO.

9.5. Applications for Beginning Educator Support and Training (BEST) Program Mentors:

- Denise Earles, Daniel Hand High School English Teacher
- Claire Sullivan, Daniel Hand High School English Teacher
- Amber Bishop, Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School Special Education Teacher
- Nancy Finch, Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School Special Education Teacher

9.6. Textbook Adoption:

- Precalculus With Limits
Houghton Mifflin Publisher
Daniel Hand High School Precalculus
- The Practice of Statistics
Bedford, Freeman & Worth Publishing Group
Daniel Hand High School Advanced Placement Statistics

MOTION by Frey seconded by Coffey to
approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Sellers
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Ms. Coffey commended the Jeffrey School PTO for their substantial donation to the school to be used for field trips.

10. Action Item: Minutes of April 22, 2008 Board of Education Meeting

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Frey to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2008 Board of Education meeting.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Sellers
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

11. Action Item: Submission of the Connecticut State Department of Education Special Education Grant Programs Application for 2009

- Special Education, IDEA, Part B, Section 611
- Preschool Special Education, IDEA, Part B, Section 619

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Frey to approve the submission of the Connecticut State Department of Education Special Education Grant Programs Application for 2009.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Sellers
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Atty. Sellers thanked Ms. Rutlin and Dr. Macauley for their work on this grant.

12. Old Business

12.1. Schedule Date for Board of Education Retreat

Chairman Hale stated that it was the consensus of the Board that Saturdays will not work for a retreat. He asked the Board Clerk to contact all members to try to come up with a Tuesday evening date that will work for all.

Chairman Hale requested to add an item to the agenda. He reported that the State has issued a technical amendment to the Education Bills and that all Boards of Education will be required to appoint a Curriculum Committee. Chairman Hale moved that the Board of Education Committee of the whole be appointed as the Curriculum Committee for Madison Public Schools.

MOTION: by Hale, seconded by Sellers to appoint the Board of Education Committee of the whole as the Curriculum Committee for Madison Public Schools.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Sellers
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

13. New Business

13.1. Textbook Adoption Preview (May 6 – May 20, 2008)

- An Introduction to Programming Using Visual Basic .Net
Lawrenceville Press Publisher
Daniel Hand High School Topics in Computer Science
- Weather and Climate
Science Explorer
Prentice Hall Publisher
Robert Brown Middle School Grade 6 Science
- Earth's Changing Surface
Science Explorer
Prentice Hall Publisher
Walter C. Polson Middle School Grade 7 Science
- Human Biology and Health
Science Explorer
Prentice Hall Publisher
Walter C. Polson Middle School Grade 7 & 8 Science

Ms. Rutlin stated that these books will be available for review in the Central Office for the next two weeks.

14. Future Agenda Items

14.1. Presentation on IMPACT Program – this will take place at a future meeting.

Ms. Frey stated that in light of this evening's discussion regarding enrollment, she would like to see a presentation on enrollment, including ADS and State Department of Education statistical and historical data. Mr. Klein commented that he thought this would be a useful exercise and Ms. Frey stated that the Planning Committee could work with Mr. Klein on this presentation.

Discussion ensued about the many factors affecting enrollment, and much of it is conflicting data. Ms. Gowanlock stated that the Board needs to look at statistical and historical data in order to determine which 'crystal ball' to follow.

Mr. Klein stated that national statistics must be analyzed to be forward thinking, and that the Board needs to continue to do its homework and have accurate data before presenting any information to the public. He also stated that it's important to understand how the data is derived.

Mr. Dean asked if it was possible to learn through a real estate board if homebuyers are buying their second or third home in town. Ms. Gowanlock responded that she was not aware of any such data base but would look into it.

Mr. Klein will work in house to look at ADS data as far as historical numbers. Attorney Sellers asked that data analysis previously submitted by Ms. Emily Eisenlohr be included in the data provided for discussion.

Ms. Coffey stated that along the same vein, she would like to see a presentation on current programs at all levels but particularly elementary, specifically what kinds of programs are available and how they are offered. Mr. Klein stated that he saw the value in this process of assessing decision derived benefits.

15. Meetings of Importance

Chairman Hale referred to the list of upcoming meetings on the Board agenda.

18. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Coffey to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Submitted for approval at the 05/20/08 Board of Education Meeting
dmd

PLANNING COMMITTEE – Executive Summary 5/6/08

The committee met last Thursday (5/1) to discuss the following:

Facilities Update:

1. **Island Avenue School Projects** – The Board of Selectmen approved the Building Committee's recommendation to hire Funk Boiler Works, Inc. for the boiler replacement component of the project. This contractor submitted the lowest qualified bid and came highly recommended by other school districts. Bids are due for the asbestos abatement on Friday, May 9, 2008.
2. **Traffic Safety Study** – Bill McMinn and Mike Ott continue to study traffic safety at all of the district's schools. A comprehensive, long-term plan will be developed to address the identified issues related to vehicular speed, pedestrian safety and overall traffic patterns. Initiatives that will be addressed short-term include better signage, pavement markings and the addition of speed humps/bumps. A set of speed bumps have already been installed along the Polson School drive and have served as a considerable deterrent to excessive speed. More costly measures that include potential changes to infrastructure would be part of a more long-term plan. The creation of "School Safety Zones" is being investigated that would address both on-site measures as well as off-site impediments that are proximate to school locations. Mike Ott introduced the Committee to Connecticut's ***Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS)***. This program assists school districts in the development of a comprehensive, written document that outlines the school/community's intentions to provide more sustainable and safe travel routes to and from school properties. Through the Federal Highway Administration's SRTS program and the Connecticut DOT, there is also funding available to assist districts in making safety improvements. In order to be eligible, districts are required to have a documented SRTS Master Plan. To date, Bethel, Columbia, New Britain and Fairfield have all participated and received federal funding. Madison's school administration will investigate this potential funding source in greater detail.
3. **Ryerson/RHB Emergency (2^o) Access Study** – In an effort to refine and expand the districts safety and security plans, the district continues to investigate options at the Ryerson/RHB campus. As indicated in a previous report, this exercise is considered prudent in the event that the sole means of access to the campus be rendered impassable. In the short-term, walking paths and shelter-in-place plans are being refined and, in the long-term the potential of a secondary means of vehicular access is being studied. Mr. Hale and Mr. Klein both indicated that this would be a topic of discussion for an upcoming Community Leadership meeting.
4. **DHHS/WPMS Traffic Issues** – Speed bumps will be installed along the DHHS and Polson driveways to curb (no pun intended) excessive speed and increase safety on the campus. The plan is to install existing removable inventory and investigate the cost associated with the installation of permanent, asphalt speed bumps during the next budget cycle.

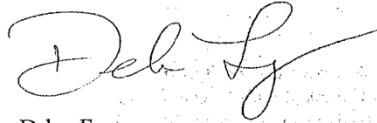
Athletics Update:

1. **Turf Bleachers** – The potential to purchase 'used' bleachers mentioned in a previous report has been dismissed due to safety concerns. The project will move forward as previously indicated to include one, ten-row set of portable bleachers (on wheels) that will allow the district to optimize use based on seasonal needs. The bleachers are anticipated to be 'in district' for the fall sports season.
2. **Fitness Center** – Given the one-year use history of the fitness center, an assessment of safety, supervision and equipment location is being performed. In addition, an RFP for an equipment service contract is being developed to perpetuate continued compliance with all safety and insurability requirements.
3. **MAPAC Update** – MAPAC meets again on May 13. Anticipated proposals include a 10th Grade Football Team, Girls Golf Team and Boys Swim Team.

4. **Impact Study/Testing Process** – In response to committee member's questions, Craig Semple provided a brief overview of the impact testing process that is being instituted at DHHS. Study results provide baseline data for use by a student's private physician as one tool to aide in determining safe return to both academic and physical activity after head injury (i.e. concussion, etc.). A comprehensive public presentation will be made to the BOE at the second meeting in May.

Future Agenda Items – Elementary space utilization; discussions will continue regarding program, student distribution and the development of an RFP for professional services to estimate probable cost figures for 3 & 4-building models.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debra Frey
Chair BOE Planning Committee