

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 10, 2024 6:30 PM Eastern

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

<https://www.youtube.com/@MiddletownStream>

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|---------------------|------------------|
| Liz Crooks: | Absent |
| Sheila Daniels: | Present |
| Rakim Grant: | Present (6:38PM) |
| Callie Grippo: | Present |
| Debra Guss: | Present |
| Adam Hayn: | Present |
| Deborah Kleckowski: | Present |
| Susan Owens: | Absent |
| 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

Ms. Dania Rabah 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 Debra Guss, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 3

IV. District Highlights

IV.A. Beman Cross Country Achievements

Ms. Jessie Lavorgna introduced Ms. Elisha DeJesus. Ms. DeJesus provided a brief overview of the fall sports season. She introduced Coach Steve McKeever and Coach Tracey Quinn from Beman Middle School. Mr. McKeever introduced 2 student athletes. Maddie placed 8th in States and Alden also placed 20th in States with over 300 runners. Both students will compete in the Junior Olympics. Both students will participate in Nationals this weekend, which will be held in Indiana.

IV.B. HBCU College Fair

Dr. Wathen recognized the students that took the time to tour the HBCU. 19 students participated, including 9 seniors. Those seniors received 18 acceptances to various colleges. Ms. Wathen thanked all the staff that helped prepare the students for the trip.

IV.C. Onsite Decision Week

Ms. Vicki Thong and Dr. Wathen hosted 9 universities for Onsite Decision Week. This program has been in effect for the last 6 years and has grown from 3 universities to 9 in just the first 3 years. Each December they invite admissions representatives to interview MHS students with the hopes that they will receive acceptances on the spot. They have targeted a variety of students, but the students who are best served are the ones who doubt themselves but want to go to college. They have found that this is the confidence boost they need to believe they can and should go to college. This year the week resulted in 56 acceptances. Many students received merit scholarships during their interview as well.

IV.D. Upcoming District Events

Middletown/Middlesex Parent Leadership Training Institute (OLTI) is recruiting for their next cohort. The holiday Recess will begin with an early dismissal on December 20, 2024. No school from December 23 - January 1. Students return to school on January 2.

V. Public Session

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

VI. Communications

VI.A. Report of Student Representative

Student Representative Dania Rabah addressed the Yondr pouches. She explained the challenges students are facing while not having their phones.

VII. Consent Agenda

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

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

VII.A. Minutes of November 12, 2024

VII.B. MHS Ultimate Frisbee to Regional Tournament

VII.C. Fall Sports Report

VII.D. Grants Status Report

VII.E. Budget Committee

VII.F. Curriculum Committee

VII.G. Facilities Committee

VII.H. Policy Committee

VIII. Department Reports

VIII.A. Financial Report

Mr. Miranda reviewed the financial report. The finance office is watching different lines for any surpluses that could be moved. Ms. Guss and Mr. Miranda discussed the Special Education budgeting and how the costs can vary greatly from month to month.

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

Mr. Miranda discussed the 3 transfers this month.

A motion was made to approve the Line Item Transfer Report. This motion, made by Debra Guss and seconded by Adam Hayn, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

VIII.B. Facilities Department

Mr. Gaylord shared that 25 more HVAC units were cleaned. The first small snowfall clearing event went well. A grant was received to replace the gymnasium floor at Farm Hill.

VIII.C. Personnel Report

Mr. Harry Snyder shared the data from ESS regarding substitute coverage. He discussed the open vacancies and steps being taken to fill the vacancies. Mr. Hayn asked about the open paraprofessional positions. Mr. Snyder discussed plans to increase recruiting along with the challenges. Ms. Kleckowski asked about Spanish and Science vacancies. Ms. Cannata clarified which positions were being filled currently.

VIII.D. Transportation Report

Mr. Langton reviewed the after-school busing at the elementary level. Ms. Guss asked about conduct reports. Mr. Langton explained the conduct reports. He shared that behavior on the bus should match behavior in the classroom.

IX. Superintendent's Report

IX.A. Safety and Security Updates

Dr. Vázquez Matos gave an overview of the presentation.

Mr. Gaylord reviewed the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) new requirement for 2024-2025, as well as the takeaways. He reviewed the IAQ Assessment Categories. Tools for Schools is now mandatory. This is the EAP's guide for managing IAQ in schools. Key takeaways are to plan now, budget, update internal IAQ/HVAC policies, procedures and programs and to prepare for public input. Mr. Gaylord also shared which HVAC projects the AVAC Air Quality Grant will fund.

The district continues to improve cameras, access control systems, lock sets, security staff and SRO's, Alertus, Scholarchip, Sandy Hook Promise and Securly, safety/security meetings and All Hazard Plan.

IX.B. Yondr Update

Middletown Public Schools is now a phone-free district. Dr. Vázquez Matos reviewed the timeline of the policy from mid-2023 to the present. The intention of implementing a phone-free district is to create distraction-free classrooms, to minimize the negative effects of inappropriate device use and to encourage meaningful face-to-face connections. There has been fair and consistent implementation. Beman Middle School has reported successful implementation of the Yondr pouches. Dr. Brooks is confident that this initiative will contribute to a more positive and productive school climate at MHS. Dr. Vázquez Matos thanked the staff for their support of the initiative.

X. Action Items

X.A. PIMF Grant

Dr. Vázquez Matos explained that this grant is to improve professional development.

A motion to approve the PIMF Grant was made. This motion, made by Debra Guss and seconded by Callie Grippo, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

X.B. 2025 Board of Education Meeting Dates

A motion to approve the 2025 Board of Education Meeting Dates was made. This motion, made by Harold Panciera and seconded by Callie Grippo, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

X.C. Policy # 6162.51 Student Privacy - First Reading

A motion to approve Policy #6162.51 Student Privacy - First Reading was made. This motion, made by Adam Hayn and seconded by Callie Grippo, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

X.D. Policy #1600 Possession of Deadly Weapons - First Reading

A motion was made to approve Policy #1600 Possession of Deadly Weapons - First Reading. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Harold Panciera, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

X.E. Policy # 4152.6 (a) Family and Medical Leave - First Reading

Ms. Kleckowski asked that this item be tabled due to new legislation from the State regarding paid sick leave.

X.F. Policy #4131 - Professional Development - First Reading

A motion was made to approve Policy #4131 - Professional Development - First Reading.

This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Debra Guss, Carried.

Liz Crooks: Absent, Susan Owens: Absent, Liz Crooks: Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant:

Yea, Callie Grippo: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

X.G. Policy # 5118 (a) Nonresident Attendance - Proposed Deletion

A motion was made to approve Policy # 5118 (a) Nonresident Attendance - Proposed Deletion. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Adam Hayn, Carried.

Liz Crooks: Absent, Susan Owens: Absent, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Callie

Grippo: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

XI. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Kleckowski would like to discuss the grading policy.

XII. Proposed Executive Session

XII.A. Discussion of confidential attorney client privileged written communication (policy considerations regarding legal counsel)

A motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing confidential attorney client privileged written communication (policy considerations regarding legal counsel) invite Dr. Vazquez Matos, was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Harold Panciera, Carried.

Liz Crooks: Absent, Susan Owens: Absent, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Callie

Grippo: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

XII.B. Discussion of confidential attorney client privileged written communication (Legal advice regarding Procedures for Complaints involving Students & Personnel, Bullying and School Climate Considerations)

A motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing confidential attorney client privileged written communication (Legal advice regarding Procedures for Complaints involving Students & Personnel, Bullying and School Climate Considerations) and invite Dr. Vazquez Matos was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Debra Guss, Carried.

Liz Crooks: Absent, Susan Owens: Absent, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Callie

Grippo: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

XIII. Adjournment

Move at 9:37 PM to adjourn. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Adam Hayn, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2