

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2025 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.

Susan Owens: Present (6:47 PM)

Present: 7, Absent: 2.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Salute to the Flag

Ms. Kleckowski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made to adopt the agenda. 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

IV. District Highlights

IV.A. Holiday on Main Awards

The Superintendent presented 15 third graders with certificates from US Senator Chris Murphy. These certificates acknowledged their good citizenship, good behavior, respect towards others, and demonstration of the spirit of giving in everyday life. The students were nominated by their teachers to receive these awards; Senator Murphy's office prepared the certificates for each of the students.

IV.B. Igniting Inquiry Conference Goes National

Ms. Lavorgna introduced Ms. Denise Kraft and Lawrence School teachers and staff. The hybrid conference took place last June 2024. It was a three-day conference attended by 44 MPS staff and 38 out of district staff. Attendees were from Connecticut and also from across

the globe. Ms. Kraft explained the goals of the conference and the feedback that was received and how they have applied their learning. Ms. Middleton, Ms. Souza and Ms. Scholes all described their experiences and how it is applied. They shared that they will be presenting about the innovative hybrid format of the conference in March 2025 at the Comparative and International Education Society in Chicago.

IV.C. Toshiba American Foundation Grant for MHS Ag Science

Recently, the ASTE program was awarded \$4,950 (\$10 shy of the maximum allotted amount), allowing them to buy state-of-the-art advanced veterinary training mannequins. Students from ASTE presented how these mannequins will allow them to support the Advanced Veterinary Science Curriculum. The mannequins will help them practice required clinical skills, including CPR.

IV.D. Upcoming District Events

V. Public Session

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

VI. Communications

VI.A. Report of Student Representative

There was no Student Report.

VII. Consent Agenda

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

Rakim Grant: Absent, Callie Grippo: Absent, Liz Crooks: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

VII.A. Minutes of December 10, 2024

VII.B. Overnight Field Trip Request Beman Robotics to State Competition

VII.C. Out of State Field Trip Request - Bean Robotics to National Competition

VII.D. Grants Status Report

VII.E. Policy #6162.51 Student Privacy - Second Reading

VII.F. Policy #1600 Possession of Deadly Weapons - Second Reading

VII.G. Policy #4131 Professional Development - Second Reading

VII.H. Policy #5118 (a) Nonresident Attendance - Proposed Deletion

VII.I. Budget Committee

VII.J. Curriculum Committee

VII.K. Facilities Committee

VII.L. Policy Committee

VIII. Department Reports

VIII.A. Financial Report

Ms. Forbes shared that the January Report is within perimeters. A balanced budget is projected. Mr. Panciera welcomed Ms. Forbes as the new Director of Finance. Board Members about for clarification on transportation for out of town special needs students, purchase services, tuition and salaries. Ms. Forbes clarified each topic.

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

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

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

VIII.B. Facilities Department

Mr. Gaylord shared that the IAQ was completed. Windows at Moody School were installed and completed. The Farm Hill gym floor was replaced. There were no questions.

VIII.C. Personnel Report

Mr. Snyder stated that the new DEI Director will start January 21st. 2 out of 3 Spanish vacancies at Beman are filled. Aerospace and Chemistry vacancies will be filled shortly. Ms. Crooks asked about the opening of the Middle School principal position. Mr. Snyder shared the process for interviewing candidates. Ms. Kleckowski followed up with the Spanish opening, the interview committee, and Substitute teacher coverage in Special Education classrooms. Ms. Guss asked for clarification of coverage for math and strings at Beman. Teachers were recently hired for both classes. Hall monitors will be hired for MHS with interviews later this week.

VIII.D. Transportation Report

Mr. Langton shared late buses are continuing at MHS, Beman and elementary schools for after-school programming. He thanked the elementary, middle and high school principals and assistant principals for assisting in lowering the number of bus conduct reports. Ms. Kleckowski thanked the bus drivers for all of their hard work. Dr. Vazquez Matos recognized Mr. Langton and Erin Stevenson for their hard work in the transportation department.

IX. Superintendent's Report

IX.A. Conclusion and Recommendations of the IAQ Assessment and Evaluation

A state statute requires schools to have an IAQ Assessment. Mr. Gaylord gave a summary of the report. The report for each school is posted on the MPS website. Many of the items have been addressed. Training is occurring within the custodian staff due to the new requirements. An engineering firm will evaluate the HVACs systems. Mr. Gaylord thanked the maintenance team on their hard work in resolving these issues.

Dr. Vazquez Matos shared that approximately 40 students were involved in the winter program over the break. The Yondr pouches are successful in middle and high school. He thanked the staff for enforcing the policy and procedures. He congratulated Ms. Natalie Forbes in her new position of Executive Director of Finance.

X. Action Items

X.A. FY 25 CT Grown for CT Kids Grant Award

Mr. Mel shared that this is the district's second grant from CTK4CT. This grant will focus on training with staff and expand our ability to local food growing within the schools. Ms. Kleckowski suggested putting together a cookbook with recipes from staff and students.

A motion to approve the FY 25 CT Grown for CT Kids Grant Award was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Liz Crooks, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

X.B. New Course Approval The Psychology of Wellbeing

Dr. McCann and Mr. Peaslee shared that this course will assist students with understanding the mind and how outside environmental factors influence the mind.

A motion to approve New Course The Psychology of Wellbeing was made. This motion, made by Debra Guss and seconded by Liz Crooks, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

X.C. Policy #5145 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - First Reading

A motion to approve Policy #5145 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - First Reading was made. This motion, made by Adam Hayn and seconded by Harold Panciera, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

X.D. Policy # 5141.5 Suicide Prevention and Intervention - First Reading

A motion to approve Policy # 5141.5 Suicide Prevention and Intervention - First Reading was made. This motion, made by Liz Crooks and seconded by Harold Panciera, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

X.E. Policy #4118.51 Social Media -First Reading

A motion to approve Policy #4118.51 Social Media -First Reading was made. This motion, made by Debra Guss and seconded by Liz Crooks, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

X.F. Policy # 4152.6 Family Medical Leave - First Reading

A motion to approve Policy # 4152.6 Family Medical Leave - First Reading was made. This motion, made by Harold Panciera and seconded by Liz Crooks, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

XI. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Kleckowski suggested reviewing the grading policy.

XII. Proposed Executive Session

XII.A. Discussion Concerning Tentative Agreement Reached with The Middletown Federation of Teachers (Proposed for Executive Session)

A motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of Discussion Concerning Tentative Agreement Reached with The Middletown Federation of Teachers (Proposed for Executive Session) and invite Dr. Vázquez Matos, Attorney Erin Shaffer, Jen Cannata and Harry Snyder was made. This motion, made by Harold Panciera and seconded by Deborah Kleckowski, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

XIII. Possible Action Concerning Tentative Agreement Reached with the Middletown Federation of Teachers

A motion to approve the Tentative Agreement Reached with the Middletown Federation of Teachers was made. This motion, made by Sheila Daniels and seconded by Liz Crooks, Carried.

Rakim Grant: Absent, Callie Grippo: Absent, Liz Crooks: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

XIV. Proposed Executive Session

XIV.A. Superintendent Mid-Year Evaluation

A motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation and invite Dr. Vázquez Matos was made. This motion, made by Sheila Daniels and seconded by Debra Guss, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

XV. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:57 PM. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Debra Guss, Carried.

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

Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 4