

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 10, 2026 6:30 PM Eastern

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: Present
Harold Panciera: Present
Kim Riordan: Present

Present: 9.

I. Call to Order

Ms. Daniels called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

II. Salute to the Flag

Student Representative Sal Marnus Kunate led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Adoption of Agenda

A motion to adopt the agenda was made. This motion, made by Harold Panciera and seconded by Rakim Grant, Carried.

Ms. Kleckowski made a motion to amend the agenda and table Items VIII. B Facilities Department Report, VIII.C Personnel Report and VIII,D Transportation Report. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Chris Cardella, Carried.

Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea

Yea: 9, Nay: 0

IV. District Highlights

IV.A. Black History Month Presentation

Mr. Roberts shared that all schools are celebrating Black History Month. The African American Cultural Center, located at Keigwin School will be hosting The Undeniable Truth, an exhibit to learn about the sacrifices and contributions African Americans have made to our country. The center was founded by Mr. Ray Townes. Mr. Leslie Saunders has also partnered with the center for many years.

IV.B. Legacy Academy

Ms. Vacianna Spaulding shared that Legacy Academy is located at Keigwin School. There are currently 21 students enrolled in the district-based therapeutic program. Students engage in an online curriculum with live online teacher instruction, in-person academic support and

some project based learning. Students are also engaged in food cooking, nutrition and food safety instruction. There is a strong SEL/mental health focus, connection over content, and small group instruction. Ms. Spaulding also highlighted the staff and the work that they are accomplishing at Legacy Academy. Mr. Randall Mel shared photos of the students engaged in the cooking lessons. Mr. Mel and Chef Kaisha alternate guiding the students through the lessons.

Ms. Owens shared that GIFTS will be hosting a fashion show at 7:40 and 9:00 on Friday at Middletown High School.

IV.C. Unified Theater

Mr. Scott Roberts introduced Ms. Sydney White, Director of Unified Theater. Ms. White shared that the show is fully student-driven. Students write the play, produce and perform in the play. 89% of performers are current or former MPS students and 86% live in Middletown. Many students shared their favorite part of unified theater. They include: seeing the audience, signing in sign language, dancing and meeting new friends.

V. Public Session

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

VI. Communications

VI.A. Report of Student Representative

Student Representative Sal Marnus Kunate discussed the jean day that was held at MHS for the family of Malachi James. GIFTS, Men of Excellence, and the MHS Pre-Med Club is also a supply drive for victims of Hurricane Melissa. Robotics Team 9909M took home the Excellence Award and the Robot Skills Champion title. They are now ranked #2 out of 160 teams in Connecticut. In the personal finance classes, 5 students passed the W!SE certification test. W!se is a nationally recognized assessment and credentialing organization. Their rigorous Certification Tests examine participants' knowledge of the relevant content, and test-takers who pass earn our widely regarded credential, demonstrating they have mastered the subject matter. In Track and Field, sophomore Rodney Crockett took first place at the Hispanic Games in New York, setting a new meet and school record in the 55-meter dash. He is currently 55th in the nation. In wrestling, we have two new members of the prestigious 100-Win Club: Junior Isaiah McDaniel and Senior JC Ramos.

VII. Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the consent was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Susan Owens, Carried.

Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea

Yea: 9, Nay: 0

VII.A. Minutes of January 13, 2026

VII.B. Field Trip MHS ASTE/Mattabeset FFA

VII.C. Field Trip MHS DECA

VII.D. Field Trip Beman Robotics, Wilton, CT

VII.E. Field Trip Beman Robotics, St. Louis, MO

VII.F. Grants Status Report

VII.G. Budget Committee

VII.H. Curriculum Committee

VII.I. Policy Committee

VII.I.1. Policy #3320 Purchasing - Final Reading

VIII. Department Reports

VIII.A. Financial Report

Ms. Natalie Forbes introduced Amanda Herzog, Grants Coordinator. There is currently a modest surplus. Ms. Forbes explained surplus and deficits. Mr. Panciera asked about magnet school tuition. Ms. Forbes shared that many magnet schools bill in December and that is the reason for the current deficit.

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

There were transfers of \$526. The transfers were from memberships and dues and going to instructional supplies.

Move to approve the Line Item Transfer Report was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Harold Panciera, Carried.

Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea

Yea: 9, Nay: 0

VIII.A.2. Unexpended Balance

Ms. Forbes explained the unexpended balance and the search for a new Superintendent.

A motion to approve the unexpended balance expenditures was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Kelly Bee, Carried.

Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea

Yea: 9, Nay: 0

VIII.B. Facilities Department

VIII.C. Personnel Report

VIII.D. Transportation Report

IX. Superintendent's Report

IX.A. New England Association of Schools and Colleges

Dr. Addley welcomed the team from MHS and thanked them for their hard work. Ms. Buchanan introduced herself, Ms. Mancini, Mr. Serra and Mr. Mertel and thanked them for their hard work. Ms. Mancini gave an overview of the NEASC 10-year Accreditation Cycle. It includes self-reflection, collaborative conference, decennial visit, and progress reporting. The visiting team evaluates the school in 5 areas which are learning culture, student learning, professional practices, learning support, and learning resources. Each standard contains a foundational element which provides the basis for the ideals identified in each standard. The visiting team provided the team with commendations and recommendations. Ms. Buchanan shared the items that the team has accomplished as well as next steps.

IX.B. 2027 Budget Update

Dr. Addley and the Finance team have been working closely together on the budget. Budget Priorities include: Provide Fiscal Responsibility, Fulfill Mandatory Obligations, Sustain Core Educational Programs and Support Student Behavioral Needs. Dr. Addley shared the status of the budget and mandatory items that must be included in the new budget. Mr. Cardella asked if Dr. Addley is still adhering to the budget timeline. Dr. Addley stated that he is and the budget will be presented next month.

X. Action Items

X.A. Policy # 4010 Hiring of Certified Staff

A motion to table Policy #4010 was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Susan Owens, Carried.

Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea

Yea: 9, Nay: 0

X.B. Policy # 6154 Homework

Ms. Kleckowski thanked Ms. Fitzpatrick for her work on this policy. Mr. Grant shared his concerns with the policy. Ms. Fitzpatrick shared that homework would not be used as a way to evaluate a student's progress. Discussion followed regarding grading, college readiness and discretion given.

A motion to table Policy #6154 was made. This motion, made by Rakim Grant and seconded by Susan Owens, Carried.

Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea

Yea: 9, Nay: 0

XI. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Daniels shared that there was a discussion regarding holding BOE Meetings at City Hall and that will be discussed with the new Superintendent.

XII. Executive Session

A motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of Attorney Client Privilege Information Regarding Bylaw 9130 Committees and Policy and Regulation 1250 Visitors and Observation in Schools (proposed for Executive Session) and invite Dr. Alan Addley and Attorney Anne Littlefield was made. This motion, made by Sheila Daniels and seconded by Rakim Grant, Carried.

Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea

Yea: 9, Nay: 0

XII.A. Attorney Client Privilege Information Regarding Bylaw 9130 Committees and Policy and Regulation 1250 Visitors and Observation in Schools (proposed for Executive Session)

A motion was made to enter Executive Session for the purpose of Attorney Client Privilege Information Regarding Bylaw 9130 Committees and Policy and Regulation 1250 Visitors and Observation in Schools and Policy #1260 Civility/Respectful Communications and Actions (proposed for Executive Session) and invite Dr. Alan Addley and Attorney Anne Littlefield as permitted by General Statutes Section 1-206E and 210-B10. This motion, made by Sheila Daniels and seconded by Rakim Grant, Carried.

Chris Cardella: Nay, Deborah Kleckowski: Nay, Susan Owens: Nay, Kim Riordan: Nay, Kelly Bee: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 4

Chris Cardella: Nay, Deborah Kleckowski: Nay, Susan Owens: Nay, Kim Riordan: Nay

A motion to add discussion concerning attorney client privilege written memorandum pertaining to legal advice pertaining to Policy 1260 to the agenda was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Rakim Grant, Carried.

Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea

Yea: 9, Nay: 0

An amended motion was made to enter Executive Session for the purpose of Attorney Client Privilege written memorandum regarding policies and bylaws 9130, 1250 and 1260 and invite Dr. Addley and Attorney Anne Littlefield was made. This motion, made by Rakim Grant and seconded by Susan Owens, Carried.

Chris Cardella: Nay, Kelly Bee: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan: Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 1

Chris Cardella: Nay

Ms. Kleckowski asked about Policy #1260. Ms. Daniels explained that it is the Civility Policy. Ms. Kleckowski recommended that Bylaw 9130 and 1250 go back to the Policy Committee and not Executive Session. Ms. Daniels shared that the Attorney suggested it be in Executive Session so that the entire Board would be present. Mr. Krupa asked Attorney Littlefield to explain that the Executive Session meets the requirement for an appropriate

statutory reason. Attorney Littlefield explained that it is within the law. Ms. Kleckowski shared that she does not have an issue adding Policy 1260 to Executive Session. Attorney Littlefield recommended a new motion to add Policy 1260. Ms. Kleckowski asked the board to be mindful of the weather and the people that are traveling that evening.

XIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:16 PM. This motion, made by Chris Cardella and seconded by Kelly Bee, Carried.

Kelly Bee: Yea, Chris Cardella: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Deborah

Kleckowski: Yea, Dean Krupa: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea, Kim Riordan:

Yea

Yea: 9, Nay: 0