Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 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:	Absent
Harold Panciera:	Present
Kim Riordan:	Present

Present: 8, Absent: 1.

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

II. Salute to the Flag
Michaela Altenburger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Daniels spoke of the recent passing of longtime employee Ms. Sylvia Webb. There was a moment of silence in her memory.

III. Adoption of Agenda
A motion to adopt the agenda was made. This motion, made by Chris Cardella and seconded by Dean Krupa, Carried.
Susan Owens: Absent, Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

IV. District Highlights

IV.A. Bielefield: Wonder, Reflect, Inspire: A Fifth-Grade Character Journey through Literacy and Art

Dr. Macary introduced Mr. Travis Santiago, Principal of Bielefield School. Mr. Santiago welcomed four teachers and four students who presented their work on the *Wonder, Reflect, Inspire* project. The presentation included an overview of the project and its goals, which focused on helping students understand that character is demonstrated through everyday choices and actions. Students shared their individual artwork and explained how their selected precepts and personal experiences influenced their creative work. Daliah Weaver presented her painting and discussed how it related to her life experiences. Xavier Lopez shared the precept that inspired his artwork and explained the significance of the colors he selected. Maverick Lamb discussed how the choice to demonstrate kindness inspired his artwork.

Amiya Colon shared her precept and reflected on personal growth and the importance of continued change. Dr. Macary engaged the students in a discussion about what they learned through the project and invited them to reflect on their experiences.

IV.B. Robotics American Manufacturing Hall of Fame Award

Dr. Macary introduced Mr. Faulkenberry and members of the Robotics Team. Mr. Faulkenberry reflected on the team's journey, noting that although the team did not qualify for the state competition during its freshman year, the experience helped develop perseverance, focus, and determination. The team, consisting of five seniors, shared the history of the program, the tournaments in which they participate, and their goals for the current school year. Students also discussed their individual interests in pursuing careers in engineering-related fields.

V. Public Session
If you have a concern regarding your student or a staff member, we ask that you do not name anyone and speak directly with the building principal or the superintendent and not address the matter here.

Chair Daniels reviewed the guidelines for Public Session. She reminded attendees that concerns involving individual students or staff members should be addressed directly with the building principal or Superintendent rather than discussed publicly. Attendees were also asked not to identify individual students or staff members when sharing concerns.

Vanessa Crowley, 142 Talcott Ridge Drive. Ms. Crowley expressed concern regarding the continued vacancy in the Spanish II teaching position. She noted that the course is currently being taught by a long-term substitute teacher.

VI. Communications

VI.A. Report of Student Representative

Ms. Daniels introduced the district's new student representatives, Michaela Altenberger and Taryn Atkinson. Both students introduced themselves and shared information about their school involvement and extracurricular activities. The student representatives provided several updates regarding Middletown High School. The MHS football team remained undefeated at the time of the meeting; the crew team was preparing for its first regatta. The MHS Marching Band continued to compete and perform successfully and The *Chopped!* Cooking challenge, involving students from MHS and Beman Middle School, was successfully held. The representatives also shared plans to conduct a student research project to gather student perspectives, feedback, and concerns to bring forward during future Board of Education meetings.

VII. Consent Agenda
A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Kim Riordan, Carried.
Susan Owens: Absent, Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant:

Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

VII.A. Minutes of BOE Regular Meeting September 8, 2026

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

VII.C. Out of State Field Trip MHS Performing Arts to NY

VII.D. Out of State Field Trip MHS Ultimate Frisbee to Oxboro, MA

VII.E. Out of State Field Trip DECA to Anaheim, CA

VII.F. Out of State Field Trip MHS Robotics to Hershey, PA

VII.G. Out of State Field Trip MHS Music Ensembles to Hershey, PA

VII.H. Out of State Field Trip Beman Music to Hershey, PA

VIII. Department Reports

VIII.A. Financial Report (Exhibits A-K)

Ms. Forbes presented the 2026-2027 year-to-date budget and reviewed significant expenses that are paid in full at the beginning of the school year. She also reviewed the 2025-2026 fiscal year and discussed the process of finalizing the district's financial records. Once finalized, the remaining funds will be presented to the Board for transfer into the appropriate account. Ms. Forbes reviewed Exhibit C, which outlines grant activity, and provided an overview of the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula. She discussed the district's 22 receipt accounts and explained how funds are received and managed. She also reviewed school activity accounts, which are maintained by individual schools and support fundraising activities and expenses such as field trips. These accounts are audited annually. Additionally, Ms. Forbes provided an update on the Macdonough building project, reviewed other projects that remain in progress, and presented the Food Services program's profit and loss information.

VIII.A.1. Action on Line Item Transfer Report
Ms. Forbes reviewed the budget line-item transfer involving the transfer of funds for Curriculum Tech Ed Services from the Purchased Services line to the Subscription and Licenses line.

A motion was made to approve the action on the line item transfer. This motion, made by Harold Panciera and seconded by Deborah Kleckowski, Carried.
Susan Owens: Absent, Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

VIII.A.2. Action on Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)
Ms. Forbes reminded the Board that the submission of the DECD grant had been approved at the September meeting. She explained that revisions had been made to the original submission, requiring additional Board approval.

Move to approve Exhibit A, the budget vs. actuals report for the 2026-27 fiscal year, July 1, 2026 through September 21, 2026, and Move to approve Exhibit B, the final budget vs. actuals report, July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026 for the prior fiscal year 202526. This motion, made by Harold Panciera and seconded by Deborah Kleckowski, Carried.
Susan Owens: Absent, Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

VIII.A.3. Action on Alliance Grant (Exhibit J)

Ms. Forbes noted that the detailed Alliance Grant information was included in the Board packet. Mr. Panciera asked whether Project Lead The Way (PLTW) was included in the Alliance Grant and its expansion. Ms. Forbes confirmed that PLTW is partially funded through the grant and reviewed the schools where the program will be implemented.

A motion to approve the submission of the Alliance Grant was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Chris Cardella, Carried.
Susan Owens: Absent, Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

VIII.B. Facilities Department

Mr. Gaylord provided several facilities updates, including exterior painting at Lawrence School has been completed, and camera replacements are underway at Middletown High School and Keigwin School. The transformer at the MHS stadium required an unexpected replacement which is completed. The work on the Moody School oil tank has begun and is expected to be completed in November and work continues on the Macdonough building project. Ms. Daniels expressed her appreciation to the Facilities Committee for holding meetings at various school buildings, providing opportunities to visit and observe the facilities firsthand.

VIII.C. Personnel Report

Ms. DiMauro reported that the district had hired 54 new employees between September 1 and October 6. She noted that the district continues to have a need for paraprofessional staff. Mr. Panciera asked about the district's efforts to recruit Spanish teachers. Ms. Kleckowski asked whether the district had considered separating the World Language Department Head responsibilities from the teaching position, potentially allowing the individual to teach three classes. Dr. Macary shared that the district is exploring various options to address the staffing needs. Ms. DiMauro discussed ongoing recruitment efforts, including partnerships with colleges and universities to attract recent graduates and opportunities to work with student teachers. She also presented a staffing census report outlining district positions and full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing levels.

IX. Superintendent's Report

IX.A. PSAT/SAT Results

Mr. Griswold presented the district's PSAT and SAT results from the assessments administered in March 2026. He explained that the SAT is a required assessment for all students in Grade 11 and measures student performance in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. He provided an overview of the adaptive testing format, explaining that students begin with the first module and are subsequently assigned either a higher or lower-difficulty second module based on their performance. He reviewed the scoring ranges for both assessments, noting that SAT scores range from 200-800 and PSAT scores range from 120-720. The presentation included district comparisons in Mathematics and ELA, as well as comparisons with the Alliance District average. Mr. Griswold also reviewed subgroup performance data in both subject areas.
Dr. Brooks discussed the next steps for Middletown High School, identifying several areas of focus including, strengthening instructional practices, providing targeted academic support, increasing student attendance and engagement and monitoring student progress.
Dr. Macary emphasized the importance of continued academic growth. Dr. Brooks further outlined priority areas to support student achievement and reinforced the critical role of consistent attendance. Michaela Altenberger shared the student perspective, noting the importance of helping students understand the significance of the SAT. She explained that increasing student awareness of the assessment's importance may encourage students to take the test more seriously and put forth their best effort. Chair Daniels asked whether the school schedule could be affecting student performance. Dr. Macary responded that there is no correlation between scheduling and the scores and reiterated the district's focus on providing high-quality instruction.

IX.B. Administrator Directory

Dr. Macary reviewed the district's administrator directory, noting that there are approximately 34 administrative positions, with one current vacancy in the Food Services Director position.

IX.C. October 1 Student Enrollment

Dr. Macary reviewed the district's October 1 student enrollment figures and explained the importance of this reporting date for grant funding, budget planning, and district financial projections. He presented the current enrollment numbers and discussed their significance for district planning.

IX.D. Communication Outreach

Dr. Macary provided an update on the district's communication and outreach efforts. He reported that each school is publishing approximately two to three posts per week through ParentSquare, Facebook, and the district website. Athletics, Adult Education, and the Superintendent's Office are also maintaining a similar posting schedule to keep families and the community informed about district activities and accomplishments.

IX.E. ECS Blue - Ribbon Commission

Dr. Macary shared an update on his participation in two ECS Blue Ribbon Commission working groups. He discussed ongoing conversations regarding the ECS funding formula and

potential changes that could have a positive financial impact on Middletown Public Schools in the upcoming fiscal year.

X. Action Items

X.A. Action on Beman Robotics Stipend
Dr. Macary explained that the Beman Robotics stipend had previously been presented during the September Board meeting. Following a review by the Finance Department, he recommended approval of the stipend.

A motion to approve the Beman Robotics stipend was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Chris Cardella, Carried.
Susan Owens: Absent, Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

X.B. Approval of Series 1000 – Community

Dr. Macary explained that the district currently maintains 169 Board policies. Following discussions with the Policy Committee, the district will begin transitioning to the Shipman policy framework over the next several months. The proposed revisions include the repeal and adoption of policies within the 1000, 2000, and 3000 series.

A motion was made to repeal the current policies in series 1000, 2000 and 3000 and replace them with the Shipman policies series 1000, 2000 and 3000. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Dean Krupa, Carried.
Susan Owens: Absent, Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

X.B.1. Policy - Automatic External Defibrillators

X.B.2. Policy - Deadly Weapons or Firearms

X.B.3. Policy - Green Cleaning Programs

X.B.4. Policy - Non-Discrimation Community

X.B.5. Policy - Pesticide Application on School Property

X.B.6. Policy - Pool Safety Plan

X.B.7. Policy - Security and Safety Plan

X.B.8. Policy - Sexual Offenders on School Property

X.B.9. Policy - Smoking

X.B.10. Policy - Use of School Facilities

X.B.11. Policy - Visitors

X.B.12. Policy - Volunteers

X.C. Approval of 2000 Series - Administration

X.C.1. Policy - Hold on Destruction of Records

X.C.2. Policy - Retention and Disposition of Records and Information

X.C.3. Policy - Uniform Treatment of Recruiters

X.D. Approval of 3000 Series - Business

X.D.1. Policy - Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers

X.D.2. Policy - Code of Conduct for Federal Procurements

X.D.3. Policy - Disposal of Obsolete or Surplus Equipment or Materials

X.D.4. Policy - Gifts, Grants and Bequests to the District

X.D.5. Policy - IDEA Fiscal Compliance

X.D.6. Policy - Purchasing

X.D.7. Policy - School Activity Funds

XI. Future Agenda Items
No future agenda items were presented.

XII. Executive Session

XII.A. Review of Pending and Closed Legal Cases Provided by Board Attorney
A motion to enter Executive Session to review pending and closed legal cases provided by the Board Attorney and to invite Dr. Macary to attend was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Chris Cardella, Carried.
Susan Owens: Absent, Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XIII. Adjournment
Move at 9:32PM to adjourn. This motion, made by Chris Cardella and seconded by Kelly Bee, Carried.
Susan Owens: Absent, Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1