

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 12, 2024 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: Absent
Callie Grippo: Absent
Debra Guss: Absent
Adam Hayn: Present
Deborah Kleckowski: Present
Susan Owens: Present
Harold Panciera: Present

Present: 6, Absent: 3

Debra Guss: Present 7:18

Present: 7, Absent: 2.

Rakim Grant: Present 7:28

Present: 8, Absent 1

I. Call to Order

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

II. Salute to the Flag

Ms. Kleckowski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Adoption of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Liz Crooks, Carried.

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

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

IV. District Highlights

IV.A. Macdonough Student Recognized

Eniola Shokunbi was the inventor and led an air filtration project for schools in Connecticut. The state bond commission approved \$11.5 million bond to build air filters for schools. Ms. Shukumbe explained the process she went through to get the air filter in schools across the state. She will visit schools and help to build the air filters. Ms. Lavorgna presented a certificate of achievement to Ms. Shukumbe.

IV.B. Educators Rising

Ms. Lavorgna introduced MHS student, Ella Birmingham. Ms. Birmingham was named to the State and National EdRising Leadership Circle. Ms. Birmingham joined Educators Rising last year and looks forward to making a difference and improving education.

IV.C. Introduction of "Elevate" Free Mobile Markets and Mentoring at MHS and Beman in partnership with Amazing Grace Community Market and the Office of the Mayor of the City of Middletown.

Ms. Lavorgna introduced Randall Mel, Director of Food and Nutrition Services. Mr. Mel explained that Elevate partners with St. Vincent DePaul to provide weekend nutrition each week to 360 element students, 300 middle school students and 600 high school students. Informal feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

IV.D. Upcoming District Events

School Psychologists week is November 11-15

MHS Agricultural Science and Technology Education Open House is November 13

World Kindness day is 11-13

Medical Explorers program information will be November 21

The Middletown Community Thanksgiving project will have a Turkey Drive on November 22

The Middletown Rec Center is hosting Learning through Play on November 23

V. Public Session

Chair Daniels explained the rules of Public Session.

Ms. Kayleigh Mierzejewski, 34 Gleeson Rd. Ms. Mierzejewski discussed the challenges of the Interventionist position.

VI. Communications

Ms. Rabah's report will be read later in the meeting.

VI.A. Report of Student Representative

Men of Excellence club took a field trip to Bloomfield High School where they watched Howard and Yale have a debate on a variety of topics like nepotism in sports and social media bans, etc. The band competed in the US Band States and scored the highest score they've achieved since 2014 with an 86. 6 girls from the swim team qualified for state qualifiers. DECA and Ag had a financial literacy event which the Lieutenant Governor and Mayor Florsheim attended. Class elections happened for the senior class, where the senior class elected President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

VII. Consent Agenda

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

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

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

Mr. Panciera pulled item VII.F. Policy #4118.11 Non-Discrimination (Personnel) - First and Final Reading.

Ms. Daniels pulled item VII.E. Grants Report.

Mr. Panciera would like to add another option to reporting, possibly the Office of Diversity located at City Hall. He believes this would be more effective. Dr. Vázquez Matos shared that this policy is in regards to non-discrimination. Chair Daniels suggested a meeting with Dr. Vázquez Matos to clarify any changes to a policy that was previously approved.

A motion was made to accept item VII.F. Non-Discrimination (Personnel). This motion, made by Sheila Daniels carried with an unanimous vote.

Chair Daniels asked for clarification on the funding. Dr. Vázquez Matos shared that additional information was given to Board Members and Mr. D'Amato, Director of Adult Education is present to answer any questions. Ms. Natalie Forbes also clarified questions on the grants.

VII.A. Minutes of October 8, 2024

VII.B. MHS College Fair

VII.C. MHS 2024 VEX Robotics National Tournament

VII.D. MHS Blue Tube Trip to California

VII.E. Grants Status Report

VII.F. Policy #4118.11 Non-Discrimination (Personnel) - First and Final Reading

VII.G. Policy #5112 Student Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism - First and Final Reading

VII.H. Budget Committee

VII.I. Curriculum Committee

VII.J. Facilities Committee

VII.K. Policy Committee

VIII. Department Reports

VIII.A. Financial Report

Mr. Miranda reviewed the financial report. He reviewed the lines which are given constant monitoring.

Mr. Panciera asked for clarification on some of the lines.

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

Mr. Miranda shared that there are 2 budget transfers this month. One for math supplies and one for furniture and fixtures.

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, 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 the department is preparing for the winter season. Indoor air quality assessments will be completed by the end of December.

VIII.C. Personnel Report

Mr. Snyder updated that almost all vacancies are being filled by subs or contracted personnel. The department is working with the Columbia Center for Public Research to assist with diversity recruiting. In the Spring, Quinnipiac University will be hosting mock interviews for teachers with MPS administrators.

VIII.D. Transportation Report

Mr. Gaylord explained the minor bus accidents. There was a decline in bus conduct reports. There were no questions.

IX. Superintendent's Report

IX.A. SBAC and SAT Data

Dr. Vázquez Matos invited Dr. McCann and the Office of Teaching and Learning administrators to the podium. Mr. Paul Griswold gave an overview of the measures to be discussed. He reviewed the performance index and growth measures.

Mr. Cordaway shared that high-need students have had high growth. The math department continues to focus on growth. He reviewed action steps that include walkthroughs, focusing on math vocabulary, providing professional learning for equitable collaborative strategies and family math nights at elementary schools.

Ms. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Raucci shared improvements in both the performance index and the growth measure. There is also a year to year SAT increase in students meeting benchmarks over the past three years. Next steps include rolling out of HMH Into Reading program, improving Tier 1 instruction practices through instructional coaching, shifting Tier II and Tier III practices from pull out to push in and expanding intervention and enrichment programs to encourage growth for all students. Mr. Griswold explained the Next Generation Science Standards and NGSS. Action steps include providing professional development and coaching sessions and continued implementation and adjustment of NGSS-aligned curriculum based on student performance data from district wide standards-aligned assessments.

IX.B. CT Farm to School Program

Mr. Randall Mel and Ms. Jennifer Krapf explained the Farm-to-School program and the history of the program. Ms. Krapf shared the ingredients and the farms of the foods that will be used in the Veterans Day Breakfast tomorrow morning. Hydroponics gardens will be used in classrooms to grow strawberries and lettuce that will be served. Mr. Mel reviewed photos of the program over the years. Next, the Food Services department will be participating (upon approval) in CTG4CTK Grant to focus on culinary/scratch cooking training and create local food recipe guides. They will partner with more local farms in EatReal Certification.

Dr. Vázquez Matos shared a statement from Dr. O’Callahan on the Middletown Public Schools’ revised Policy #5132.82 Use of Privately Owned Technological Devices by Students

X. Action Items

Ms. Daniels reviewed the updates to the policy.

X.A. Policy #5131.61 Chemical Health Policy for Student Athletes - First Reading

A motion to accept Policy #5131.61 Chemical Health Policy for Student Athletes - First Reading was made. This motion, made by Liz Crooks and seconded by Deborah Kleckowski, Carried.

Rakim Grant: Yea, 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: 1

XI. Future Agenda Items

No future items were discussed.

XII. Proposed Executive Session

A motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a pending/threatened claim by Dr. Jada Waters and invite Dr. Vazquez Matos was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Adam Hayn, Carried.

Rakim Grant: Yea, 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: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

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

XIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:13 PM. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Harold Panciera, Carried.

Rakim Grant: Yea, 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: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1