

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 8, 2024 6:30 PM Eastern

Beman Middle School
1 Wilderman's Way
Middletown, CT 06457
<https://www.youtube.com/@MiddletownStream>

Liz Crooks: Present
Sheila Daniels: Present
Rakim Grant: Absent
Callie Grippo: Absent
Debra Guss: Present
Adam Hayn: Present
Deborah Kleckowski: Present
Susan Owens: Absent
Harold Panciera: Present
Present: 6, Absent: 3.

I. Call to Order

Ms. Daniels called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

II. Salute to the Flag

Student Representative Dania Rabah led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Adoption of Agenda

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

Rakim Grant: Absent, Callie Grippo: Absent, Susan Owens: Absent, Liz Crooks: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

IV. District Highlights

IV.A. Aerospace Drone Pressure Washer Program

This item will be highlighted at a future meeting.

IV.B. Student Experiential Opportunities

Dr. Stacey McCann highlighted the Educators Rising program. This student-led organization exposes students to careers in education. The goal is to recruit, retain and develop the district's own teaching pool.

IV.C. World Inclusion Day and Unity Day

Ms. Cindy Culp shared that Unified Sports will be celebrating World Inclusion Day. The day is dedicated to people of all abilities, backgrounds, ages, race, religion and gender. The Unified Team painted rocks with inclusive messages to make everyone at Middletown High School feel welcome and wanted. Students Caleb Hayes and Rebecca Lis assisted with the highlights.

IV.D. Upcoming District Events

V. Public Session

Chair Daniels explained the rules of Public Session. There were no comments.

VI. Communications

VI.A. Report of Student Representative

Dania Rabah was introduced as the Student Representative for the 2024-2025 School Year.

Ms. Rabah shared that the turf and track were completed by the start of the school year. There was a good turnout for Senior Sunrise. The DECA chapter is the largest that it has been in past years. Sports and extracurricular activities participation is rising. There is a free snack station on Fridays that students have been enjoying. Aerospace students power washed the high school with drones and are hoping to be able to also do other schools in the district.

VII. Consent Agenda

A motion to accept the Consent Agenda was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Debra Guss, Carried.

Rakim Grant: Absent, Callie Grippo: Absent, Susan Owens: Absent, Liz Crooks: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

VII.A. Minutes of September 17th BOE Special Meeting

VII.B. Beman Drama Club Trip

VII.C. MHS Dance Team to Nationals in Orlando

VII.D. MHS Engineering and Robotics State Championship

VII.E. MHS Orchestra Trills and Thrills Adjudication Music Festival

VII.F. Alliance Grant

VII.G. Grants Status Report

VIII. Department Reports

VIII.A. Financial Report

Mr. Miranda reviewed the financial report. The budget is on track for the start of the school year.

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

Mr. Miranda shared that there was one transfer to cover the cost of 2 field trips.

A motion was made to approve the line item transfer. This motion, made by Debra Guss and seconded by Liz Crooks, Carried.

Rakim Grant: Absent, Callie Grippo: Absent, Susan Owens: Absent, Liz Crooks: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea,

Harold Panciera: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

Mr. Miranda shared that there was one transfer to cover the cost of 2 field trips.

VIII.B. Facilities Department

Mr. Gaylord recognized Jeremy Hungerford and John Post for their hard work that they have been doing throughout the district. Vendors are being explored to improve the work order system. Ms. Guss asked about the belt replacement at Beman. Mr. Gaylord explained that it is normal wear and tear and has been ordered.

VIII.C. Personnel Report

Mr. Snyder updated that there are currently 8 certified vacancies. He reviewed the coverage for each vacancy. Mr. Snyder shared that the district had a turnover of 18% for the year and the national rate is 25%. Ms. Kleckowski asked about the teaching in the vacant positions. Ms. Crooks about the recruitment for the aerospace position.

VIII.D. Transportation Report

Mr. Langton shared that Dattco is providing the district with 60 buses. There are many changes in the beginning of the school year. Mr. Langton and Mr Gaylord have had 2 monthly driver meetings this year. After school programs and athletics are underway.

IX. Superintendent's Report

IX.A. Opening Day

Dr. Vazquez Matos shared that the opening of the school year was successful. The 2nd annual back to school backpack fair had over 40 state, local and community organizations and over 1000 attendees. New Teacher Orientation was held for all newly hired teachers and employees. Convocation was the official kick to the new school year. All MPS employees were together receiving one message. The first day of school welcomed over 4300 students into our schools and classrooms.

IX.B. KPA Update

Dr. Vazquez Matos reviewed the KPA program. This is the first year for the program for children whose birthdays fall between September 1 and December 31. The program serves 86 students across the district. Ms. Crooks asked if the Educator Rising students could work with the KPA program. Chair Daniels shared that the high school has a preschool program that the high school students work with.

IX.C. Discipline Report

Dr. Vazquez Matos introduced Mr. Ray Byron, Principal of Beman Middle School and Dr. Dawn Brooks, Principal of Middletown High School. He reviewed the serious incidents by schools that resulted in school and out-of-school suspensions. He reviewed the types of incidents that resulted in out-of-school suspension and expulsion. He also reviewed the demographics of the students that committed the incident.

Mr. Byron and Dr. Brooks shared the many in-school supports at Beman and MHS. They include Effective School Solutions, MSEL, SEL, school-based health centers, systems and structures and new bell systems at both schools. Beman has an additional CSO, PBIS,

restorative practices with families and students, behavior contracts, PRIDE Patrol: Anti-Bullying program, X-MEN program will be reintroduced. MHS is utilizing CT RISE Network, Student Engagement Specialists, Men of Excellence, Girls Inspired for Total Success (GIFTS) and Dragon Watch. Both schools also have many community partnerships. Those include Youth Services Bureau, Community Health School Based Center, Hal Kaplan Mentoring, Wesleyan Upward Bound, Police Activity League, ROOT Center, Tutors and RJ Circle Keepers.

IX.D. Learner Engagement and Attendance Program

Dr. Vazquez Matos introduced Vacianna Spaulding. Ms Spaulding explained that LEAP is a relational home visit model and a targeted (TIER II) student intervention that serves as part of a comprehensive system of support for families whose students are struggling with consistent attendance. Its mission is to build trusting relationships with families to ultimately positively impact students' engagement and attendance. Ms. Spaulding explained the home visiting stages. The goal is to create and deepen relationships with families through multi-visits and provide helpful attendance and school resources. Home visitors can be any willing school staff member with a supportive mindset, including administrators, teachers, student support staff, family liaisons or community partners. There are 44 staff members that have signed up to be LEAP home visitors. Each school team has identified school attendance team members and has been having weekly or bi-weekly meetings identifying students that are chronically absent.

X. Committees

A motion was made to accept the Committee reports as stated in the packets as a complete motion for Budget, Curriculum, Facilities and Policy Committees. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Harold Panciera, Carried.

Rakim Grant: Absent, Callie Grippo: Absent, Susan Owens: Absent, Liz Crooks: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

X.A. Budget Committee

X.B. Curriculum Committee

X.C. Facilities Committee

X.D. Policy Committee

XI. Action Items

XI.A. Extension of DATTCO Contract

A motion was made to approve the Extension of the DATTCO Contract. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Liz Crooks, Carried.

Rakim Grant: Absent, Callie Grippo: Absent, Susan Owens: Absent, Liz Crooks: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

Mark Langton introduced Rich Labrie. Mr. Labrie explained that he assisted in closing out the fiscal year in June and looking at the budget for transportation. He was able to identify credits from DATTCO. Mr. Labrie stated it is in the district's best interest to extend the current contract for 2 more years.

XII. Future Agenda Items

There was no discussion.

XIII. Proposed Executive Session

A motion to enter Executive Session and invite Dr. Vazquez Matos, Harry Snyder, Jennifer Cannata, Dr. Stacey McCann and Attorney Peter Murphy was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Harold Panciera, Carried.

Rakim Grant: Absent, Callie Grippo: Absent, Susan Owens: Absent, Liz Crooks: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

XIII.A. Discussion of pending claim by Dr. Jada Waters (discussion proposed for executive session)

XIV. Adjournment

Chair Daniels shared a closing statement.

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:38PM. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Liz Crooks, Carried.

Rakim Grant: Absent, Callie Grippo: Absent, Susan Owens: Absent, Liz Crooks: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

Chair Daniels shared a closing statement.