

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 13, 2025 6:30 PM Eastern
<https://www.youtube.com/@MiddletownStream>

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

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

Present: 8, Absent: 1.

I. Call to Order

Chair Daniels called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

II. Salute to the Flag

Mr. Grant led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Daniels led a moment of silence for Dr. McCann.

III. Adoption of Agenda

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

Callie Grippo: Absent, Liz Crooks: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

IV. District Highlights

IV.A. Yvonne Daniels 2025 Recipient of ATOMIC Mari Muri Award

Dr. Vazquez Matos introduced Ms. Yvonne Daniels, Supervisor of Math 6-12. Ms. Daniels was the 2025 recipient of the ATOMIC Mari Muri Award. Ms. Daniels thanked the Board for the recognition and thanked the teachers for their work. Ms. Sheila Daniels thanked Ms. Yvonne Daniels for her work with South Fire Department in getting students to the firehouse to incorporate the STEM lessons. Ms. Daniels thanked her math coaches for their work on the trip.

IV.B. Introduction of Executive Chef, Kashia Diaz

Mr. Randall Mel introduced Ms. Kashia Diaz to the Board Members. He shared that the district was awarded the Chefs to Schools Grant. The focus is scratch cooking, local ingredients and to develop nutritious, culturally diverse recipes. Chef Diaz shared that she is excited about her work in Middletown Public Schools.

IV.C. School Lunch Hero Day

May 2 was School Lunch Hero Day. Middletown Public Schools employees serve over 1 million meals in a year. The team leads after school cooking, nutrition and wellness clubs,

farm-to-school relationships, classroom lessons and field trips, cafeteria nutrition education and student engagement all on top of serving breakfast and lunch daily.

IV.D. IB PYP Exhibition

Ms. Denise Kraft and the 5th grade team and students discussed The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme Exhibition that was held on May 1, 2025. The students each gave a statement about their work and the experiences they had.

IV.E. Upcoming District Events

Dr. Vazquez Matos recognized that the MHS Ultimate Frisbee Team won the State Championship over the weekend.

V. Public Session

Chair Daniels explained the rules of Public Session.

Dr. Marlon Millner, Bow Lane. Dr. Millner discussed the student proficiency scores. He requested his grievances be addressed.

VI. Communications

VI.A. Report of Student Representative

Ms. Rabah was not available to give her report.

VII. Consent Agenda

A motion was made to Approve the Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Harold Panciera, Carried.

Callie Grippo: Absent, Liz Crooks: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

VII.A. Minutes of Board of Education Meeting April 8, 2025

VII.B. Minutes of BOE Special Meeting / Budget Workshop April 2, 2025

VII.C. Minutes of BOE Special Meeting April 30th, 2025

VII.D. 2nd year Funding Program Enhancement Project

VII.E. Grants Status Report

VII.F. Policy #4112.5 Employment and Student Teacher Checks - Second Reading

VII.G. Budget Committee

VII.H. Curriculum Committee

VII.I. Facilities Committee

VII.J. Policy Committee

VIII. Department Reports

VIII.A. Financial Report

Ms. Forbes shared that there is a slight surplus projected. She further explained the encumbrances. Deficits include Special Education transportation, tuition and substitute professionals.

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

Ms. Forbes reported that transfers include support matching funds for the Keigwin handrails grant, facilities, teacher and administrator needs and the athletics department invoices.

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

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

Panciera: Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

VIII.B. Facilities Department

Mr. Gaylord shared that the Snow School roof and Farm Hill solar project will take place in June and July. Work is continuing at Keigwin for Macdonough students for the 25-26 school year. The MHS pool will undergo renovations over the summer.

Ms. Kleckowski shared that the mass casualty practice event was a successful learning event. She thanked the agencies, professionals, students and staff that participated in the event.

VIII.C. Personnel Report

Mr. Snyder shared that vacancies in the district are currently being filled. He explained the recruiting process for the Beman administrator positions. The job fair at Beman in April was successful with over 18 interviews. Retention and recruitment were discussed. Ms. Cannata discussed improving the onboarding process.

VIII.D. Transportation Report

Mr. Mark Langton reviewed the transportation report. May is the busiest month for transportation. Athletics and field trips are very busy. Mr. Langton shared the breakdown of conduct reports with the board members.

IX. Superintendent's Report

IX.A. KPA

Ms. Dawn Dubay and Ms. Colleen Fitzpatrick shared the year in review of the Kindergarten Preparatory Academy. KPA is for students with birthdays from September through December before going to Kindergarten. 86 students participated in 7 different locations. Ms. Fitzpatrick shared the abundance of learning opportunities that the students had throughout the year. Ms. Sosnovich explained purposeful play executive function skills. She discussed social skills, self-regulation and sensory awareness. Mr. Scai discussed literacy experiences and pre-writing skills. Ms. Newton discussed early numeracy skills. Ms. Lisa Annis, parent, spoke of the value of the KPA program she has experienced with her family. Ms. Daniels shared her excitement and happiness with the program and staff.

IX.B. Legislative Updates

Dr. Vazquez Matos shared that the IDEA Grant has not given a final number for allocations. The district is also still waiting for the entitlement grants, Title 1, II, III and IV. The school nutrition grant which provides free meals to students also has not released the final budget. Ms. Forbes explained the 21st century program which is grant-funded. It is a federally funded, state-allocated grant. Chair Daniels shared that the Common Council passed the budget with a reduction of \$2.2 million to the BOE approved budget.

X. Action Items

XI. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Kleckowski would like to review the 50% grading practice. Ms. Crooks would like the AP Precalculus and Physics classes to be discussed. Ms. Daniels would like to look at the school day structure, yonder pouches, choose love, summer home visits, summer literacy and math supports and the year at Adult Education. She also suggested having the Board Members take a tour of Keigwin to see its progress. Ms. Owens would like to review the student climate at MHS.

XII. Proposed Executive Session

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

Callie Grippo: Absent, Liz Crooks: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

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

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

A motion to approve the Tentative Agreement Reached with the Middletown Federation of Paraprofessionals was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Liz Crooks, Carried.

Callie Grippo: Absent, Liz Crooks: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XIV. Adjournment

Move at 9:18 PM to adjourn. This motion, made by Sheila Daniels and seconded by Debra Guss, Carried.

Callie Grippo: Absent, Liz Crooks: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1