

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 22, 2007 7:30 PM

Town Campus Hammonasset Room, 10 Campus Drive , Madison, CT 06443

I. Call to Order / Attendance

II. Executive Session - 6:30 p.m.

III. School Community Session - 7:30 p.m.

III.A. Recognition: National School Nurses Day
(May 9, 2007)

III.B. Public Participation

IV. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Speaker (s): Jeff Cavallo and Emma Norris

V. Superintendent's Report

Speaker (s): Dr. H. Kaye Griffin

V.A. Progress Report: Curriculum Lab Project

Speaker (s): Anita Rutlin

V.B. Overview: Summer Reading List - Get a Clue @ Your Library

Speaker (s): Anita Rutlin

V.C. Update: Kindergarten Enrollment 2007-2008

Speaker (s): Dr. H. Kaye Griffin

VI. Board Members' Comments

VI.A. General Discussion: Special Topics / Roundtable: Board of Education Liaisons to Schools

VII. Board Committees / Liaison Updates

VII.A. Planning Committee

Speaker (s): Members: Kathleen Rossini, Chair; Becky Coffey; Debra Frey

VII.B. Personnel Committee

Speaker (s): Members: John Dean, Chair; Becky Coffey; David Yo

VII.C. Policy Committee

Speaker (s): Members: Holly Sellers, Chair; Harriet Gowanlock; David Youngerman

VII.D. Finance Committee

Speaker (s): Memners: Becky Coffey, Chair; Harriet Gowanlock; D

VII.E. LEARN Liaison

Speaker (s): Liaison: Kathleen Rossini

VIII. Audience Response to Information Presented

IX. Consent Agenda (Items 9.1 - 9.5)

IX.A. Bills Payable: \$376,815.26

IX.B. Line Transfers: \$21,778.85

IX.C. State of Connecticut Department of Public Health SCOPE Grant Application July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2010 (Reference Bylaw #9540.8)

IX.D. Acknowledgement: Out-of-State Travel for Daniel Hand High School Introduction to Fashion Retail Class (Reference Policy #6100.16.1)

IX.E. Connecticut State Department of Education Secondary Basic Grant Application for: Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 - P.L. 105-332 (Reference Bylaw #9540.8)

X. Action Item: Superintendent Search Consultant Contract (Reference Bylaw #9480 & 9540.8)

XI. Action Item: Minutes 5.8.07 Meeting

XII. Action Item: Minutes 5.14.07 Meeting

XIII. Old Business

XIV. New Business

XIV.A. Textbook Adoption Preview: University Physics (Daniel Hand High School Calculus-based Advanced Placement Physics) / Ni Hao (Daniel Hand High School Mandarin Chinese I) / Mathematics Beyond the Numbers (Daniel Hand High School Discrete Math)

XV. Future Agenda Items

XVI. Adjournment

Public Participation Guidelines:

Members of the community are invited to speak on topics of interest and / or topics to be addressed in the agenda. The Board of Education may choose to interact with participants, but will not act upon topics that require further study before action is taken. The participation time will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and fifteen (15) minutes overall to guarantee efficient operation of the entire meeting.

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Consent Agenda:

The following agenda items are designated as routine and appropriate for approval as a single action by the Board of Education, if so desired. A Board member may request removal of any item from the consent agenda for review and discussion.

Board of Education Meeting
May 8, 2007
Town Campus

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order / Attendance

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Holly Sellers at 5:31 p.m.

Present: Becky Coffey, John Dean, Debra Frey, Harriet Gowanlock, Kathleen Rossini, Holly Sellers, David Youngerman.

Also present: Debbie Raizes (6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.), Dr. George Goens (6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.) and Dr. H. Kaye Griffin, Superintendent (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)

MOTION: by Gowanlock, seconded by Frey to enter Executive Session at 5:31 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

2. Executive Session

Superintendent search process discussed and interviews conducted.

Personnel issues discussed

Contractual issues discussed.

MOTION: by Rossini, seconded by Youngerman to adjourn Executive Session at 7:35 ~~8~~-p.m.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

The public session of the Board of Education meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Holly Sellers at 7:48 p.m. Vice-Chairperson Sellers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Becky Coffey, John Dean, Debra Frey, Harriet Gowanlock, Kathleen Rossini, Holly Sellers, David Youngerman.

Also present: Dr. H. Kaye Griffin, Superintendent; Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; district administrators; faculty; staff; students; community members.

3. School Community Session

3.1 Recognition: National Teacher Appreciation Day (May 8, 2007)

Dr. Griffin announced that May 8th is National Teacher Appreciation Day. She stated that few other professionals touch as many lives on a daily basis as do teachers.

Every year the Board of Education recognizes the teachers and selects a group of teachers to attend a Board meeting. This year, the Board is recognizing Special Education Teachers and they have invited one teacher representative from each school. Dr. Griffin listed all the important contributions made on a daily basis by the district's Special Education teachers to the schools, the staff and the students.

Vice-Chairman Holly Sellers presented certificates of recognition to the following Special Education Teachers:

Sandra Marinuzzi	Special Education Teacher	Island Avenue School
Lisa Aronson	Special Education Teacher	J. Milton Jeffrey School
Charlene DeFrancesco	Special Education Teacher	Kathleen H. Ryerson School
Carolyn Stephan	Special Education Teacher	Robert H. Brown School
Shelia Mainiero	Special Education Teacher	Walter C. Polson School
Travis Winkley	Special Education Teacher	Daniel Hand High School

3.2 Recognition: Connecticut's Presidential Award Winner for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

Dr. Griffin recognized Michael Ginsburg, Science Teacher at Robert H. Brown School, who was awarded Connecticut's President Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Dr. Griffin explained this is the highest presidential award and is presented to teachers who serve as models and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science teaching. Mr. Ginsburg will be invited to Washington D.C. to receive the award and will be given the opportunity to meet the President.

Vice-Chairperson Sellers presented Mr. Ginsburg with a certificate of recognition on behalf of the Board of Education.

3.3 Recognition: Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week (May 7 – 11, 2007)

Dr. Griffin introduced Jason Wallace, the new Director of Food Services for the Madison Public Schools (Chartwells), to the Board of Education. She explained that the week of May 7th is Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week and she wanted to recognize the excellent food services staff in the Madison schools. She stated that everyday the staff strives to provide healthy, clean and nutritious meals to students.

Vice-Chairperson Sellers presented Mr. Wallace with a certificate of recognition on behalf of the Board of Education.

3.3 Public Participation

There were no public comments.

4. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

There was no report from the Student Representatives.

5. Superintendent's Report

5.1 Overview: Healthy Food Certification Statement

Dr. Griffin reported that representatives from Administrative Services and Food Services appeared before the Board of Education last year to discuss the State of Connecticut Healthy Food Certification Statement. The Board needs to discuss the issue again this year and informational material was presented to the Board.

Art Sickle, Manager of Administrative Services, reported that the food services department started a point of sale system in the schools this year with full implementation in March. A report of food sales was prepared for the month of March outlining the category of food purchases including reimbursable meals; qualified ala carte snacks; disqualified ala carte snacks; other ala carte items; vending and catering (report on file). Currently 52% of food sales are related to reimbursable meals, while 10% of ala carte sales qualify for eligible state reimbursement. Twenty percent (20%) of ala carte snack sales would currently be disqualified under the State of Connecticut's Healthy Food Certification. Mr. Sickle indicated that in the month of March \$20,798 of food sales would be disqualified if the Board opted into the State program. This would account for an estimated \$176,284 in lost sales annually. The estimated eligible state reimbursement would be only around \$24,000 causing a net deficit in the food services program.

Mr. Sickle suggested to the Board that changes to the food services program be phased in over a two (2) year period to become eligible for the State's reimbursement under the Healthy Food Certification. Over this time, the food services department can identify more healthful options to present to students and review the price structuring program for ala carte items.

Jason Wallace, Manager of Food Services for Chartwells, reported to the Board that he previously worked in Windsor Locks where they choose to participate in the State's Healthy Food Certification. The phase-in plan proposed to the Board follows along similar standards used by that district. He added that less than half (1/2) the districts in the state have currently opted into the program.

Atty. Sellers commented that the State's certification process could have an impact on fund raising events during the school day and that final legislation on this issue would not be complete until June.

5.2 Special Presentation: Response to Intervention (Data Wall)

Dr. Griffin introduced the Data Wall project that reflects data collection in grades K-1 in the area of language arts. This program helps to implement a response to intervention program at the elementary schools and assist the teacher's with developing new initiatives in language arts.

Mona Goodman, Principal of Jeffrey Elementary School, and Vanessa Lamb, Language Arts Specialist, presented the Board a PowerPoint presentation on the Response to Intervention /Data Wall (report on file). The Data Wall displays information regarding testing done with Kindergarten and Grade 1 students using Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (D.I.B.E.L.S.) and State of Connecticut Reading Inventory Assessment (DRA). Data is collected on letter naming, phoneme segmentation, nonsense words, word usage, oral reading and retell. The results are then graphically charted to help determine student progress and identify students that may be in need of intervention. The data is also used to identify target areas for improvement in language arts instruction by the classroom teachers.

Dr. Griffin applauded Ms. Goodman and Ms. Lamb for the effort behind the Data Wall project. She indicated that the data collection is an integral part of the elementary process and will be used to determine program changes, use of paraprofessionals and instructional materials.

The Board discussed the level of performance by Madison students and future use of a Data Wall for mathematics.

5.3 Update: NEASC Continued Accreditation of Daniel Hand High School

Dr. Griffin indicated that the district received a letter from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) regarding the continuation of the accreditation status for Daniel Hand High School. The letter also indicates that a self-study must be completed by Daniel Hand High School by July 1, 2008 which a new step in the process. A full accreditation report would need to be done again in 2011.

Dr. Griffin added that accreditation status can be affect by substantive changes in policy at the high school including elimination of fine arts programs, diminished upkeep and maintenance of the facility, decreased educational funding, reduction in administration, teachers, guidance counselors and support staff, lack of support for student enrollment increases, increased user fees and not accomodating special needs students.

5.4 Update: Kindergarten Enrollment 2007 - 2008

Dr. Griffin reported that Kindergarten enrollment for next year is currently at 166 students with a projected enrollment of 210 students. The district expects to continue to enroll more students over the course of the summer.

5.5 Update: Recommended Budget Reductions for 2007 - 2008

Dr. Griffin provided the Board with an updated recommendation for budget reductions for 2007 – 2008 that included the reduction of 2.0 FTE (classroom teachers) at Ryerson elementary school. The reduction of 2.0 FTEs at the elementary level will be used to fund 1.4 World Language Teachers at the Brown School (grade 6); increase a Math Teacher at Daniel Hand High School by 0.3; and another 0.4 FTE will be directed toward other positions to be determined.

The class size distribution at the elementary schools was reviewed particularly for students in grade 1 to allow for the reduction of 2.0 FTE classroom teachers. The redistribution of elementary classes is based upon the elimination of the multiage program and redistricting.

6. Board Members' Comments

Ms. Coffey made the following statement:

Most of you know by now that the Board of Finance cut the proposed schools budget for next year by \$705,000. In a precipitous and unilateral action, the Board of Finance voted to move annual health insurance fund payments out of the school operating budget and into a below-the-line limbo, an action which had the effect of actually increasing funds available in the base budget for other programming by about \$120,000. I would like to thank the Board of Finance for providing the district with this additional increment for our base budget next year compared to the dollars that would have been available to the district if the 5.75 percent increase had included health insurance and maintenance payments.

However, the precipitous and unilateral action taken by the Board of Finance requires that all three town boards – Selectmen, Finance, and Education – must now quickly work together to define the rules and procedures that will govern the two funds - funds used to pay bills for town and school planned maintenance projects and for health insurance claims – to assure that State laws and existing labor contract provisions are met.

Despite the extra \$120,000, the Board of Education still must make some very difficult choices in choosing which programs to cut or delay. Key strategic plan elements planned for this year will have to be delayed again which means students will still not have the services, supplies, and programs our Board has agreed they need now.

One way some staffing additions have been preserved is through a difficult process initiated to redistrict some kindergarten students to equalize first-grade class sizes. The administrative team has recommended redistricting some kindergarten students who would otherwise have gone to Ryerson School to other elementary schools. This shift will allow the district to recapture possibly two FTEs to help offset FTE additions needed elsewhere in the district but that otherwise could not be funded with the proposed budget.

What staff additions can now be preserved within the approved budget? Saved are the certified teaching staff additions proposed to address higher enrollment at Daniel Hand High School next year: a 1.0 FTE in Science, a .5 FTE in Math, a .7 FTE in Social Studies, a .5 FTE in World Language at the high school, and movement of an existing .8 FTE in music to a 1.0 and of an existing .9 FTE in Science to a 1.0 in Science.

Also preserved are staff additions to support the Board's initiative to accelerate the achievement of student proficiency in a world language. Included is the addition of 1.4 FTEs at Brown Lower Middle School to support the teaching of world language every day in sixth grade next year. Without this staff addition, these sixth-grade students would sit in a study hall period every other day.

Preserved in the budget to support the elementary school program is the planned addition of the second math specialist and of six more instructional paraprofessionals needed in the fourth grade to support – and complete – the staffing needed to implement the Response to Intervention model in all elementary grade classrooms.

But cut from the Board's budget is the requested staff needed to fulfill other key district needs including four staff additions proposed to support the district's security initiatives; an additional custodian at the high school, a request that has been made and then cut in each of the past three budgets; and incremental staff additions at the high school in physical education, health, and consumer science that are needed **now** to address higher student enrollment.

Not reflected in this discussion are the many other line items and programs in the budget we originally adopted that will also sustain cuts as a result of the new budget number. I propose that the Board hold a budget workshop next week to provide us with the opportunity to discuss our priorities with respect to the remaining budget cuts that must be made with the goal of using our Strategic Plan to guide our choices.

7. Distribution of Executive Summaries from Board Committees / Liaisons

Ms. Rossini reported that the Planning Committee met that morning. The Planning Committee would like to schedule a workshop for the entire Board of Education to discuss the elementary facilities. The Committee also met with a security consultant. They plan to meet with another consultant in an attempt to conduct a comprehensive security assessment at the schools. Finally, Ms. Rossini thanked the Shirley Lilac French Foundation for the conversion of their full donation to be used to obtain needed equipment for the fitness center.

8. Audience Response to Information Presented

Kathi Traugh, liaison from the Board of Selectmen, commented that she was glad to hear that the Board of Education will meet to discuss the elementary facilities and that the capital projects needs of all agencies need to be discussed as a community.

9. Consent Agenda (Items 9.1 – 9.5)

9.1 Bills Payable: \$865,735.23

9.2 Line Transfers: \$33,323.26

9.3 Budget Expenditure Report as of 5.3.07

9.4 Acknowledgement: Out-of-State Field Trip for Grade 6 Student at Dr. Robert H. Brown School

9.5 Acknowledgement: Out-of-State Travel for Daniel Hand High School Choral Group

MOTION: by Frey, seconded by Dean to approve the consent agenda.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

10. Action Item: Healthy Food Certification Statement for July 1, 2007

MOTION: by Gowanlock, seconded by Frey to decline participation in the July 1, 2007 Healthy Food Certification Statement from the Connecticut Department of Education.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

11. Action Item: Employees Self-Funding Health Insurance Plan (Tabled 4.24.07)

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Dean to approve the development of a memorandum of understanding between the Board of Education and Board of Finance regarding the establishment of an agreement to facilitate the budget process for the Employees Self-Funded Health Insurance Plan.

MOTION: by Sellers, seconded by Coffey to amend the motion to: to authorize the Superintendent to develop a proposed memorandum of understanding between the Board of Education and Board of Finance regarding the establishment of an agreement to facilitate the budget process for the Employees Self-Funded Health Insurance Plan and Planned and Cycled Maintenance.

MOTION: by Sellers, seconded by Coffey to amend the motion to: to authorize the Superintendent to develop a proposed memorandum of understanding between the Board of Education, Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance regarding the establishment of an agreement to facilitate the budget process for the Employees Self-Funded Health Insurance Plan and Planned and Cycled Maintenance.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

MOTION: by Sellers, seconded by Coffey to authorize the Superintendent to develop a proposed memorandum of understanding between the Board of Education, Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance regarding the establishment of an agreement to facilitate the budget process for the Employees Self-Funded Health Insurance Plan and Planned and Cycled Maintenance.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

12. Action Item: Superintendent's Recommended 2007 – 2008 Budget Reductions

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Gowanlock to table action on this item.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Gowanlock to approve the staffing profile as listed in the Superintendent's recommended budget reductions for Areas I and Areas II:

Area I:

Ryerson	Classroom Teachers	-2.0 FTE
Brown Middle	World Language Teachers	1.4 FTE
Daniel Hand	Math Teacher	0.5 FTE
Daniel Hand	Science Teacher	1.0 FTE

Daniel Hand	World Language Teacher	0.5 FTE
Daniel Hand	Science Teacher	0.1 FTE
Jeffrey School	Math Specialist	1.0 FTE
Daniel Hand	Social Studies	0.7 FTE

Area II:

Polson School	Music Teacher	0.2 FTE
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AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

13. Action Item: Minutes 4.24.07 Meeting

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Frey to approve the minutes of the 4.24.07 meeting.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

MOTION: by Rossini, seconded by Frey to add item 13a. to the agenda: Reschedule Board of Education Meeting from 6.7.07 to 6.5.07.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

13a. Action Item: Reschedule Board of Education Meeting from 6.7.07 to 6.5.07

MOTION: by Rossini, seconded by Frey to reschedule Board of Education Meeting from 6.7.07 to 6.5.07.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

14. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

15. New Business

Ms. Coffey discussed with the Board a proposal to develop an ad hoc Community Outreach Committee to improve the communication mission of the Board.

Dr. Griffin added that such a committee would fall under goal 9 of the Board's Strategic Plan.

Vice-Chairperson Sellers suggested that the Board receive a proposal for review at the next meeting.

15. Future Agenda Items

Vice-Chairperson Sellers reported that a special meeting of the Board of Education will be scheduled on Monday, May 14th at 5:30 p.m. An executive session will be held during the first half (1/2) hour and at 6:00 p.m. a regular meeting will begin focusing on a discussion of budget reductions for 2007 – 2008.

Atty. Sellers added that a workshop will be scheduled at the end of May / beginning of June to discuss elementary facility issues.

16. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Rossini to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 p.m.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Submitted for approval at the 5.22.07 BOE meeting.
hgd

Board of Education Special Meeting
May 14, 2007
Town Campus

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order / Attendance

The special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Becky Coffey, John Dean, Debra Frey, Harriet Gowanlock, Robert Hale, Kathleen Rossini, Holly Sellers, David Youngerman.

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Frey to enter Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

2. Executive Session

Superintendent search process discussed.
Personnel issues discussed
Contractual issues discussed.

MOTION: by Youngerman, seconded by Dean to adjourn Executive Session at 6:00 ~~8~~ p.m.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

3. School Community Session

The public session of the Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chairman Hale at 6:10 p.m. Chairman Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Becky Coffey, John Dean, Debra Frey, Harriet Gowanlock, Robert Hale, Kathleen Rossini, Holly Sellers, David Youngerman.

Also present: Dr. H. Kaye Griffin, Superintendent; Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; district administrators; faculty; staff; students; community members.

4. Superintendent's Report

4.1 Update: Recommended Budget Reductions 2007 – 2008

Dr. Griffin provided an handout to the Board (on file) outlining her proposed budget reductions. She indicated that this was the same information provided at the last Board meeting but included additional notations.

Dr. Griffin then reviewed with the members of the Board her proposed reductions in the area of staffing. For Area I, she is recommending the return of the requested 1.4 FTEs for World Languages at the Brown School in order to meet the objective in the Strategic Plan of providing daily world language in grade 6. Area I also provides for

incremental increases in the Math FTE at Daniel Hand High School to 0.5 FTE. This would address class size issues at the high school.

Ms. Coffey questioned whether the math class sizes can be handled with the addition of only 0.5 FTE in math. Ms. Britton, Principal of DHHS, responded that with the actual enrollments in math courses now in place, all math sections can be accommodated with the addition of the 0.5 FTE teacher.

Dr. Griffin then discussed staffing recommendations for Area II. She indicated that this Area does not have any increases in FTEs for Health or Physical Education at the high school as requested earlier in the budget but does have an incremental increase of 0.2 FTE in Orchestra.

Ms. Coffey questioned the proposed class sizes in Health and Physical Education at the high school. Dan Zittoun, Assistant Principal at DHHS, responded that projected class sizes in Physical Education will be at 28 and were planned at 26. For Health course, the class sizes will be around 26 rather than 24 students. Mr. Zittoun indicated that the class sizes are not ideal but are manageable.

Mr. Youngerman questioned the number of 11th courses in Mathematics. Ms. Britton indicated that there are no 11th courses offered next year in math since the enrollment evened out. The estimated class sizes for math at the high school next year is around 22 students.

Dr. Griffin reviewed with the Board the Area III staffing which includes the addition of a School Counselor at the Brown Middle School (grades 5 – 6). The position of the grade 6 School Counselor was reallocated two (2) years ago to the high school to handle increased enrollment at that level. This new position would fill the void in the lower middle school guidance program that has existed for the past two (2) years.

Jean Baker, Director of Guidance Services, discussed with the Board the various reasons that this position is required including impacting student learning for over 600 students; services as a catalyst for communication between the student, staff and parents; managing special need students' educational program; providing curriculum guidance; and assisting with transition between the grade levels.

Ms. Gowanlock commented that she feels this position is needed since it is difficult for 5th grade students to transition to interacting with four (4) different teachers on a daily basis.

Mr. Dean questioned who currently handles the responsibilities that this new position would entail. Jill Hale, Interim Director of Student Services, responded that the 600 students at Brown School are handled by a 0.5 FTE Social Worker and 1.0 FTE School Psychologist. These tasks are not the primary duties of the Social Worker and Psychologist who mostly deal with students identified with special needs and does not provide any time to assist students that have not been so identified.

Ms. Rossini added that the inclusion model of the district creates extra work for the current Social Worker and School Psychologist.

Mr. Hale added that the addition of the School Counselor supports goals 2, 5 and 7 of the Board's Strategic Plan.

Dr. Griffin reviewed Area V staffing which includes the addition of paraprofessionals in the grade 4 classroom to support the district's inclusion model. She added that if the 2.0 FTE classroom teachers are removed from the Ryerson School, there would be available funds from the two (2) associated paraprofessionals. Those funds could be applied to other areas of the budget, such as the need for more custodial services.

Dr. Griffin discussed Area VI staffing which shows the elimination of the Assistant Secretaries at the elementary schools and the Security position at the Brown School. This area also has a reduction of a requested custodian at DHHS. Dr. Griffin stated that this reduction does not eliminate the BOE's focus on school safety and that the Planning Committee will continue its efforts to select a school safety assessment consultant to develop a five-year plan for school safety in keeping with the goals of the Board's Strategic Plan.

Ms. Frey questioned the level of funding for custodial and maintenance overtime. Bill McMinn, Director of Facilities, responded that the overtime funds are used for emergency situations and special projects. Ms. Frey

indicated that she would like to have the funding reallocated from the grade 1 paraprofessionals to the custodial / maintenance overtime account.

Dr. Griffin reviewed with the Board the proposed reductions totaling \$26,406 in the repairs and maintenance accounts and how they were allocated across each school location. She added that the funding in planned and cycled maintenance and LOCAP were not reduced. Mr. McMinn added that these reductions would mostly likely result in the deferment of non-essential repairs.

Note: Due to the scheduling of Meeting Room A by another committee at 7:30 p.m., the Board moved their meeting to Conference Room B at the Central Office.

Art Sickle, Director of Administrative Services, reviewed with the Board the proposed reductions in the areas of Technology Infrastructure and Telecommunications. Technology Infrastructure was reduced by \$5,000 which would result in the delay of replacing a server. The reduction in the Telecommunications line-item can be managed with potential delays in the installation of fiber optic cable project and reimbursement from E-Rate. Mr. Sickle added that the reduction in the Infrastructure will reduce the sophistication of various servers throughout the district but will not impact applications or services.

Mr. Sickle also reviewed the reductions in the Instructional Software account. He indicated that the recommended funding level will support the acquisition of the Blackboard program and CAD upgrades in the Art department by utilizing funding remaining in the current budget along with 2007-2008 funding.

Finally, Mr. Sickle discussed the Hardware / Equipment account. This funding is still recommended at \$50,000 more than the current budget year and provides for replacement computers and network growth in the elementary schools.

Mr. McMinn reviewed the proposed reductions in the Energy account and indicated that based upon historical usage and costs, the proposed reductions can be absorbed.

Ms. Coffey questioned the level of funding for Instructional Supplies. Dr. Griffin indicated that the original budget request reflected an increase from \$127 per student for instructional supplies to \$150 per student. This level was reduced but is still greater than the current funding level. She added that the new program budgeting will allow for better management at the school levels of supplies in the various departments such as art and music. Finally, she added that she is requesting information from the schools on proposed student expenses to try to equalize across the district.

5. Action Item: Superintendent's Recommended 2007 – 2008 Budget Reductions (Tabled 5/8/07)

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Sellers to approve the Superintendent's recommended reductions to the 2007 – 2008 budget.

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Sellers to amend the motion to: approve the Superintendent's recommended reductions to the 2007 – 2008 budget with the reallocation of \$15,000 from instructional paraprofessionals (1121) to custodial/maintenance overtime (1320).

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman.

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Sellers to approve the Superintendent's recommended reductions to the 2007 – 2008 budget with the reallocation of \$15,000 from instructional paraprofessionals (1121) to custodial/maintenance overtime (1320).

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Rossini, Sellers,
Youngerman.
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

6. Adjournment

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Dean to adjourn the meeting at
8:10 p.m.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Rossini, Sellers,
Youngerman.
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Submitted for approval at the 5.22.07 BOE meeting.
hgd