

Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, April 8, 2025 6:30 PM Eastern

Beman Middle School  
1 Wilderman's Way  
Middletown, CT 06457  
<https://www.youtube.com/@MiddletownStream>

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

Present: 7, Absent: 2.

Rakim Grant: Present (6:42)

Susan Owens: Present (6:40)

Present: 9.

#### I. Call to Order

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

#### II. Salute to the Flag

Dania Rabhab led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Daniels asked for a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Stephen Hill Jr, who recently passed away.

#### III. Adoption of Agenda

A motion to adopt the agenda was made. This motion, made by Liz Crooks and seconded by Adam Hayn, Carried.

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

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

#### IV. District Highlights

##### IV.A. Beman Robotics

Ms. Scholes and Ms. White were accompanied by members of the Robotics Team. Ms. Scholes discussed the tournament that the robotics teams participated in and the many awards that they won. All 9 of the Beman teams qualified for the State tournament. 2 teams qualified for the Worlds Competition. Students from each team gave a season highlight.

#### IV.B. Autism Acceptance Month

Ms. Spaulding introduced Ms. Mitchell, Ms. Abbatello and Ms. Post from the Intensive Classrooms to share their experiences in the classroom.

Ms. Mitchell and Talia talked about the emotions and tools they use in the classroom.

Ms. Abbatello and Ms. Post spoke about the Best Buddies program at Moody. Best Buddies focuses on disabilities or abilities in social opportunities. The Best Buddies group is about inclusion and creating friendships. This is the second year of the best buddies' program. They shared a video of the program and activities that they participate in.

#### V. Public Session

Chair Daniels explained the rules of Public Session.

Dr. Marlon Millner, 1 Long Lane. Dr. Millner spoke of his experience of attempting to observe the school day.

Ms. Anita Ford Saunders, 14 Brookview Lane. Ms. Ford Saunders spoke of the Communications audit and Communications Director position.

Ms. Cris Freer, 108 David Drive. Ms. Freer spoke of AP classes and Calculus Based Physics. She offered suggestions on adding or changing courses at the high school.

#### VI. Communications

##### VI.A. Report of Student Representative

Ms. Rabah shared that there have been many college acceptance days at MHS. These days allow students to meet college representatives and learn more about the schools. All City Music Festival and High School Musical were both successes. Ms. Daniels congratulated Ms. Rabah on her success in DECA competition.

Ms. Daniels shared that Susan Owens received recognition from NAACP for her work in her GIFTS program.

Ms. Guss shared that there is a job fair for certified vacancies at Beman Middle School on Monday, April 28th.

#### VII. Consent Agenda

A motion to accept the Consent Agenda was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Debra Guss, Carried.

Liz Crooks: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Callie Grippo: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea  
Yea: 9, Nay: 0

Ms. Daniels pulled Item VII. H. Policy Minutes.

A motion to accept the Consent Agenda as amended was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowki and seconded by Harold Panciera, Carried.

Liz Crooks: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Callie Grippo: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea  
Yea: 9, Nay: 0

#### VII.A. Minutes of BOE Regular Meeting March 11, 2025

#### VII.B. MHS Ed Rising: Interns to National Conference

#### VII.C. 2024-2025 Winter End of Season Sports Report

#### VII.D. Grants Status Report

#### VII.E. Budget Committee

#### VII.F. Curriculum Committee

#### VII.G. Facilities Committee

#### VII.H. Policy Committee

Chair Daniels asked for the spelling of her name to be corrected. She also clarified her comment during that meeting that in the past the principal final candidate nominations were introduced and interviewed by the Board.

### VIII. Department Reports

#### VIII.A. Financial Report

Ms. Forbes shared that there is a projected surplus. The surplus is due to open positions. Mr. Panciera asked about an audit line. Dr. Vazquez Matos responded it was a required audit with the city. Gasoline, grounds and supply lines were also discussed. Out of district tuition projections and Legacy Academy was discussed.

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

Ms. Forbes explained the transfers that were made this month. Transfers were made in Operations, DEI, Curriculum, Athletics, Farm Hill and Moody schools.

A motion to accept the Line Item Transfers was made. This motion, made by Harold Panciera and seconded by Liz Crooks, Carried.

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

Yea: 9, Nay: 0

#### VIII.B. Facilities Department

Mr. Gaylord thanked Billy Torres and Lee Stoup for all of their work at Keigwin. There are still roof leaks, tree removals happening around the district. A safety drill will be held next week.

#### VIII.C. Personnel Report

Mr. Snyder shared that the new Aerospace Teacher had started. The Executive Chef position was filled today and will be grant-funded for 3 years. Mr. Snyder discussed the substitute coverage and the timeline of hiring was also discussed.

#### VIII.D. Transportation Report

Mr. Langton shared that he sent out a breakdown of conduct reports by school to the board members last week. April and May are showing the busiest times for field trips. Mr. Langton continues to work with Ms. DeJesus to make sure all of the sporting events are covered.

### IX. Superintendent's Report

#### IX.A. 25-26 Superintendent's Proposed Budget

Ms. Forbes explained initial position cuts and additions to the proposed budget. She shared the BOE cuts to reach the mayor's proposed 2025-2026 education contribution. Ms. Cannata answered questions regarding displaced employees and salaries. Ms. Guss discussed cutting the PSAT practice test for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Ms. Guss expressed her concern regarding the cutting process. Kleckowski warned that the city may not give the increase and future cuts could be made.

A motion was made to approve the proposed BOE Budget of \$105,366,555. This motion, made by Harold Panciera and seconded by Liz Crooks, Carried.

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

Yea: 5, Nay: 2, Abstain: 2

Adam Hayn: Nay, Deborah Kleckowski: Nay

### X. Action Items

#### X.A. Moody School Micro Forest

A detailed presentation was given at the facilities meeting. The micro forest will not have a cost to the district. It is proposed to be almost an acre.

A motion to approve Moody School Micro Forest was made. This motion, made by Liz Crooks and seconded by Adam Hayn, Carried.

Liz Crooks: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Callie Grippo: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea  
Yea: 9, Nay: 0

#### X.B. Policy 4112.5 Employment and Student Teacher Checks - First Reading

This is a statutory policy. There were no concerns over the updates from the Policy Committee.

A motion to approve Policy 4112.5 Employment and Student Teacher Checks - First Reading was made. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Liz Crooks, Carried.

Liz Crooks: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Callie Grippo: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea  
Yea: 9, Nay: 0

#### X.C. Approval of 25-26 Superintendent's Proposed Budget

This item was approved during IX.A. 25-26 Superintendent's Proposed Budget

#### XI. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Daniels suggested a walk through for the BOE to see Keigwin. Mr. Hayn shared that the Macdonough Governance Council has asked for regular updates regarding the renovations and move. Ms. Kleckowski shared that many agencies in town will be holding a mass casualty drill in the district. She will attend the event and report back. Ms. Daniels shared that the KPA presentation will be on the agenda next month.

#### XII. Proposed Executive Session

Executive Session was canceled due to unexpected illness.

XII.A. Discussion of attorney client privileged written communication (Legal advice regarding budget procedures; Policies 2400, 4010, & 4020; procedures for staff, student, parent, former staff member and community complaints; procedures for claims and litigation and threats of same; response to pending/threatened litigation) - *proposed for executive session*

#### XIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:34 PM. This motion, made by Deborah Kleckowski and seconded by Debra Guss, Carried.

Liz Crooks: Yea, Sheila Daniels: Yea, Rakim Grant: Yea, Callie Grippo: Yea, Debra Guss: Yea, Adam Hayn: Yea, Deborah Kleckowski: Yea, Susan Owens: Yea, Harold Panciera: Yea  
Yea: 9, Nay: 0