

Board of Education Regular Meeting #1

Tuesday, March 4, 2008 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

III.A. Recognition: Connecticut Association of Schools Celebration of Connecticut Elementary Schools' Success **Speaker (s)**: David Klein

III.B. Recognition and Reception **Speaker (s)**: Chairman Hale

III.C. Recognition: Connecticut Board of Education Appreciation Month **Speaker (s)**: David Klein

III.D. Public Participation

IV. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report **Speaker (s)**: Emma Norris and Thomas Presti

V. Superintendent's Report **Speaker (s)**: David Klein

V.A. NEASC Reports from Visiting Teams: Commendations and Recommendations **Speaker (s)**: David Klein; Mona Goodman; Kathy Nutley; Paul Sinicrope; Julianne Phelps; Frank Henderson

V.B. Update: Kindergarten Registration 2008-2009 **Speaker (s)**: David Klein

VI. Board Member Comments

VII. Board Committees / Liaison Updates

VII.A. Planning Committee **Speaker (s)**: Members: Deb Frey, Bill Clorite

VII.B. Personnel Committee **Speaker (s)**: Members: John Dean, Becky Coffy, Robert Ruggiero

VII.C. Policy Committee **Speaker (s)**: Members: Harriet Gowanlock, Seth Klaskin, Holly Se

VII.D. Finance Committee **Speaker (s)**: Members: Becky Coffey, Harriet Gowanlock, Holly Se

VII.D.1. Discussion: Board of Selectmen Review of 2008-2009 Board of Education Budget

VII.E. Community Outreach Committee **Speaker (s)**: Members: Seth Klaskin, Becky Coffey

VIII. **Audience Response to Information Presented**

IX. **Consent Agenda (Items 9.1 - 9.8)**

IX.A. Bills Payable: \$774,912.79

IX.B. Line Transfers \$65,342.40, \$47,219.32
(Facilities)

IX.C. Budget Expenditure Report as of February
27, 2008

IX.D. Acknowledgment: Out of State Travel for
Daniel Hand High School Students (Ref. Policy
#6100.16.1.)

IX.E. Acknowledgment: Out of State Travel for
Robert H. Brown Middle School Students (Ref.
Policy #6100.16.1.)

IX.F. Acknowledgment: Out of State Travel for
Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School Students
(Ref. Policy 6100.16.1)

IX.G. Donation: \$6,500 from Robert H. Brown
School PTO for Grade 5 and Grade 6 Field Trips
(Ref. Policy 3281)

IX.H. Financial Reports: Athletics

IX.H.1. Athletic Registration and Donation
Account

IX.H.2. Athletic Student Activity Fees

IX.H.3. Ice Hockey

X. **Action Item: Minutes January 24, 2008 Board of
Education Budget Workshop Meeting (Ref. Bylaw
#9540.8)**

XI. **Action Item: Minutes January 29, 2008 Meeting
(Ref. Bylaw 9540.8)**

XII. **Action Item: Approval of Connecticut State
Department of Education ED-099 Agreement for
Child Nutrition Programs (Ref. Policy 3542.1)**

XIII. **Action Item: Submission of the Safe
Schools / Healthy Students Application**

XIV. **Old Business**

XV. **New Business**

XVI. **Future Agenda Items**

XVI.A. Report on Tiger Fitness Center

XVII. **Meetings of Importance**

Speaker(s): Chairman
Hale

XVII.A. March 10, 2008; Board of Selectmen Final
Action on Town and Board of Education Budget, 8:00
a.m. Town Campus Room A

XVII.B. March 11, 2008; Planning Committee, 7:30
a.m., Central Office Room B

XVII.C. March 12, 2008; Board of Selectmen and
Board of Education Budget Presentations, 7:30

p.m., Walter C. Polson Middle School Auditorium
XVII.D. March 17, 2008; Board of Finance Budget
Review and Action, 7:30 p.m., Town Campus Room A
XVII.E. March 18, 2008; Policy Committee, 5:30
p.m., Central Office Room B
XVIII. **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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Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Budget Workshop
Community Room, Madison Police Department
January 24, 2008

Minutes

The Board of Education Budget Workshop was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 5:30 p.m. Chairman Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Bill Clorite; Becky Coffey; John Dean; Debbie Frey; Harriet Gowanlock; Robert Hale; Robert Ruggiero

Also present: Anita Rutlin, Acting Superintendent; Barbara Macauley, Acting Assistant Superintendent; district administrators; faculty, staff and community members.

Chairman Hale stated it was the consensus of the Board of Education to take action on the Budget at their meeting on January 29, 2008. Recommendations will then be made to the administrators before the budget is presented to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance.

Ms. Rutlin distributed a revised/updated copy of the Comprehensive Budget Detail section of the budget document, and a summary of Preliminary Budget Reductions.

Ms. Coffey stated that the Comprehensive Budget reflects an 11% increase in the district's 2008-2009 contribution to the shared town/school health insurance reserve. She reported that the Health Insurance Consultant recommended 12% this month but she is optimistic that, like in past years, the total payment recommended will drop in March after the district has two more months of health insurance claims experience in this fiscal year. Ms. Coffey stated that it is believed that the 11% is completely sufficient and that there is additional revenue this year not normally reflected, i.e. the new teachers' contract and the additional two months of experience between now and March.

Seth Klaskin entered the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Ms. Coffey next addressed questions that were raised at the last Budget Workshop meeting. She asked Dr. Macauley to speak to the requested 8.52% budget increase for Special Education.

Dr. Macauley stated that some of the costs included in the Special Education section, such as transportation, postage, phones, are referenced in the Cost of Doing Business on the sheet entitled Major Factors. Other factors are the contractual increases for certified and non-certified staff, resulting in salary increases ranging from 5.4% - 11.9%; hiring dedicated Occupational Therapists (these services were previously outsourced); and consultative fees.

Ms. Gowanlock inquired if it would be more cost effective to hire a dedicated consultative staff member rather than outsourcing services with contracted consultants. Dr. Macauley responded that it probably would not be at this time, but a dedicated ADA Consultant might be considered at some point in the future.

Bill McMinn, Director of Facilities, addressed the Board regarding the staff addition of an HVAC Specialist and distributed a memorandum of explanation regarding the position. Mr. McMinn stated that this position would save the district the costs of contracting with outside specialists. Ms. Gowanlock asked how much was spent on outside contractors; Mr. McMinn did not have a specific amount but stated that any time there is a problem with one of the roof top air conditioning units, for example, it costs a minimum of \$1,000 per day for an outside company to come to Madison. Having an HVAC specialist on staff would reduce (though not completely eliminate) the need for outside contractors.

Mr. Klaskin asked if this person would be able to perform other duties, and Mr. McMinn responded that all maintenance staff members are cross-trained and this position would help to alleviate some of the issues caused by the existing shortage of staff in this area.

Mr. Klaskin also asked if overtime costs are funded in the budget. Mr. McMinn answered that he does not normally approve overtime for reasons such as covering shifts due to absences. However, occasionally there are overtime costs for special circumstances such as the NEASC visits, which took place on weekends and necessitated custodial staff in the schools.

Mr. McMinn also discussed the 5.75% requested increase for utility expenses in the budget. He explained that this is a very difficult expenditure to predict and he tries to take the utility expenses as a whole and balance them out.

Mr. Clorite stated that he had met recently with members of the Guilford Board of Education and their costs for heating and fuel oil are much lower than those in Madison. He inquired as to whether Madison could investigate how Guilford is securing these reduced costs.

Arthur Sickle, Director of Administrative Services, addressed the Board and responded that he would research the busing costs and compare with Guilford's costs. He did state that all vehicles in Madison use diesel fuel; he is not sure if that is the case for Guilford.

Mr. McMinn stated that he would research the energy costs and compare Madison's costs with those incurred by the Facilities Department in Guilford.

Ms. Coffey stated that the Energy Committee should be made aware of this and they may be able to get some information.

Mr. Klaskin asked if Madison participates in regional bids for utilities and fuel oil costs. Mr. Sickle responded that we do belong to a Consortium, but no benefit has been recognized.

Mr. Dean inquired why we pay gross receipt tax on diesel fuel. Mr. Sickle responded that this tax applies to any fuel not used for a heating function.

As a matter of information, Mr. McMinn notified the Board of a violation letter that will have to be posted at Robert H. Brown Middle School and Kathleen H. Ryerson School. A scheduled September sampling of the well water did not take place and Madison received a violation that must be posted. Mr. McMinn stressed that the water is and was safe, and the only reason for the violation was that the sample was not taken in a timely manner.

The Board next received a copy of the Athletic Department Budget. Ms. Coffey stated that it was a lengthy document that the Board has not seen prior to this workshop, and asked that everyone review it carefully and forward any questions to her.

Craig Semple, Director of Athletics, provided additional information regarding the registration fees for ice hockey and how the fees relate to the Madison Ice Hockey Association. Mr. Semple also noted that there were formula errors in the totals page; they will be corrected and an updated version will be forwarded to all Board members.

Ms. Coffey next directed the discussion to the Budget as a whole.

Mr. Dean inquired about the new positions in the 08-09 budget. Ms. Rutlin explained that 1 was for the HVAC Specialist; 1 was for the Reading Specialist at the Middle School level; 1 was for the Science Specialist at the Elementary School level and the 0.8 was for the Security/In School Suspension position at Daniel Hand High School.

A revised 2008-2009 Requested Budget / Madison Public Schools by Component and a sheet summarizing Preliminary Budget Reductions for 2008-2009 were distributed. (The preliminary budget reductions sheet reflected proposed reductions totaling \$99,315 in various objects within the district's 2008-2009 operating budget. Also reflected on the sheet was a reallocation of funds within district accounts to put an additional \$50,000 into the Labor and Legal Services object for the 2008-2009 budget. The listed budget reductions would reduce the district's operating budget – before these reductions, at a 6.29% increase over last year - to a 6% increase.)

Ms. Gowanlock inquired as to what the bottom line was assuming the 11% health insurance increase and these reductions. Chairman Hale responded with reductions it would be 5.98%. Chairman Hale pointed out that a 5.66% increase to 9101, General Education, was not a large increase.

Ms. Sellers advised everyone to look at dollar amounts – not just percentages. She further stated that with regard to the 25% requested increase in School Facilities / Daily Services, costs in that area have been starved for a long time.

Ms. Rutlin stated that the focus during the Administrative Council meeting was to reduce the budget in areas as far from the classroom as possible.

A question was raised about the reduction in dollars for the Blackboard Technology Program. Mr. Sickle stated that the proposed reduction will allow us to maintain our current 2,000 seat license. He went on to say that he believes not upgrading as originally planned will not have a major impact on the lower grades.

Mr. Sickle stated that the 2,000 seat license covers the Daniel Hand High School students and staff, and will also allow for some usage at the 8th and then 7th Grade levels. The original intent was for it to be used for Grades 5 and up, but Mr. Sickle reported that Grades 5 and 6 are not utilizing it at this time.

Ms. Gowanlock asked if there are similar products on the market. Mr. Sickle responded that we will either look to improve our existing technology or investigate other options.

Ms. Gowanlock also asked if the reduction will stifle participation. Frank Henderson, Principal of Walter C. Polson Middle School stated that teachers in Grades 5 through 8 have been trained under Mr. Sickle. Mr. Henderson said that he didn't believe any momentum would be lost and the teachers will still have involvement.

Daniel Zittoun, Assistant Principal at Daniel Hand High School further stated that one of fundamental advantages of any technology based program is that once you are trained in one, you are usually able to use other similar programs.

Mr. Klaskin asked if the Blackboard Program wasn't originally intended as a tool for parents to use too. Mr. Sickle responded that communications are best when the Grade Book feature is utilized, and it is not at this time. He hopes to see improvements in the functionality of the program with the next release (8.0). Madison will receive the updated version.

Mr. Sickle further stated that although the Blackboard Program is marketed for Kindergarten through 12th Grade, its largest market is at the university level. Blackboard is developing the K-12 market; he therefore reiterated this reduction to the budget will not have a negative impact on the district next year.

Ms. Coffey next asked the Board members to summarize their thoughts on the Budget as presented with the preliminary reductions.

Ms. Sellers asked if the reallocation of funding for legal expenditures was made after the \$107,000 reduction, and Ms. Coffey responded that it was. Ms. Sellers strongly stated that she is not happy with the reduction in the area of Staff Development. She thought the reductions to Print Collections would have less of an impact.

A question was raised about the reductions to the extracurricular stipends for Walter C. Polson Middle School and Robert H. Brown Middle School. Mr. Henderson replied that there is new money, just less than originally projected, and the programs can still be run with modest fees. He stated that we are still increasing extracurricular activities for middle school students.

Mr. Ruggiero stated that he supports the budget as presented.

Ms. Frey stated that she wants to see the bottom line as close to 6% as possible. She further stated that she would like to see the Staff Development allocation back to \$225.00 per FTE.

Ms. Coffey stated that she would also like to see the Staff Development allocation at \$225.00, and that she would like the bottom line as close to 6% as possible.

Mr. Clorite stated that he too would like to be at 6%, and he hopes some savings can be realized in the areas of transportation and heating costs.

Ms. Gowanlock stated that she has no problem going forward with the Budget as currently presented, at 6.2%. She stated that in her opinion, it is not worth it to take any more away from the students to make up the 0.2%. She also highly values Professional Development and would like to see that reallocated back to \$250.00 per FTE.

Mr. Klaskin mirrored Ms. Gowanlock's comments.

Mr. Dean stated that he believes a bottom line of 6% is very reasonable and will pass at first referendum.

Chairman Hale stated that he is in favor of keeping the reductions as shown on the page distributed, with the exception of the Professional Development; he would like to see that remain at \$225.00, which would make for a bottom line of 6.02%.

Adjournment.

There was a MOTION by Dean, seconded by Gowanlock to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Board of Education Meeting
January 29, 2008
Town Campus

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Bill Clorite; Becky Coffey; John Dean; Debbie Frey; Harriet Gowanlock; Robert Hale, Seth Klaskin; Robert Ruggiero, Holly Sellers

Also present: Anita Rutlin, Acting Superintendent.

1. Executive Session

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Clorite to enter Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Gowanlock, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Mr. Dean entered at 6:35 p.m.

Ms. Frey entered at 6:45 p.m.

Personnel matters involving issues of personal privacy were discussed.

Legal matters involving individual students were discussed.

Pending litigation status and potential strategies were discussed.

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Klaskin to adjourn Executive Session at 7:10 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

The public session of the Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 7:30 p.m. Chairman Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Bill Clorite; Becky Coffey; John Dean; Debbie Frey; Harriet Gowanlock; Robert Hale; Seth Klaskin; Robert Ruggiero; Holly Sellers

Also present: Anita Rutlin, Acting Superintendent; Barbara Macauley, Acting Assistant Superintendent; administrators; faculty; staff; students; community members.

3. School Community Session

- 3.1. Recognition: Ms. Rutlin and the Board recognized the Daniel Hand High School Girls' Soccer Team. They are the recipients of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America's Team Academic Award for the 2006-2007 academic year. Several members of the team, along with their parents and their Coach, Bob Faulkner, were in attendance. Ms. Rutlin highlighted some of the

accomplishments of the Soccer Team in addition to the Academic Award; they were undefeated in the regular season, seeded number one in the SCC and Champions of the Hammonasset Division. To qualify for this award, a team must have a minimum grade point average of 3.25 for the entire academic year. The team GPA is determined by adding each player's GPA, then dividing by the number of players. Mr. Faulkner expressed his pride in the team and reiterated that academics come first, then athletics.

3.2 Public Participation

No public comments.

4. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Ms. Norris was not present at the meeting.

Mr. Presti reported that the administration and the coordinators held a meeting with Grade 8 parents to discuss the different aspects of the high school.

The course selection process is underway and students are meeting with their teachers during class to discuss their recommendations. Both core classes and electives are being selected.

Grade 11 students, along with their parents, met with Guidance Counselors as well as a panel of seniors on College and Career Night. Over 350 people attended this event and received booklets on the college process. These students and their parents are also able to meet individually with Guidance Counselors to discuss the college process.

5. Acting Superintendent's Report

5.1. Innovative Program for Cooperative Work Experience

Ms. Rutlin reported that Madison Public Schools has received official notification of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Tech Education Act Innovations Grant award in the amount of \$49,648.00 for the 2007-2008 year. This is a competitive grant and Ms. Rutlin thanked the Board for their support with regard to expanding the Cooperative Work Education Program.

Mr. Fran Thomson, Assistant Principal of Daniel Hand High School and Ms. Pat Drew, Department Chairperson, shared an overview of the CWE Program via a Power Point presentation (on file) with the Board. Ms. Drew expressed her thanks to Ms. Rutlin, who she stated was the driving force behind this Grant. She further thanked Mr. Thomson for his efforts, and Central Office staff, particularly Ree DeCapua, who were also instrumental in the preparation of the Grant application.

Ms. Drew elaborated for the Board some of the ways the grant money will be spent, such as student transportation for field trips; computers and furniture for the classroom; instructional supplies; externships for teachers; professional development; and textbooks. They expanding the program to include a CWE II course offering for next year.

Mr. Thomson expressed his appreciation of Mr. Bill McMinn, Director of Facilities, and Mr. Arthur Sickle, Director of Administrative Services, for their input as to how this money can best be spent with regard to classroom configuration and technology.

5.2. Discussion of the 2008-2009 Budget

Ms. Rutlin turned the budget discussion over to Ms. Coffey, who stated that additional information had been distributed to the Board this week with regard to Special Education and Facilities, specifically the requested HVAC Specialist position. Ms. Coffey asked the Board if there were any questions or comments.

Mr. Clorite questioned External Placements with regard to public versus private in the Special Education section of the budget. Dr. Macauley explained that whether a student is placed in a public or private facility is dependent on the needs of the student.

Mr. Dean stated that he wasn't entirely comfortable with the requested additional HVAC position. He also questioned some of the requested increases in the Board of Education Activities section of the budget, such as professional development and printing / binding. Chairman Hale explained that the professional development costs covered CAFE conventions and workshops, and the printing / binding costs are associated with the Community Outreach Program.

Mr. Clorite also asked about the amounts on the Preliminary Budget Reductions handout for Special Education. Dr. Macauley explained that the \$7,000 reduction was to the district level staff development and would not affect the \$225.00 professional development allotment per teacher. She also stated that the Special Education teachers would also continue to participate in the scheduled professional development days, along with the General Education teachers.

6. Board Member Comments

Chairman Hale announced to the Board that a donation was received from the Board's attorney for the H. Kaye Griffin Scholarship Fund, and will be forwarded to The Madison Foundation.

Chairman Hale also announced that a member of the community had donated a subscription to the Wall Street Journal, which will be used in the Economics class at Daniel Hand High School.

7. Distribution of Executive Summaries from Board Committees/Liaisons

Ms. Frey distributed a summary of the Planning Committee meeting which was held earlier in the day. The items discussed were:

- PreK-4 Programmatic Needs
- NEASC Recommendations on Vehicular Traffic
- Athletics Update

Chairman Hale reported that the Freedom of Information Act Workshop that was held on January 24, 2008 was an excellent experience, and he learned several new things that the Board will be implementing.

Ms. Coffey recommended, on behalf of the Finance Committee, that the Board institute a budget freeze in the amount of \$150,000 to take effect immediately. Funds will only be spent as truly needed, and Ms. Rutlin will carefully examine all requested expenditures. Discussions have already taken place with the Administrators regarding the accounts that will be frozen. This will be added to the agenda as an Action Item.

8. Audience Response to Information Presented

No comments were offered.

9. Consent Agenda (Items 9.1. – 9.4.)

9.1. Bills Payable: \$512,233.29 (07/08)

9.2. Line Transfers: \$78,264.00

9.3 Budget Expenditure Report as of January 24, 2008

9.4. Acknowledgement: Out of State Travel for Daniel Hand High School

MOTION by Frey, seconded by Sellers to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

10. Action Item: Minutes January 22, 2008 Meeting

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Klaskin to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2008 meeting.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Sellers

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Dean

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

11. Action Item: Minutes January 24, 2008 Board of Education Budget Workshop Meeting

Members of the Board had not had an opportunity prior to this meeting to review the minutes.

MOTION by Gowanlock, seconded by Frey, to table the approval of the Minutes of the January 24, 2008 Board of Education Budget Workshop Meeting until the next Board of Education meeting on March 4, 2008.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

12. Action Item: Approval of the 2009-2010 School Year Calendar.

MOTION: by Gowanlock on behalf of the Policy Committee, to approve the 2009-2010 School Year Calendar.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Ms. Frey inquired as to whether there had been many questions or comments about the calendar. Atty. Gowanlock responded that there were few comments, and the feedback she received was positive.

13. Action Item: Approval of the 2008-2009 Board of Education Budget.

MOTION: by Coffey, on behalf of the Finance Committee, to approve the 2008-2009 Board of Education Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee which represents a request for \$47,129,208 or a 5.98% increase over the 2007-2008 operating budget baseline.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Ms. Frey stated that she was very pleased with the final budget. She praised the administrators and Ms. Rutlin for their diligence and hard work, and stated that this budget will allow the Board to work toward achieving goals of the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Ruggiero stated that as a new Board member, he was very impressed with the cooperation of the Administrators during the budget process, and reiterated that the reductions made will have little impact on students.

Atty. Klaskin expressed his thanks to Ms. Rutlin and the Administrators, as well as Ms. Coffey and the Finance Committee for their hard work on the budget. He stated that the budget was most mindful of the students and meeting the educational goals set forth by the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Coffey stated that this budget will allow for some advancement toward the Strategic Plan, mainly through reallocations (e.g., the advances in World Languages); and that incremental funds have been added to accounts which have been starved for years, such as Print Collections and the Maintenance Account.

Chairman Hale stated that he is very pleased with the final budget document and feels it is very future oriented. He stated that Madison Public Schools will be ready for mandates that will be handed down from the State Department of Education, and that some of the middle school frameworks that will be mandated by the State of Connecticut are already in place in Madison. He expressed his appreciation to the Administrators and the Board of Education for a budget that looks to the future.

Atty. Sellers praised the work of the Administrators and felt that there was more of a dialog between them and the Board this year than in past years. She further stated that she felt all parties applied the goals of the Strategic Plan in developing this budget and that everyone has a better understanding of that plan now.

Atty. Gowanlock agreed with Atty. Seller's comments. She also stated that the reductions to this budget have as little effect as possible on the classrooms, and she hopes the budget is supported through to referendum.

14. Action Item: To Impose a Freeze on the 2007-2008 Budget.

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Frey, to request that the Administration implement a \$150,000 freeze to the 2007-2008 budget.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

15. Old Business

16. New Business

17. Future Agenda Items

An update on the Tiger Fitness Center will take place at a future meeting.

18. Meetings of Importance

Ms. Coffey reminded the Board about the February 27, 2008 Board of Education Presentation of the Budget to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance.

Atty. Klaskin mentioned the upcoming Community Outreach Brunch at the Robert H. Brown Middle School on February 29, 2008.

19. Adjournment

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Klaskin to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Klaskin, Ruggiero, Sellers

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0