

Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, December 9, 2025 6:30 PM Eastern

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

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

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 6:34 PM

**II. Salute to the Flag**

Deborah Kleckowski led the Pledge of Alliance

**II.A. Moment of Silence for Mark Langton and Marcy Poppel**

Ms. Daniels asked for a moment of silence in honor of Mark Langton, the district Transportation Manager and Marcy Poppel, former Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education.

**III. Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was made to adopt the agenda. 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

Ms. Daniels requested to move Item IX.A. Cell Phone Policy to before the Consent Agenda. 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. District Highlights

### IV.A. Athletic Highlights

Mr. Roberts introduced Elisah DeJesus, Athletic Director. Ms. DeJesus shared that the season brought success, challenges, character and commitment. 405 students participated in athletics, led by 33 coaches. Boys soccer finished with a 13-4-2 record. The football team had a new coaching staff beginning this season and finished 7-3 record and earned a spot in the CIAC Class MM semi-quarterfinals. MHS Diver, Savannah Tarascio was the CCC South Conference Champion. 17 varsity students were all conference team members. The student athletes also had academic success. 60% of varsity student athletes achieved a grade point average of 87.5 or higher in the first marking period. 202 students earned honors or high honors in the first marking period.

Boys soccer player Andrew Edwards was selected as an All-State Conference Player and an All New England Athlete. Andrew also maintains a 90.43 GPA. Andrew stated he is focused in the classroom and as an athlete and looks forward to next season.

### IV.B. Vicky Thompson and Sigrid Atherton Preschool Outdoor Classroom

Mr. Roberts introduced Vicky Thompson and Sigrid Atherton. Ms. Thompson shared how the Outdoor Classroom came to be. There are 40 preschool students, including special education students in the program. Students experience hands on, nature based learning.

### IV.C. Food Pantries

Mr. Roberts introduced Randall Mel and Jennifer Krapf to discuss the Food Pantries that are in schools across the district. Food Pantries began in the elementary schools and provided food for students to take home on the weekend. Students can take home fruit, bread, protein and snacks. The food pantries are now also in the middle and high schools. The pantries across the district serve about 500-1000 students through the weekends. Ms. Krapf shared how Amazing Grace supports all families and their needs. The "lunch bunch" students participate in an activity every week and shop for themselves and family. There are 70-80 students that participate weekly and take food home at Beman.

## V. Public Session

Chair Daniels explained the rules of Public Session.

## VI. Communications

### VI.A. Report of Student Representative

Student Representative Salahaldin Marnus Kunate was not available for the meeting. Ms. Daniels shared that two former board members, Adam Hayn and Liz Crooks did not return to the Board. Ms. Daniels thanked them for their service and discussed the work they did throughout the district.

## VII. Consent Agenda

A motion to accept the Consent Agenda was made. This motion, made by Kim Riordan 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

VII.A. Minutes of November 17, 2025 BOE Regular Meeting

VII.B. Minutes of November 13, 2025 BOE Special Meeting

VII.C. Minutes of November 16, 2025 BOE Special Meeting

VII.D. Minutes of November 20, 2025 Special Meeting

VII.E. Minutes of November 25, 2025 Special Meeting

VII.F. MHS Ultimate Frisbee Tournament, MA

VII.G. MHS Ultimate Frisbee Tournament, NJ

VII.H. MHS Advanced Choir to ACDA All Eastern Division Conference

VII.I. Grants Status Report

VII.J. Budget Committee

VII.K. Curriculum Committee

VII.L. Facilities Committee

VII.M. Policy Committee

### VIII. Department Reports

VIII.A. Financial Report

Ms. Forbes shared that there is currently a modest surplus. She reviewed the surpluses and deficit items. Ms. Forbes responded to questions from the board.

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

Ms. Forbes shared that transfers included special education salary, unemployment compensation, legal services and facilities (Stop the Bleed Kits and AED pads).

A motion to accept the Line Item Transfers was made. This motion, made by Harold Panciera 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

VIII.B. Facilities Department

Mr. Gaylord shared that most of the work being done right now is daily work orders and heating issues. The bleacher control issue at Beman Middle School is resolved. Mr. Cofield has been working very hard to meet fire marshal requests to replace exit signs. There were no questions

### VIII.C. Personnel Report

Mr. Snyder shared that the district has 3 teaching vacancies. He shared that paraprofessional recruiting is continuing. Ms. Kleckowski asked about exit interview comments and to see a sample of the exit interview.

### VIII.D. Transportation Report

Mr. Gaylord introduced Erin Stevenson (Interim Transportation Manager) and thanked her for all her hard work.

## IX. Superintendent's Report

### IX.A. Cell Phone Policy Update

Dr. Auster shared that the purpose is to minimize distractions and promote the focus of students. Students are expected to lock their phones in a Yondr pouch during the school day. 95% of students follow the cell phone use rules. In 3 months, there were only 4 incidents of unauthorized cell phone use. Mr. Ryan Mertel and Mr. Serra shared that the climate at MHS has improved greatly due to using Yondr pouches and eliminating cell phone usage. Physical altercations are down 76% and class cuts are down 55% this year. 583 out of 1,192 students made either high honors or honors and the hallways are clear during the day. Staff was surveyed and they reported fewer distractions. 75% of staff report that the degree of the cell phone policy has had a positive impact on the classroom learning environment.

### IX.B. 2025-2026 Board of Education Goals

Dr. Addley reviewed the Board of Education Goals. They include:

1. Complete a successful Superintendent search process for the appointment of a new Superintendent for the 2026-2027 school year.
2. Develop a fiscally responsible FY27 Budget
3. Address capital projects and facility needs
4. Promote a collaborative culture of governance and management between the Board and Superintendent

Discussion followed regarding committee meetings being moved to Monday evenings.

### IX.C. Interim Superintendent Transition and Key Focus Areas

Dr. Addley identified priorities that he has seen in the district that he plans to focus on. These include hiring a new superintendent, meeting with board members, developing a fiscally responsible and timely budget, clear and consistent district communication. He will also prioritize leadership needs at MHS and Legacy, completion of NEASC Decennial Process, learning and behavior needs for students and operational needs and next steps for capital projects.

## X. Action Items

### X.A. New Course AP Physics C

Mr. Fitzpatrick introduced Scot Peaslee. Mr. Peaslee shared that this class came forward by community member interest. The course could help students receive college credit in a STEM

field. He shared that there is both community and student interest in the course. He described the rigor the course entails.

A motion was made to approve the AP Physics C. 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

#### X.B. Child Nutrition Program- Authorized Signer Change Forms

Mr. Mel explained that when there is a change in district leadership, the State of CT Child Nutrition Program requires an Authorized Signer #1 (Dr. Addley), Authorized Signer #2 (Jennifer Cannata) and a signature from the Secretary of the Board of Education (Mr. Panciera).

A motion was made to complete the Child Nutrition Program - Authorized Signer Change Forms. 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.C. Personnel Search Committee

Dr. Addley added that personnel search committees do not need to post meetings or create minutes for their meetings. Mr. Cardella shared scheduling concerns. Ms. Kleckowski shared her thoughts on a consulting firm involvement.

A motion to approve (Board of Education members Kelly Bee, Chris Cardella, Sheila Daniels, Rakim Grant, Deborah Kleckowski, Dean Krupa, Susan Owens, Harold Panciera and Kim Riordan) as the Personnel Search Committee for the Superintendent of Schools was made. This motion, made by Harold Panciera 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

#### X.D. Dissolve Facilities Committee

A motion was made to table this item. 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

## XI. Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items discussed were Legacy and MHS Leadership (in weekly report, not Board mtg). Ms. Kleckowski discussed public participation by phone or zoom for BOE meetings.

## XII. Proposed Executive Session

**XII.A. Discussion of confidential attorney-client communications regarding former Superintendent Dr. Alberto Vazquez Matos (proposed for Executive Session)**  
A motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of Discussion of confidential attorney-client communications regarding former Superintendent Dr. Alberto Vazquez Matos (proposed for Executive Session) and invite Dr. Alan Addley 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

## XIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:41 PM. 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