

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, August 21, 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. Public Participation

IV. Superintendent's Report

Speaker (s): Dr. H. Kaye Griffin

IV.A. Overview: 2007 - 2008 "Back to School" Activities / Information

Speaker (s): Dr. H. Kaye Griffin

IV.A.1. Opening of School Professional Development Activities

Speaker (s): Dr. H. Kaye Griffin

IV.A.2. Student Enrollment / Class Size

Speaker (s): Dr. H. Kaye Griffin

IV.B. Overview: Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) Results

Speaker (s): Anita Rutlin

IV.C. Presentation: World Languages Curriculum Guide

Speaker (s): Anita Rutlin

V. Board Members' Comments

VI. Board Committees / Liaison Updates

VI.A. Planning Committee

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

VI.B. Personnel Committee

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

VI.C. Policy Committee

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

VI.C.1. Report: Revisions to Madison Public Schools Code of Conduct

VI.C.2. Technical Revision: Policy #7120 Hazardous Material in Schools

VI.D. Finance Committee

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

VI.E. LEARN Liaison

Speaker (s): Liaison: Kathleen Rossini

VII. Audience Response to Information Presented

VIII. Consent Agenda (Items 8.1 - 8.3)

VIII.A. Bills Payable: \$234,048.26 (06/07) & \$1,746,528.17 (07/08)

VIII.B. Line Transfers: \$24,579.06

VIII.C. Donation: Brown School Student Planners (\$2,392) from Brown School PTO (Reference Policy #3281)

IX. **Action Item: Lease Agreement between Madison Public Schools and Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) (Reference Bylaw #9540.8)**

X. **Action Item: Appointment of Interim Principal, Island Avenue School (Reference Policy #4112)**

XI. **Action Item: Appointment Interim Principal of Dr. Robert H. Brown School (Reference Policy #4112)**

XII. **Action Item: Award Bid for School Refuse Removal Services (Reference Policy #3323)**

XIII. **Action Item: Technical Revisions to Policy #7120 Hazardous Material in Schools (Reference Policy #9630)**

XIV. **Action Item: Academy School Renovation and Additions (Reference Policy #7110)**

XV. **Action Item: To Establishment of Community Outreach Committee**

XVI. **Action Item: Minutes 7.10.07 Meeting (Reference Bylaw #9540.8)**

XVII. **Action Item: Minutes 7.23.07 Meeting (Reference Bylaw #9540.8)**

XVIII. **Action Item: Minutes 8.14.07 Meeting (Reference Bylaw #9540.8)**

XIX. **Old Business**

XX. **New Business**

XX.A. Textbook Adoption Preview (August 22 - September 4, 2007) Thinking About Psychology; Bedford, Freeman and Worth Publishing, Daniel Hand High School Human Behavior

XXI. **Future Agenda Items**

XXII. **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
July 10, 2007
Town Campus

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order / Attendance

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 6:45 p.m.

Present: Becky Coffey; Debbie Frey; Harriet Gowanlock; Robert Hale; Diana Lynch; Kathleen Rossini; Holly Sellers; David Youngerman.

Also present: Dr. H. Kaye Griffin, Superintendent.

MOTION: by Gowanlock, seconded by Rossini to enter Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

AYES: Coffey, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Lynch, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

2. Executive Session

Personnel issues discussed

Contractual issues discussed.

Legal issues discussed.

Chairman Hale exited executive session at 7:10 p.m.

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Sellers to adjourn Executive Session at 7:28 ~~8~~-p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

The public session of the Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 7:35 p.m. Chairman Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Becky Coffey; Debbie Frey; Harriet Gowanlock; Robert Hale; Diana Lynch; Kathleen Rossini; Holly Sellers; David Youngerman.

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

3. School Community Session

3.1 Public Participation

Rick Flanders, 553 Durham Road, shared with the board ideas regarding a new extracurricular program for theatre arts. He suggested that this program be broken out from program #118, Student Extracurricular Activities. The theatre arts program would involve students in grades 5-12. He suggested that a coordinator be hired that would be an advocate for the program, rather than parents. He commented that 230 high school students were involved in the

theatre arts program this year and over \$30,000 was received in revenues, which is bigger than football and other athletic programs. The theatre arts program could be a financial self-sustaining program. He added that he has reviewed the website of 20 similar schools and their theatre arts programs are planned well in the future. He concluded that he would like to see another after school program besides sports offered to the students in Madison.

Bob DiBiccaro, 132 Dorset Lane, thanked Dr. Griffin for meeting with Mr. Flanders and him to discuss proposals on the theatre arts program. He commented that it is important to have theatre arts as a separate program. He is glad to see that the board has increased funding for the theatre arts as a curriculum program, but he would like to see it treated differently than a small club program. He is also looking for a coordinator for the program and suggests a user fee so that the program can be self-sustaining.

Elizabeth Booth, 10 Northwood Road, questioned the board about their position on the use of Island Avenue and Academy School and if these facilities would be available for other uses in the future. Mr. Hale responded that the board has made a definitive vote to use Island Avenue as a school in the foreseeable future. The use of Academy School is still under discussion.

Dan Zaneski, 683 Green Hill Road, commented that he was a former college football coach. He spoke in support of Mr. Mike Ciotti as a football coach at Daniel Hand High School. He appealed to the board to reverse the decision not to renew Mr. Ciotti as an Assistant Football Coach next year.

Ray Pantalena, 188 Bartlett Drive, commented that he has been an active coach in Madison for the last ten years and has had opportunities to coach with Mr. Ciotti. He stated that he is concerned with the events that have occurred as related to the coaching status of Mr. Ciotti. He spoke in support of Mr. Ciotti and feels that by not renewing him it leaves the school without a very effective coach. He asked to board to take a second look at the decision.

Ken Conlon, 62 Rolling Meadow Road, commented that he is a three-sport high school official, has served as a coach at DHHS and Brown School, and is a sports correspondent for the Shore Line Times. He has met a lot of coaches over the years, both good and bad, and feels that Mr. Ciotti is one of the best coaches he has met. He added that Mr. Ciotti had been President of Madison Youth Football for many years which has an outstanding reputation. He has never seen Mr. Ciotti act inappropriately on the field and challenges the board to take a second look at the decision not to renew Mr. Ciotti as Assistant Football Coach at Daniel Hand High School.

Jeff Richard, 61 Silo Hill Road, stated he was at the meeting because he feels the integrity of Mr. Ciotti has been attacked. He commented that Mr. Ciotti has given selflessly to the Madison Youth Football program and spent many hours training coaches. He added that Mr. Ciotti does sell athletic equipment and that his company has been used by local booster clubs because of its strong reputation. He worries that the incidents reported about Mr. Ciotti in the press are not true and have been taken as facts by the community.

Peter McLaughlin, 95 Bartlett Drive, commented that he was involved in the first Booster Club and has served as a college football official for 39 years. He feels that Mr. Ciotti is the best coach that he has ever met and spoke in support of re-instating Mr. Ciotti as Assistant Football Coach at Daniel Hand High School.

Chuck Fisher, Madison resident, reiterated that officials love to come to Madison because of the integrity of its program. He stated that there is a dichotomy between what the school systems says and what it does. He wondered why the Madison Public Schools was "trying to hang" Mr. Ciotti.

Sandra Davis, 4 Apple Way, spoke to the board about the student-athletes. She stated that DHHS football team has won the conference for 3 years due to their hard work, dedication and team work that includes the coaching staff. She added that the team did not do as well this year but the athletes are working hard to not let it happen again. She stated that the students are doing their part to make a successful football program and the adults should do their part by providing the most effective coaches.

Scott Nizolek, 23 Stacy Lane, offered the board support for the reinstatement of Mr. Ciotti as Assistant Football Coach at Daniel Hand High School. He feels that a monumental mistake was made by not allowing Mr. Ciotti to return as a football coach. He does not believe that the allegations made against Mr. Ciotti are true. He added that he feels it is inappropriate to have a leader that has resigned her position continue in the capacity as Interim Superintendent. He stated that Dr. Griffin has done a superior job in the business end of the position but feels she

should not be involved in personnel decisions. He believes that the Athletic Director should make decisions about athletic personnel. He suggested that the Board of Education establish a subcommittee to handle personnel matters.

Barbara August, 128 Five Fields Road, stated that she could have gotten even more people to attend the meeting in support of Mr. Ciotti. She added athletics is an integral part of the town and school system. Good role models are needed in town and the educational system, especially male role models. She spoke in support of Mr. Ciotti and questioned why he had to go through this process. She added that Daniel Hand High School is not just an academic school but includes athletics, band, et al.

4. Superintendent's Report

4.1 Discussion: 2006 – 2007 Budget Closeout Final Report

Finance Committee Chair, Becky Coffey, reported that the Committee met on June 29th to close-out the 2006-2007 budget. She stated that some funds were remaining and, because of cuts in the 2007-2008 budget by the Board of Finance, they were utilized to purchase long-term items such as computers and textbooks.

Dr. Griffin commented that the final balance at the end of the 2006-2007 budget year was \$19,564.

4.2 Update: Projected Student Enrollment 2007 - 2008

Dr. Griffin reported on the current enrollment figures which show 87 students less than projected. The kindergarten enrollment is at 189 versus the projection of 210. The district is also monitoring the class sizes at the elementary grades.

Mr. Youngerman questioned the grades 7 and 8 enrollment projections. Dr. Griffin responded that traditionally new enrollments for secondary school students take place the last 2 weeks of August.

5. Board Member Comments

Mr. Hale corrected comments in a letter to the editor from Selectman Walz which indicated that the school system received a \$100,000 reduction in ECS funds. The reduction was in fact in the special education cost sharing grant and that the board did not request a special appropriation to handle the shortfall from the state.

Ms. Gowanlock commented on the issue of the non-renewal of Mr. Ciotti as Assistant Football Coach at Daniel Hand High School and the comments from the audience urging the board to take a second look at the issue. She stated that the board has not reviewed this matter because it does not come before the board for their action.

Ms. Coffey thanked the representatives from the theatre arts program for the work on their proposal and encouraged the board to look into this issue. Dr. Griffin added that Assistant Superintendent Anita Rutlin has been appointed as coordinator of the theatre arts program and she has been in contact with the administrators on the matter.

Ms. Lynch stated that she was upset by the comments made by Mr. Nizolek regarding the succession plan for the school administration. She felt the comments were offensive and disgraceful.

6. Distribution of Executive Summaries from Board Committees / Liaisons

Atty. Sellers reported that the Policy Committee met this evening and discussed the ethics policy.

7. Audience Response to Information Presented

Tim Nye, 115 Concord Drive, spoke in support of Mr. Mike Ciotti as an outstanding coach and mentor to kids. He added that Mr. Ciotti has offered to stop doing business with the Madison athletic program.

Joan Walker, 39 Stepping Stone Lane, commented that she is associated with Mr. Ciotti through church and she spoke in support of Mr. Ciotti. She also questioned the search process for the new Superintendent and whether a search committee has been selected. She also wanted to know whether parents would be included in the selection

process. Mr. Hale responded that the board has not finished the discussion about the Superintendent selection committee but will look for ways for the public to be involved. He also reported that the board received the input from the focus groups and a press release has been issued on this topic.

Frank Nappi, 24 Salem Road, spoke in support of Mr. Ciotti. He questioned why this individual is not good enough to be a coach at Daniel Hand High School and asked the board to take a long look at the decision. Dr. Griffin responded that a meeting has been scheduled on July 16th with Mr. Ciotti.

Bill Ryder, 35 Mendingwall Circle, commented that the situation looks like retribution for Mr. Ciotti speaking at a board meeting in support of the Athletic Director. He suggested that the Superintendent recuse herself from the process.

Barbara Ciotti, 12 Amber Trail, was concerned with Ms. Gowanlock's statement that it is not a board decision regarding the non-renewal of Mr. Ciotti. She feels the board should know what is going on. She added that Mr. Ciotti was in the process of obtaining his coaching certification. Secondly, Mr. Ciotti has offered to stop being a vendor to the Madison Public Schools in order to eliminate any possible conflict of interest and that there is no current board conflict of interest policy. Finally, the inappropriate behavior cited in Coach Filippone's classroom was on the word of a student and there was no investigation conducted. She was concerned that the Superintendent used her authority without being questioned.

8. Consent Agenda (Items 8.1 – 8.7)

8.1 Bills Payable: \$31,428.12 (2006-2007)

8.2 Line Transfers: None at this time

8.3 Budget Expenditure Report as of June 29, 2007

8.4 Donation: 4 Projectors and Document Readers (\$4,200) to Jeffrey School from Jeffrey School PTO

8.5 Donation: SMART Technologies Board and Stand (\$2,000) to Brown School Library from Brown School PTO

8.6 Textbook Adoption

- Personal Finance – Turning Money into Wealth
Pearson/Prentice Hall Publisher
Daniel Hand High School Honors Banking and Finance
- Personal Finance – An Integrated Planning Approach
Pearson/Prentice Hall Publisher
Daniel Hand High School Honors Banking and Finance
- International Business
McGraw Hill/Glencoe Publisher
Daniel Hand High School International Business
- Television Production
Goodheart – Wilcox Publisher
Daniel Hand High School Introduction to Television Production

- Automotive Excellence Volume I
McGraw Hill/Glencoe Publisher
Daniel Hand High School Power and Energy

- Encuentros Culturales
McGraw-Hill Publisher
Daniel Hand High School Spanish 4 Honors
- Leyendas DeEspana
McGraw Hill Glencoe Publishers
Daniel Hand High school Spanish 4
- La Catrina
Pearson Prentice Hall Publisher
Daniel Hand High School Spanish 3
- Easy Spanish Reader
McGraw Hill Publisher
Daniel Hand High School (Fundamentals of Spanish)
Polson Middle School Spanish 1 & 2
- Patricia va a California
- Casi se muere
- El viaje de su vida
Blaine Ray Publisher
Polson Middle School Spanish 1 & 2
- Pobre Ana
Blaine Ray Publisher
Brown Middle School Grades 5 & 6
- Symtalk Book C
EMC Publishing
Brown Middle School Grade 6
- Symtalk Book B
EMC Publishing
Brown Middle School Grade 5
- Symtalk Book A
EMC Publishing
Elementary Schools Grade 3-4
- Destinos DVD Program
Annenberg-CPB Publisher
Daniel Hand High School Spanish 4
- Destinos Student Viewer Handbooks
McDougal Littell Publishers, Houghton Mifflin Riverdeep Group
Daniel Hand High School Spanish 4
- Album
McDougal Littell Publishers, Houghton Mifflin Riverdeep Group
Daniel Hand High School AP Spanish & Spanish 4H

MOTION: by Lynch, seconded by Sellers to approve the consent agenda.

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

Atty. Sellers thanked the Jeffrey School and Brown School PTOs for their generous donations.

9. Action Item: Minutes 6.19.07 Meeting

Ms. Gowanlock noted that neither Mrs. Frey, Mrs. Rossini or she were present at the second executive session related to the interest-based bargaining as noted in the minutes and requested that the minutes be amended.

MOTION: by Frey, seconded by Sellers to approve the amended minutes of the 6.19.07 meeting.

AYES: Coffey, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Lynch
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

10. Action Item: Minutes 7.3.07 Meeting

MOTION: by Youngerman, seconded by Frey to approve the minutes of the 7.3.07 meeting.

AYES: Coffey, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Lynch
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

11. Old Business

11.1 NCLB Resolution

MOTION: by Sellers, seconded by Rossini to approve a resolution supporting the *No Child Left Behind Improvements Act of 2007*.

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

11.2 Roundtable Discussion: Elementary Program / Facilities

Ms. Rossini reported that the Planning Committee met this morning and continued its discussion of the elementary school facilities. She stated at the June 19th board meeting a lot of material was distributed to the members of the board and she left the meeting with the consensus that the board is satisfied with its current middle and secondary school program and facilities. The Planning Committee now needs input about the kindergarten program and whether the board would like to keep the kindergarten program in one consolidated location and /or combine the kindergarten and pre-school program.

Dr. Griffin provided the board with a handout reflecting updated enrollment numbers from Applied Data Services (ADS) from July 10, 2007 along with the numbers from October 2006. The original kindergarten enrollment projections for 2011/12 was at 169 students and the revised report indicates 147 students based upon actual birth rates from 2006.

Dr. Griffin summarized the discussion from the November board meeting with the elementary school administrative staff regarding kindergarten modeling. She stated that there was strong support from the administrative team for a full-day kindergarten model which provides better transition from pre-school to grade 1. She added that changes in academic expectations, influenced by the No Child Left Behind Act, also support a full-day kindergarten model. Many districts in Madison's ERG already have a full day program and the State curriculum model used by Madison is based upon a full-day kindergarten program. Dr. Griffin added that for 2007-2008 the multi-age program has been eliminated to allow for a more sequenced elementary curriculum.

Dr. Griffin add that in terms of location of the kindergarten program, practical issues support the use of a single kindergarten location since it is easier to balance classes among the schools at the first grade level.

Ms. Gowanlock stated that it is not obvious to the public the need for a single kindergarten location and the impact upon class sizes and redistricting.

Dr. Griffin commented that there are a number of ways to implement the full-day kindergarten model. The one discussed at November's board meeting was to use Island Avenue School as an early education center housing pre-school and kindergarten.

Ms. Rossini commented she could see ways that the elementary programs could be housed at 3 facilities at this time, but is concerned that if the board gave back a building now it would have an impact in the future. She suggested that the board members visit Academy School to revisit the status of that facility.

Atty. Sellers stated that the facilities needs should be based upon the programmatic needs of the strategic plans. She wants to make sure that there is enough dedicated space for related arts and special needs programs. She would like to see information based upon a four-school model with appropriate space allocated for these programs. She added that another goal of the strategic plan is to eliminate the use of modular classrooms.

Ms. Coffey stated that one of her concerns with the elementary facilities is the cost, especially for the renovation of Academy School.

The board continued their discussion related to costs, modular classrooms, renovations at Academy School, equity between schools, the kindergarten center model and the timing of implementing full-day kindergarten.

The board came to a consensus regarding the kindergarten center model and full-day kindergarten. They felt that the elementary facilities plan should include the ability to implement a full-day kindergarten program and support the kindergarten center model.

The board also came to a consensus regarding Academy school. They felt that a decision needs to be made about Academy School's use before implementing an elementary facilities plan and that they need to discuss whether the Academy School renovation would be with or without the addition of four (4) classrooms.

12. New Business

No new business was discussed.

13. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were discussed.

14. Adjournment

MOTION: by Gowanlock, seconded by Rossini to adjourn the regular meeting to executive session at 10:15 p.m.

AYES: Coffey, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Lynch, Rossini, Sellers, Youngerman

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Present: Becky Coffey; Debbie Frey; Harriet Gowanlock; Diana Lynch; Kathleen Rossini; Holly Sellers; David Youngerman.

Also present: Dr. H. Kaye Griffin, Superintendent.

Personnel issues discussed

MOTION: by Youngerman, seconded by Lynch to adjourn Executive Session and the meeting at 11:15 ~~8~~-p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Submitted for approval at the 8.21.07 BOE meeting.

Board of Education Special Meeting
July 23, 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 4:12 p.m.

Present: Becky Coffey; Debbie Frey; Robert Hale; Kathleen Rossini; David Youngerman.

Also present: Dr. H. Kaye Griffin, Superintendent.

MOTION: by Youngerman, seconded by Coffey to enter Executive Session at 4:12 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

AYES: Coffey, Frey, Hale, Rossini, Youngerman

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

2. Executive Session

The Board of Education met with candidates for the position of Assistant Director of Student Services and Special Education and Assistant Director of Student Services and Special Education.

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Rossini to adjourn Executive Session at 5:03 ~~8~~ p.m.

AYES: Coffey, Frey, Hale, Rossini, Youngerman

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

3. Regular Session

The regular session of the Board of Education special meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 5:03 p.m.

Present: Becky Coffey; Debbie Frey; Robert Hale; Kathleen Rossini; David Youngerman.

Also present: Dr. H. Kaye Griffin, Superintendent Dr. Barbara Macauley, Ms. Rachel Weiss and Ms. Abbie Smith, New Haven Register.

4. Action Item: Appointment of Director of Student Services and Special Education

MOTION: by Frey, seconded by Coffey to authorize the appointment of Dr. Barbara D. Macauley as the Director of Student Services and Special Education effective September 4, 2007.

AYES: Coffey, Frey, Hale, Rossini, Youngerman

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

MOTION: by Rossini, seconded by Youngerman to add to the agenda and authorize the appointment of Rachel Weiss as Assistant Director of Student Services and Special Education effective August 18, 2007.

AYES: Coffey, Frey, Hale, Rossini, Youngerman
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

5. Adjournment

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Rossini to adjourn the special meeting at 5:07 p.m.
AYES: Coffey, Frey, Hale, Rossini, Youngerman
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

Submitted for approval at the 8.21.07 BOE meeting.

Board of Education Special Meeting
August 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 7:08 p.m. Chairman Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Becky Coffey; Debbie Frey; Harriet Gowanlock; Robert Hale; Kathleen Rossini.

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

2. Roundtable Discussion: Academy School Facility

Chairman Hale stated that the reason that the special meeting was called was to review the status of the Academy School because at the next scheduled Board of Education meeting he would like to have an action item on the project. He commented that the board started discussing the Academy facility three years ago and the board now needs to reaffirm the decision made on the facility. He added that this is a very important project and the town needs to make a decision on it.

Ms. Rossini, Chairman of the Planning Committee, reported that the Planning Committee met this morning and reviewed items discussed at the last Board of Education meeting. At the last meeting, the board discussed the program aspects as related to facilities. It was established that the board is satisfied with the current programming and facility spaces at the grades 9-12, grades 7-8 and grades 5-6 level. The board then discussed the grades K-4 level and they had a preference for a combined Kindergarten program at an early education childhood complex.

Ms. Coffey commented that the proposal is for a four-school approach with pre-K and K as part of a combined facility.

Ms. Rossini added that at the last board meeting they reviewed the programming space needs for grades K-4 and that the needs of the programs have developed over time. Spaces needs at the elementary level are different than they were 5-10 years ago based upon inclusion models and related arts programs. There is the need for at least five dedicated spaces at each elementary school for related arts and special education needs.

Ms. Coffey discussed the types of spaces needed for an inclusion model including smaller spaces for one-on-one needs and larger spaces for programming such as occupational therapy.

Ms. Rossini reported that at the last board meeting there was also a consensus that the board would like to have less reliance on temporary classroom space, i.e. modular classrooms. She also stated that at the last meeting a discussion was started on enrollment projections. There was no consensus on these numbers but the board did feel that it was not advantageous to release the use of a school facility at this time as it might detrimental impact school facility spaces needs in the future.

Chairman Hale commented that the elementary schools are currently operating on a four-school model including the Town Campus Learning facility. The proposed model would still be a four-school model but include the use of the Academy School rather than the Town Campus Learning Center. He also stated that the board was in consensus that all schools should be able to accommodate at least 350 students so there is an equitable distribution of students through out the district. The plan that the board originally supported was for the renovation of the Academy School with the addition of four (4) classrooms and elevator(s). This plan's costs are far more reasonable than some of the other plans presented to the board.

Ms. Coffey commented that it is important to mention that the pre-K program currently housed at the modular Town Campus Learning Center would be moved to the Island Avenue School / Early Childhood Education Center. This would allow for the reduction in reliance on modular space.

Mr. Hale added that this move would also allow for the growth of the program and allow for a better transition from pre-K to Kindergarten.

Ms. Coffey added that the addition of the four classrooms at the Academy School is not based upon enrollment projections but the need to equalize school sizes through out the district.

Ms. Gowanlock commented that the four-school model could allow for the decreased reliance on modulars at the Island Avenue and Jeffrey School. She also discussed administrative staffing among the four schools.

Dr. Griffin responded that there is an opportunity for shared staffing with the ACES program at an Early Childhood Education Center.

Ms. Coffey commented that she would not want to spend capital funding to put the Academy School back on-line without the addition of the four classroom spaces. She also urged a building committee to review the \$12 million price tag on the project.

Ms. Rossini added that this project would be eligible for state reimbursement. She also commented that the public has expressed to her the value of retaining Academy School as a school facility in town.

Chairman Hale ended the roundtable discussion by stating that the board will have an action item on the next agenda related to the proposed Academy School renovation and additions and that the Board of Selectmen will be asked to form a building committee.

3. Initial Review: Revisions to Codes of Conduct

Chairman Hale started the review by stating that this would be the first opportunity for the board to have a look at the proposed revisions to the Codes of Conduct. When the original Code of Conduct was completed two years ago the board was committed to reviewing it again. The Administrative Council has made a number of revisions based upon new state legislation regarding in-school and out-of-school suspension. The Policy Committee will also be meeting with the secondary administrators tomorrow morning to review the Codes of Conduct.

Dr. Griffin provided to the board a summary of the changes to the Code of Conduct. She stated that many revisions were based upon a new state legislation as related to in-school and out-of-school suspension. The legislative shift was that there would be more in-school suspensions and out-of-school suspensions would be reserved for more serious matters related to health, safety and disruption of the educational process. She also stated that the secondary administrators have worked with Madison Youth Services to develop required alcohol and substance abuse training as relates to infractions of that nature.

Ms. Coffey questioned how the changes would affect facility and staffing needs. Dr. Griffin responded that in-school suspensions would require a space conducive to quality learning and staff to oversee the in-school suspensions. The administration will have to propose a budget to the board to support this “unfunded mandate”.

Ms. Rossini questioned the number of in-school suspensions anticipated under the revisions. Dr. Griffin responded that it is anticipated that there would be a daily need for space and staffing for in-school suspensions.

4. Adjournment

MOTION: by Frey, seconded by Coffey to adjourn the special meeting at 7:50 ~~8~~-p.m.

AYES: Coffey, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Rossini

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0