

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2026 6:30 PM Eastern
<https://www.youtube.com/@MiddletownStream>

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

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

Present: 9.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Salute to the Flag

Spencer School students led the Pledge of Allegiance

III. Adoption of Agenda

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

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

Yea: 9, Nay: 0

IV. District Highlights

IV.A. Spencer School Panda Leadership Squad

Dr. Macary welcomed the students from Spencer School Panda Leadership Squad. Ms. Martinez introduced the club. Jovanka Martinez discussed the Panda Leadership Squad and the opportunities it provides her. Jordyn Hunter spoke about her role in the squad. The goals are to build a strong, positive school culture, encourage students to take initiative and become responsible leaders, create a safe and supportive environment and empower students to be role models for younger grades, fostering a sense of community and connection. Marian Van Siclen shared some of the events that the panda squad organizes. They organized a successful talent show and helped students prepare. By participating in the Panda Leadership Squad, students will develop leadership skills and learn how to bring about positive change within the school and community.

IV.B. Adult Education Evenstart

Mr. Ralph D'Amato and Ms. Erin Marchese shared a five year progress updated for the Board. Mr. D'Amato reviewed the services at Adult Ed. These include Adult Basic Education, Career Development Program, Citizenship Preparation, GED Preparation, English as a Second Language and Family Literacy. There is a 71% enrollment growth from 2021-2022 in the Diploma and ESL programs. There are currently 360 students enrolled. English as a Second Language is the largest program with 199 students. Classes in adult education include podcast creating, drone flying.

Ms. Marchese reviewed the Even Start Family Learning Program. This is a dual program for both parents and their children. Even Start brings parents in need of adult education together with their children to share the excitement of learning by pairing early childhood education with adult academic instruction, and reinforcing the parent-child relationship along the way.

IV.C. Announcement of School Administrators

Ms. Cannata introduced Dr. Trevor Ellis. Dr. Ellis is the new Middletown High School Assistant Principal. Dr. Ellis thanked Dr. Macary, Board Members, the leadership at Middletown High School and the Middletown community. Seth Phostole is a Special Education Supervisor. Mr. Phostole thanked the board, Dr. Macary and the Middletown Schools community. Michele DiMauro is the Human Resources Manager. Ms. DiMauro thanked everyone for the opportunity and the warm welcome back to the district. Carlos de la Barrera is the new Chief Academic Officer for the district. Mr. de la Barrera expressed his gratitude to the teachers and staff. He also thanked the interview committee and Dr. Macary.

V. Public Session

Chair Daniels explained the rules of Public Session.

Ms. Susan Owens, one of the founders of the GIFTS program at Middletown High School. Ms. Owens thanked Dr. Macary for his support of the program.

VI. Communications

Ms. Daniels thanked the Board for the numerous summer meetings and their work on the budget. She welcomed Dr. Macary to his first Regular Board of Education Meeting.

VII. Consent Agenda

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

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

Yea: 9, Nay: 0

Chair Daniels pulled Item VIII. A and B. There were errors that will be discussed at a later time.

VII.A. Minutes of Special Meeting June 3, 2026

VII.B. Minutes of Regular Meeting, June 9, 2026

VII.C. Minutes of Special Meeting, June 15, 2026

VII.D. Minutes of Special Meeting June 29, 2026

VII.E. Minutes of Special Meeting, July 2, 2026

VII.F. Minutes of Special Meeting, August 13, 2026

VII.G. Out of State Field Trip MHS ASTE to West Springfield, MA

VII.H. Out of State Field Trip MHS Robotics to VEX National Tournament

VII.I. Out of State Field Trip DECA Power Trip Educational Conference

VII.J. Out of State Field Trip DECA Retailing and Marketing Exploration

VII.K. Out of State Field Trip DECA Sports and Entertainment Conference

VIII. Department Reports

VIII.A. Financial Report

Ms. Forbes shared that the 25-26 expenditures are balanced in September. Those numbers will be shared next month. The workers compensation cost was higher than anticipated. Needs and costs for Special Education transportation are lower than last year at this point. Supplies, property and miscellaneous items are on track and a surplus is expected in the heating line.

VIII.A.1. Action on Line Item Transfer Report

Ms. Forbes shared there are 5 transfers requests. They include emergency action guides, supply line for strings program, certified cost into certified line and special education summer transportation.

A motion to approve the Line Item Transfer Report was made. This motion, made by Harold Panciera and seconded by Deborah Kleckowski, Carried.

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

Yea: 9, Nay: 0

VIII.A.2. Action on 2024-2025 Unexpended Balance

Ms. Forbes reviewed the 2024-2025 unexpended balance. The remaining funds in the balance would go to a replacement vehicle for the district plumber. The remaining balance of the vehicle would be covered by the Facilities Department budget.

A motion was made to approve the 2024-2025 Unexpended Balance. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Dean Krupa, Carried.

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

Yea: 9, Nay: 0

VIII.A.3. Grants Status Report

Ms. Forbes reviewed the grants status report. There were no questions.

VIII.A.4. Action on Family Resource Center

Ms. Forbes shared that the Family Resource Center is located at Farm Hill School and Hamlin Street. The FRC grant supports many services for families.

Move to approve the submission of the Family Resource Center grant to the Connecticut State Department of Education in the amount of \$122,650, for the grant period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, to support the Family Resource Center serving families at Farm Hill Elementary School and Macdonough Elementary School was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Kelly Bee, Carried.

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

Yea: 9, Nay: 0

VIII.A.5. Action on Department of Economic and Community Development Grant

Ms. Forbes thanked Matt Lesser for his work for this grant. This funding will assist Macdonough in after school programming.

Move to approve the submission of an application to the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for a Fiscal Year 2027 State Grant Award in the amount of \$150,000 for the period July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027; to support after-school programming and community building at Macdonough Elementary School, and be it RESOLVED: That Harold Panciera, who is the Secretary of the Middletown Board of Education, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this organization a certain contract with the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development, and to affix the corporate seal, if any. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Kelly Bee, Carried.

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

Yea: 9, Nay: 0

VIII.B. Facilities Department

Mr. Gaylord shared that the facilities department had a busy summer getting schools ready for the new school year. He thanked Ms. Forbes for the funding for the new vehicle that the plumber will be using. The Moody School oil tank project will be started soon and the Snow School roof project is nearing completion. IAQ projects continue to move forward. There was an issue with the pool filtration system, which was an unexpected expense.

VIII.C. Personnel Report

Ms. Cannata reviewed the work of the Human Resources Department. She thanked the Human Resources and Payroll departments for their work. New hires include 63 new staff members, both certified and non-certified. There are currently 20 vacancies across the district. There are also 41 para vacancies. Ms. Cannata reviewed the CT Code of Professional Responsibility for Teachers. The Core Principle is to act with integrity, protect students, and uphold the trust placed in educators. The Core Principle for Administrators is to lead with integrity, prioritize students, and build trust with staff, families, and the community.

VIII.C.1. CT Code of Professional Responsibility

Ms. Cannata reviewed the CT Code of Professional Responsibility for Teachers. The Core Principle is to act with integrity, protect students, and uphold the trust placed in educators. The Core Principle for Administrators is to lead with integrity, prioritize students, and build trust with staff, families, and the community. Dr. Macary and Ms. Daniels thanked Ms. Cannata for her work

VIII.C.2. Educator and Leader Evaluation and Support Plan

Mr. Griswold shared the Evaluation and Support Plan. It is created by the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC). Educators must plan and demonstrate the improvement of an instructional strategy derived from the Instructional Vision. It must be carried out in monthly Professional Learning Community (PLCs) meetings. Progress is evaluated by an administrator in PLC meetings and classroom observations.

A motion was made to accept the Educator and Leader Evaluation and Support Plan. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Kelly Bee, Carried.

Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea
Yea: 9, Nay: 0

VIII.D. Transportation Report

Ms. Stevenson reported that transportation had a successful start to the school year. There are 32 full-size buses, 16 type II buses and 9 large passenger vans. They provide 135 daily runs and transport more than 4300 students. In addition to Middletown Public Schools, transportation is provided to 3 parochial schools, 2 state technical high schools and a number of out of district specialized schools. Bus stop inquiry and change forms have been added online to streamline the processes.

IX. Superintendent's Report

IX.A. K-12 Blue-Ribbon Commission on School Funding and Accountability

Dr. Macary shared his participation on the K-12 Blue-Ribbon Commission. He is on 2 subcommittees within the K-12 Blue-Ribbon Commission. He shared the areas that the commission is working on, including the ECS formula and accountability. He shared important cases and statistics of public school enrollment within the state.

IX.B. Start of the School Year

Dr. Macary stated the school year started off with a good start. He shared letters that went out to parents to prepare for the new year and a first day of school open house for parents to meet with himself and the assistant superintendent. New teacher orientation, convocation and administrators retreat were all successes.

IX.C. School Projects Request

Dr. Macary shared that the school projects request work started in January. The Common Council voted to add the item to the ballot in November. More information will be shared. Every school is listed for a school project over the next five years. The state is providing a 67% reimbursement rate for these projects.

IX.D. 2026 Spring Sports BOE Report

Ms. DeJesus shared that 403 student athletes actively participated across all spring sports programs. 80% of all spring rosters earned a spot on the high honor or honor rolls. Beman Middle School Track & Field and baseball and softball had an outstanding season of performance and growth.

MHS baseball, softball, outdoor track and field, girls track and field, tennis, golf, ultimate frisbee, lacrosse and crew all had successes throughout the season. Unified sports also learned skill building and were successful with those skills. 65% of the 182 scholarships and awards distributed to the senior class went to MHS Senior student-athletes.

IX.E. Beman Robotics

Ms. DeJesus shared that the Beman Robotics Program would like to be an official after-school club. The program started in the 2022-2023 school year. A discussion regarding the funding for the program. Ms. Forbes shared information regarding the financing of the club. The proposal will go to the Finance Committee for further discussion.

IX.F. SBAC Presentation

Smarter Balance looks at proficiency and ground in grades 3-8 and grades 4-8. Mr. Cordway reviewed the proficiency in the math scores from 2022-2023. Mr. Raucci explained the English Language Arts scores. The team is focusing on improving teaching and learning. There are many new initiatives for the new school year including raise the cognitive level of content being taught, increase the instructional skills and knowledge of the teacher and increase the academic engagement of the student in the learning task.

Board members shared their concerns. Mr. Raucci and Mr. Cordaway shared the specific examples of changes for the school year.

IX.G. Legislative Updates

Dr. Macary shared the new laws and public acts that have come into effect. This summary will help align our current policies to make sure that there is alignment between federal mandates, state laws and board policies.

X. Action Items

X.A. CABA / CAPSS Governance

A motion was made to adopt the CABA / CAPSS Governance document. This motion, made by Rakim Grant and seconded by Kelly Bee, Carried.

Deborah Kleckowski: Abstain (With Conflict), Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

Dr. Macary shared that there is a new governance document. He encouraged that the document to be approved.

X.B. Educator and Leader Evaluation and Support Plan Approval

X.C. Beman Robotics

XI. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Cardella suggested a detailed finance report and alliance grant outline.

XII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:27PM. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Kelly Bee, Carried.

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

Yea: 9, Nay: 0