

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 12, 2024 6:30 PM Eastern

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

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

I. Call to Order

Ms. Daniels called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

II. Salute to the Flag

Student Representative Nana Obeng 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 Deborah Kleckowski, Carried.

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

IV. District Highlights

IV.A. DEIB Change Agents & HBCU Tour

Dr. Vázquez Matos introduced Dr. Jada Waters. Ms. Waters shared a presentation of the Junior DEI HCBU trip. It reviewed many of the activities that they were able to participate in. Students spoke about the purpose of the trip, their experiences and what they learned. Malik, one of the chaperones, spoke about the trip and the importance of the experience.

IV.B. MHS Freshman Wrestler wins CIAC State Class L Championship and named CIAC State Open Champion (106lb)

Ms. Lavorgna explained that due to a sports banquet the same evening this highlight will be reviewed next month.

IV.C. Upcoming District Events
(Duplicate Agenda Item)

IV.D. Music in Our Schools Month

Mr. Gaylord and Ms. Scala recognized Beman music department for their performance of Shrek and mentioned the play Cinderella will be this weekend. Mr. Gaylord recognized students that made Southern Regionals, Allstate, New England and All Eastern. Students were presented with a certificate. Students will perform for the Board Members as they enter the April meeting.

IV.E. Proclamation: Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month. Ms. Lavorgna read the proclamation, which can also be found on the Middletown Public Schools website.

IV.F. Upcoming District Events

Ms. Lavorgna shared the Annual City Wide K-12 Art Show opened Saturday, March 9 and will close March 17. Cinderella Enchanted will be March 14, 15 and 16 at Middletown High School.

Legacy Over Likes: How social media affects the character development of today's youth is Tuesday, March 2 at Beman Middle School, open to everyone in the community. Makers

Gonna Make: Spring Break STEAM program will be April 8-11 for students in grades 6-9.

Kindergarten Registration and Open Houses will also be held in March, April and May.

Ms. Lavorgna encouraged everyone to share their good news with her.

V. Public Session

Chair Daniels explained the rules of Public Session.

Logan Nunes, 149 Newfield Street, Mr. Nunes spoke of the negative effects of recent events. He spoke of the way it made him feel

Stephanie Brody, 1 Wilderman's Way, Ms. Brody spoke of the recent antisemitism in the schools. She spoke of the acts of hate and the work that needs to be done to correct it.

Mrs. Shokunbi, 188 McCormick Lane, spoke about the event at Beman Middle School and the impact it had on her children.

Vanessa Crowley, 142 Talcott Ridge Drive, spoke of the lesson in school about antisemitism and the weight of the terminology used. She stated more time needed to be spent on the topic.

Kirstin Garrity, 53 Hillcrest Ave. Ms. Garrity spoke of 2 instances that happened at school. She would like followup and action by the district.

SaraLyn Wright, Randolph Rd. Ms. Wright spoke of the bathroom policy at Middletown High School and the way that the peaceful protest was handled.

VI. Communications

VI.A. Report of Student Representative

Ms. Obeng shared that 33 students from MHS DECA won a title and 26 qualified for the National Competition at the State Competition. Robotics team 9909 is moving on to the Worlds Competition. Student IDs are now being used to track class attendance. The senior class event, Holiday Hill is coming up. UCONN released acceptance letters on March 1 at 5:00. The College and Career Center showcases the colleges and universities that students have been accepted into for next year.

SATs for junior students are tomorrow, March 13. AP exams will be in the first 2 weeks of May. The remaining college acceptance letters should be out by April 1.

Ms. Daniels shared her experience at the Farm Hill Black History Month presentations. Ms. Grippo shared that she was able to be a judge at Macdonough Science Fair. She commended the teachers and principal. Mr. Hayn shared he was also there and the winners will now go to regionals.

VII. Consent Agenda

A motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Rakim Grant and seconded by Callie Grippo, Carried.

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

Ms. Daniels pulled Item F. Ms. Forbes discussed the Farm Hill Roof Replacement Accept as Complete.

The Board of Education is asked to accept the Farm Hill Roof Replacement Project. State project number 083-0122rr as complete with a total cost of \$742,047.43. This motion, made by Rakim Grant and seconded by Deborah Kleckowski, Carried.

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

VII.A. Minutes of BOE Special Meeting February 15, 2024

VII.B. Minutes of BOE Special Meeting March 5, 2024

VII.C. Out of State Field Trip Adult Education

VII.D. Out of State Field Trip MHS DECA to NYC

VII.E. Grants Status Report

VII.F. Farm Hill Roof Replacement Accept as Complete

VII.G. Policy # 3542.411 - Revise - School Nutrition Programs Civil Rights Procedures - Second Reading

VII.H. Policy # 6142.61 - Revise - Physical Activity - Second Reading

VII.I. Policy #6142.101 - Revise - School Wellness - Second Reading

VIII. Department Reports

VIII.A. Financial Report

Mr. Miranda reviewed the financial report. The district is looking ahead to the end of the school year. Departments are being encouraged to buy supplies with any remaining funds by the end of this year rather than next year. March 21 will be the budget hearing and the

Common Council and BOE will meet on March 25.

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

Mr. Miranda shared the transfers are typical for this time of the school year

A motion was made to accept the line item transfers. This motion, made by Rakim Grant and seconded by Callie Grippo, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2.

VIII.B. Facilities Department

Mr. Dion shared the MHS track and field construction is still on track for this summer. Farm Hill PV PCR is being worked on. The Snow School roof application is in progress.

The MHS library renovation will continue with the HVAC unit over April break. Summer supplies and programming plans are being discussed.

VIII.C. Personnel Report

Mr. Snyder shared that summer hiring has begun. Stay interviews are continuing. Mr.

Panciera asked about the Science vacancy at Beman. Mr. Synder shared that it is a new vacancy. Mr. Hayn asked about strategies to get a higher return on exit interviews. Mr. Snyder and Ms. Cannata responded to Mr. Hayn and a followup from Ms. Kleckowski.

VIII.D. Transportation Report

Mr. Langton shared the conduct reports have dropped since working with the schools. He elaborated on the two minor accidents that happened. He shared that himself and Mr. Gaylord have reviewed best practices.

IX. Superintendent's Report

IX.A. iReady Data Presentation

Dr. Vázquez Matos invited Stacey McCann, Paul Griswold, Colleen Fitzpatrick, Dan Raucci and Rich Cordaway to discuss the Mid-Year Benchmark Data. Ms. McCann shared an overview of the purpose, process and payoff. Mr. Griswold discussed i-Ready Diagnostics. He reviewed the Overview of Growth and Performance by grade level and subgroups for ELA. Ms. Fitzpatrick reviewed the midyear analysis of the 6 domains. Mr. Raucci further explained the difference between the differences between the domains. They shared the strengths and areas of opportunities for our students. The new reading program will focus on the opportunity areas which will lead to a gain next year at elementary levels. Mr. Raucci reviewed the strengths and opportunities for the secondary students.

Mr. Griswold showed an overview of growth and performance by grade level and subgroups for math. Mr. Cordaway shared the 4 domains for Math. He reviewed the strengths and areas of opportunity for the department.

Ms. McCann shared the next steps including data reviews by school and mid-year SIP presentations, updating identification within MTSS, Summer School and continued

professional learning with i-Ready coaches.

IX.B. Kindergarten Readiness Program

Dr. Vázquez Matos shared that the team has been working on the Kindergarten Readiness Program. New details are that the district will have 4 -5 classrooms in at least 3 different schools across the district. The goal of the program will be to fully prepare students for kindergarten. This unique cohort of students will be monitored to measure the success of the students. The second screening will be happening soon. It is estimated that 100 students will be participating in the Kindergarten Readiness Program.

X. Committees

X.A. Budget Committee

Mr. Panciera shared that the committee met last night. They discussed the line item transfers and financial report. Mr. Miranda is monitoring the cost increase of materials.

X.B. Curriculum Committee

In Ms. Guss' absence Mr. Hayn shared that the committee discussed the Illustrative math curriculum. Math Pathways will be having a parent information night upcoming.

X.C. Facilities Committee

Ms. Owens stated that Mr. Dion gave a good overview of the meeting. They are waiting for work to begin on the track and field.

X.D. Policy Committee

Ms. Kleckowski shared that Mr. Gaylord has been working hard to keep the policies up to date and moving forward.

XI. Action Items

XI.A. Required vote for participation in healthy food option of Healthy Food Certification Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Middletown Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. This motion, made by Rakim Grant and seconded by Deborah Kleckowski, Carried.

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

Panciera: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

XI.B. Required vote for food exemptions for BOEs choosing healthy food option of Healthy Food Certification

The Middletown Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales. This motion, made by Rakim Grant and seconded by Deborah Kleckowski, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

XI.C. Optional vote for beverage exemptions for all BOEs

The Middletown Board of Education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. The "school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.

"Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the beverage sales. This motion, made by Rakim Grant and seconded by Deborah Kleckowski, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

XI.D. Policy #1250 Visitors and Observations in Schools - First Reading

A motion to approve Policy # 1250 Visitors and Observations in Schools - First Reading was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Harold Panciera, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

This is a required update to be complainant with state statue.

XI.E. Policy #1330 Use of School Facilities - First Reading

A motion to approve Policy #1330 Use of School Facilities - First Reading was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Rakim Grant, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

This is a required update to be compliant with the state statute.

XI.F. Policy #1331 Prohibition Against Smoking - First Reading

A motion to accept Policy #1331 Prohibition Against Smoking - First Reading was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Adam Hayn, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

XI.G. Policy #6153 Field Trips - First Reading

A motion to approve Policy # 6153 Field Trips - First Reading was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Harold Panciera, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

This policy allows the chair to make a decision in the event the board is not able to meet before a trip takes place.

XI.H. Policy #9323 Construction and Posting of the Agenda - First Reading

A motion to approve Polic # 9323 Construction and Posting of the Agenda - First Agenda was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Rakim Grant, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

A motion was made to accept Policy #9323 Construction and Posting of the Agenda - First Reading. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Rakim Grant, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

XII. Future Agenda Items

Requests for future items include the Superintendent to address situations that have taken place and steps to be taken to address racism, an update on restroom situation at MHS and DECA as a student highlight.

Ms. Daniels thanked Ms. Obeng for attending the meeting.

XIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:51 PM. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Adam Hayn, Carried.

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