

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 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 6:39 PM.

II. Salute to the Flag

Ms. Avaley Martinez and her guests led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Adoption of Agenda

A motion to adopt the agenda was made. 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

A motion was made to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of hiring a new Superintendent. This motion, made by Sheila Daniels and seconded by Deborah Kleckowski, 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. Action Item

IV.A. Appointment of Superintendent of Schools

A motion to approve Dr. Joseph Macary as the Superintendent of Schools for Middletown Public Schools effective July 6, 2026 was made. This motion, made by Kelly Bee and seconded by Deborah Kleckowski, 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

Yea: 9, Nay: 0

A motion to approve the Superintendent's contract for 2026-2029 was made. This motion, made by Kelly Bee and seconded by Deborah Kleckowski, 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

Dr. Macary thanked the Board for the confidence and support. He is excited to be the next superintendent and work with the Board to make positive changes. He reminded everyone that we all work together for the good of the students.

V. District Highlights

V.A. Farm Hill School 21st Century Afterschool Program

Mr. Roberts introduced Ms. Jennifer Calabrese. Ms. Calabrese shared the Global Citizens After School Program. The goal is to holistically support student development as healthy, life-long learners that embody the qualities of the district's Portrait of a Global Citizen. The program has 55 students from diverse linguistic, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. Merve Topal, Site Coordinator shared the daily schedule, the many community partners and shared photos of the Global Citizens in action.

V.B. MPS Accomplishments

Mr. Roberts shared that March was a busy and exciting month. The MHS dance team won many State Championships and accolades, the MHS wrestling team also saw success at the state and regional level, Track and Field and swimmers were both recognized at the state and national levels. Robotics teams won state championships, Middle and High School drama clubs both performed in spring musicals. MPS students across the district in elementary through high schools were highlighted at All City Music Fest and the Art Show. Members of the MHS band played at the Green downtown for the 250th anniversary of the country.

V.C. Ms. President US of Middletown

Ms. Colleen Fitzpatrick introduced Ms. Avaley Martinez. Avaley was named Ms. President US of Middletown. Avaley creates opportunities for other girls to lead, succeed, and enhance leadership skills. Avaley shared that her platform is youth mental health and suicide prevention. She is hosting a fundraiser for CCMC for mental health and has raised over \$1500.

VI. Public Session

Chair Daniels explained the rules of Public Session.

Dr. David Larson, 108 Long Hill Rd., former Superintendent of Middletown Public Schools. Dr. Larson congratulated and thanked the Board on hiring Dr. Joe Macary as the next Superintendent.

Ms. Crystal Serrano, employee and parent. Ms. Serrano spoke of her son's experience at Beman.

VII. Communications

VII.A. Report of Student Representative

There was no report.

VIII. Consent Agenda

VIII.A. Minutes of BOE Regular Meeting 3-10-2026

A motion to accept the Consent Agenda 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.B. Minutes of BOE Special Meeting 3-17-2026

VIII.C. Minutes of BOE Special Meeting 3-23-2026

VIII.D. Minutes of 3-27-26 5:40PM BOE Special Meeting

VIII.E. 2025-2026 Winter End of Season Sports BOE Report

VIII.F. Out of State Field Trip MHS DECA ICDC

VIII.G. Grants Status Report

VIII.H. Policy # 1260 Civility/Respectful Communications and Actions at School, on School Property, or at a School Sponsored Activity or Function - Final Reading

VIII.I. Policy #4010 Hiring of Certified Staff - Final Reading

VIII.J. Policy # 6154 Instruction Homework - Final Reading

VIII.K. Curriculum Committee

VIII.L. Facilities Committee

VIII.M. Policy Committee

IX. Department Reports

IX.A. Transfer Report

A motion to accept the Line Item Transfers was made. This motion, made by Chris Cardella and seconded by Deborah Kleckowski, 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

Ms. Forbes shared that 4 schools and one department had transfers. They include Bielefield purchase services and facilities (plumbing, painting supplies, gas and vehicle repairs). MHS had transfers for AP Stats, Library, graduation expenses and foreign language supplies. Moody school had transferred for supplies, technology and end of year celebrations. Wesley has transfers for instructional supplies

IX.B. Eversource Update

Ms. Forbes shared that MPS has a bill for Eversource for \$394,334. She explained that there has not been a bill since 2021 for Beman Middle School and the reasons why this happened. Ms. Forbes explained that the bills received were for the Recreation Center and the field lights on the Beman campus. She reviewed the plans to pay the deficit.

IX.C. 24-25 Unexpended Balance

Motion to approve the unexpended balance. 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

IX.D. Facilities Department

Mr. Gaylord discussed the generator shut down, water pump and chemical inventory. There were no questions.

IX.E. Personnel Report

Mr. Snyder shared an update on the Science and Spanish vacancies and coverage at Beman. He shared that a new Special Education teacher was hired. Summer hiring has begun.

IX.F. Transportation Report

Mr. Gaylord shared that there were no accidents for March. Spring season is off to a busy start with athletics and field trips.

X. Superintendent's Report

X.A. 25-26, 26-27 School Year Calendar

Dr. Addley shared that both calendars have been previously approved. He reviewed the updates of snow days and one no power day for Moody School. MHS graduation remains June 13th. 2026-2027 has changes made to elementary parent teacher conferences. The change was made based on feedback from staff and parents.

X.B. FY 27 Budget Discussion

Dr. Addley shared the update on the budget with increases in electricity and workers compensation increases. He shared different options to the Board. The presentation to the Common Council will be April 20, 2026.

A motion was made to move a motion to revisit and vote on the budget. This motion, made by Rakim Grant and seconded by Deborah Kleckowski, 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

Motion to amend the FY27 Board of Education approved budget increase to 4.37% was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Kelly Bee, 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

XI. Action Items

XI.A. Policy #5141.26 Meal Charging Policy- First Reading

Ms. Kleckowski shared that it is a mandated policy update. Mr. Mel explained it is a state and federal mandate. She explained this is a first and final reading.

A motion to approve Policy #5141.26 Meal Charging Policy First and Final Reading 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

XI.B. PIMF Grant

Ms. Fitzpatrick shared that the grant is for additional professional development requested by staff in their preferred interests. She reviewed the proposals recommended to move forward.

A motion to approve the PIMF Grant was made. 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

XII. Future Agenda Items

XIII. Executive Session

XIII. A. Discussion concerning the employment of and appointment of administrators and discussion concerning confidential attorney / client communications regarding employee rights

A motion to enter Executive Session for a discussion concerning the employment of and appointment of administrators and discussion concerning confidential attorney / client communications regarding employee rights. This motion, made by Sheila Daniels and seconded by Kim Riordan, 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

XIII. Adjournment

Move at 8:46PM to adjourn. 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