

**Board of Education
Special Meeting Minutes
Beman Middle School, 1 Wilderman's Way
Streamed on <https://www.youtube.com/@MiddletownStream>
Tuesday, June 24, 2025 6:30 PM**

Board Members Present: Liz Crooks, Chairwoman Sheila Daniels, Rakim Grant, Adam Hayn, Deborah Kleckowski, and Harold Panciera

Others Present: Superintendent Dr. Vázquez Matos,

I. Call to Order

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

II. Public Session

Ms. Daniels explained the rules for public session.

Paige McMullen, 136 Lincoln St. Ms McMullen expressed her concern for the Macdonough community move to Keigwin and cuts to staff.

Rachel Drake, 414 High Street. Ms. Drake would like the Board to look at cuts that don't directly affect children and consider not starting new programs such as legacy academy.

Amanda Antmantis- 40 Old Middletown Rd Cobalt. Ms Antamantis expressed her disappointment that educators and students were not asked for feedback or advice in the budget mitigation. She asked for equitable cuts and a commitment to DEIB.

Maya Dancey, 135 Mt Vernon Street. Ms. Dancey shared her support and experience with the Talented and Gifted and STEM programs.

III. Discussion of Budget Mitigation

Dr. Vázquez Matos thanked the Board and Ms. Daniels for their work on the budget. He told the community that both himself and the Board are listening to their concerns and feedback. Dr. Vázquez Matos reviewed the changes to the administration positions. and Ms. Forbes gave an overview of the budget mitigation. Salaries and Benefits were reduced by \$2,034,299, Purchased Services & Tuition were reduced by \$257,917 and Supplies were increased by \$75,550 for a total reduction of \$2,216,666. The Board reviewed many positions and possible cuts with Dr. Vázquez Matos and Ms. Forbes.

Mr. Panciera would like to amend by adding back one position in Manufacturing.

Ms. Kleckowski proposed a \$10,000 decrease for the Grants Manager, a \$75,000 decrease in attorney fees to cover the cost of the manufacturing position.

MOTION: A motion to amend by adding back one position in manufacturing with Ms. Kleckowski's suggestion was made by Mr. Panciera and a second by Ms. Kleckowski – unanimous vote.

IV. Proposed Executive Session: Discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health or dismissal of a public officer or employee, provided that such individual may require that discussion be held at an open meeting.

V. Action Item

V.A. Approval of Budget Mitigation

MOTION: A motion to approve the amended Budget Mitigation was made by Mr. Grant and a second by Mr. Panciera. Roll call vote followed.

Crooks- aye
Kleckowski- aye
Panciera- aye
Grant- aye
Guss- absent
Hayn- nay
Owens- absent
Grippio- absent
Daniels- aye

Ms. Daniels thanked everyone for their efforts.

VI. Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 7:54 PM by Ms. Crooks and a second by Ms. Kleckowski.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Guss
Secretary

DG/jc