

# Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 5, 2009 7:30 PM

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

## I. Call to Order / Attendance

## II. Executive Session - 7:00 p.m.

II.A. Personnel Items

II.B. Legal Items

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

III.A. Recognition: National Teacher Appreciation Day (May 5, 2009); (New Hires for the 2008-2009 School Year being recognized on behalf of all Madison Public Schools teachers) **Speaker (s)**: David J. Klein, Chairman Hale

III.B. Public Participation

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

## V. Superintendent's Report

**Speaker (s)**: David J. Klein

V.A. Update: 2008-2009 Enrollment and 2009-2010 Enrollment Projection **Speaker (s)**: David J. Klein

V.B. Report on Out of State Field Trips **Speaker (s)**: David J. Klein

V.C. Overview: K-12 Summer Reading List 2009 - Express Yourself at Your Library **Speaker (s)**: Anita Rutlin

## VI. Board Members' Comments

## VII. Board Committees / Liaison Updates

VII.A. Planning Committee **Speaker (s)**: Members: Debra Frey, Chair; Bill Clorite, Becky Coffey

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

VII.C. Policy Committee **Speaker (s)**: Members: Harriet Gowanlock, Chair; Becky Coffey; Seth Klaskin

VII.C.1. Policy #5060.1.2, Nonresidents - Second Revision Reading **Speaker (s)**: Harriet Gowanlock

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

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

VII.F. LEARN Liaison **Speaker(s):** Liaison:  
John Dean

VIII. **Audience Response to Information Presented**

IX. **Consent Agenda (Ref. Bylaw #9540.2 and #9540.8)**

IX.A. Bills Payable: \$313.50 (07-08);  
\$835,849.70 (08-09)

IX.B. Line Transfers: \$68,917.57

IX.C. Budget Expenditure Report as of April 30,  
2009

IX.D. Donation: \$3,036 to the Kathleen H.  
Ryerson Elementary School for the purchase of 2  
digital projectors and 2 digital cameras, from  
the Ryerson PTO

IX.E. Donation: \$6,000 to the Dr. Robert H.  
Brown Middle School for field trips (\$2,000 for  
Grade 5, \$4,000 for Grade 6) from the Brown  
School PTO

IX.F. Donation: \$5,000 to the Hershnik Gardens  
Project from the Timocracy Foundation  
(established in memory of Timothy Orefice)

IX.G. Request for removal of used  
books/equipment (Ref. Policy #3260)

X. **Action Item: Minutes April 21, 2009 Meeting**

XI. **Action Item: Agreement between the Madison  
Public Schools and NAGE (National Association  
of Government Employees)**

XII. **Action Item: Submission of the Connecticut  
State Department of Education Special Education  
Grant Programs Application for the period July  
1, 2009 to June 30, 2011.**

XIII. **Old Business**

XIV. **New Business**

XV. **Future Agenda Items**

XVI. **Meetings of Importance** **Speaker(s):** Chairman  
Hale

XVI.A. May 13, 2009: Planning Committee Meeting;  
7:30 a.m., Central Office Room B

XVI.B. May 19, 2009; Policy Committee Meeting;  
5:30 p.m., Central Office Room B

XVI.C. May 19, 2009: Board of Education Meeting;  
7:30 p.m., Town Campus Hammonasset Room

XVII. **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.

Board of Education Meeting  
April 21, 2009  
Town Campus

Meeting Minutes

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Hale at 7:02 p.m.

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

Also present: David J. Klein, Superintendent; Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Heather Dobson, Director of Human Resources

2. Executive Session

MOTION: by Coffey seconded by Clorite to enter Executive Session at 7:02 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Personnel matters involving confidential issues were discussed.

Mr. Ruggiero entered the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Ms. Dobson left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Legal issues were discussed.

MOTION: by Gowanlock seconded by Klaskin to adjourn Executive Session at 7:33 p.m.

AYES: Coffey, Clorite, 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 Hale at 7:39 p.m. Chairman Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also present: David J. Klein, Superintendent; Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

3. School / Community Session

**Information Share:**

**3.1. Third Annual Environment Gift from Madison Land Conservation Trust**

*Presented to Michael Docker and John Gaskell, Daniel Hand High School Science Teachers.  
by Joseph Oslander and David Skelly*

Mr. Klein introduced Mr. Joseph Oslander and Mr. David Skelly of the Madison Land Conservation Trust. Mr. Oslander reminded the Board that Earth Day was the following day, and it was a perfect time to make this

presentation. He spoke to the fact that many of the issues of the first Earth Day in 1970 are still relevant today and he is pleased to see professionals in the Madison Public Schools working with students to teach them about environmental issues, and that students are interested and invested in environmental issues. Mr. Oslander complemented the work of Daniel Hand High School Science Teachers Mr. Michael Docker and Mr. John Gaskell, and was pleased to present them with the Madison Land Conservation Trust's Environment Gift for their courses. Mr. Gaskell expressed appreciation on behalf of himself and Mr. Docker for this gift and the supplies and resources it would provide for their classes.

### **Recognition:**

#### **3.2. ExploraVision Competition – Island Avenue Elementary School Grade 4 Students**

Mr. Klein introduced Mr. Michael Ginsburg, Grade 4 Teacher at Island Avenue Elementary School, Mrs. Ruth Rose, Math Specialist at Island Avenue Elementary School and Zachary Glassman, Grade 11 Student at Daniel Hand High School. He explained that Mr. Ginsburg and Mrs. Rose had led the students involved with the ExploraVision projects at Island Avenue, assisted by Zachary who volunteered his time to help these younger students.

Mr. Ginsburg explained that ExploraVision is a program sponsored by Toshiba and the National Science Teachers Association which challenges students in grades K-12 to explore and create a future technology. The students from Island Avenue worked in teams, and were required to select a technology that is relevant to them, and study how that technology works. They then explored what that technology might be like 20 years from now, and had to write a report on their future technology. Each team submitted a report of approximately 11 pages, including illustrations and graphics. The teams were also required to prepare simulated Web pages to communicate and promote their future technology.

Both Mr. Ginsburg and Mrs. Rose explained that the students worked very hard on their projects and should be very proud of their accomplishments. The teams worked twice a week for one hour after school from November through January and the students also worked on their projects at home. This was the first year that Island Avenue School participated in ExploraVision, and both agreed that interest in the school was peaked and they would have more students ready to participate next year. Mr. Ginsburg expressed thanks to Island Avenue Principal Kathy Nutley for her support of the project.

The teams were introduced and presented with Certificates of Recognition signed by Mr. Klein and Chairman Hale.

#### Fission / Fusion

- *Joel Griffin*
- *Samuel Soroko*
- *Samuel Thorpe*
- *Colin Wallace*

#### Plumpy Plant

- *Emma Boey*
- *Ciara Burke*
- *Gabrielle Martin*
- *Marielle Lamberti*

#### Team "MSSC" Breast Cancer Vaccine

- *Sydney Carlo*
- *Carly Fischer*
- *Sophia Kyrz*
- *Michael Scoopo*

#### Transgenic Baseball Bat

- *Thomas Cosgriff*
- *Louis Donofrio*
- *Timothy Rotermund*
- *William Schultz*

Mr. Ginsburg noted that the Transgenic Baseball Bat team earned an Honorable Mention in the region for their submission.

Mrs. Rose commended Zach Glassman for volunteering his time to work with the students at Island Avenue, stating that he was a wonderful role model for the 4<sup>th</sup> graders, and expressed her hope that he would return again next year as a student coach and mentor. Zach was also presented with a Certificate of Recognition signed by Mr. Klein and Chairman Hale.

Mrs. Katy Wallace, whose son was a member of the Fission/Fusion team, expressed her appreciation for Mr. Ginsburg and Mrs. Rose for volunteering their time to this project and commended them as excellent educators.

### **3.3. Public Participation**

None at this time.

4. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report  
(Thomas Presti and Anna Balakrishnan)

The student representatives were not present.

5. Superintendent's Report

### **5.2. Report on Out of State Field Trips**

Mr. Klein reported on upcoming out of state field trips for the Board's information.

Mr. Klein also advised the Board that in recognition of National Library Week, April 12-18, he sent letters of recognition to all staff in the district Library Media Centers, as well as the Scranton Library staff.

Mr. Klein next reported that a breakfast had been held earlier in the day in appreciation of the district's bus drivers, and it was extremely well attended. Mr. Klein praised the work of Mr. Art Sickle, Director of Administrative Services, and Ms. Magda Grayson and Ms. Dawn Vece of Durham School Services, who keep things running smoothly behind the scenes. He stated however, that the drivers are the real heroes, and they do a great job transporting the students every day.

#### **5.1. Discussion: Technology Plan for Administrative Software (Arthur Sickle)**

- **Student Administrative Software**
- **Web Content Management Software**

Mr. Sickle, Director of Administrative Services, introduced members of the Technology Department who were present at the meeting: Mr. Steven Fuest, Assistant Manager of Technology Services, Ms. Rita Boland, Web Master and Applications Support Specialist, and Mr. Michael Kiefer, Instructional Technology Specialist. Mr. Sickle explained that all participated significantly in the development of the Technology Plan being presented tonight, as well as Mr. Michael Amatrudo, Network Support Specialist, who was not present.

Mr. Sickle explained that our current student information system, SASI, will no longer be available after this year and all support for the product will end in June 2010. Given that SASI replacement is mandatory, and most new products also address parent portals and grade books, it made sense for the district to consider web content management systems at the same time, focusing on the entire web presence of the individual teachers. The plan presented to the Board was to acquire both a state of the art student data management system and a comprehensive web content management system that in combination will compliment each other to effectively manage student data and improve communications with parents and the community. The proposal was being brought to the Board of Education with a request to waive bids for the acquisition of Infinite Campus to replace our student data management system, and Final Site to become our standard web content management system.

Mr. Sickle outlined the selection process; initially he and Mr. Fuest identified five products for the student information system and quickly narrowed the choices down to two. A committee of 20 was assembled with representation from Technology, Building Administration, Central Office Administration, Teachers, Special Education, Guidance, Nursing, Athletics and Clerical. Presentations were made to the Committee by the two finalists and feedback from the Committee was solicited. The Committee overwhelming voiced support for Infinite Campus, and Mr. Sickle is requesting permission to enter into an agreement with them for implementation services and annual licensing fees.

Similarly, the Committee identified four products as potential web management systems and reviewed them all extensively. Ms. Boland and Mr. Kiefer attended a combination of on-site demos and remote Webex presentations for all but one of the products. The Technology Department unanimously recommends Final Site and requests permission of the Board to enter into a 5 year agreement with this company.

Mr. Sickle reviewed the current software used in the district and the limitation and concerns associated with these programs. He remarked that a large part of the Technology Department's plan is to try to get away with doing things 'piecemeal' and attempt to build integration and consistency among staff and buildings in the district. Mr. Klein echoed those comments as well.

Discussion ensued and Board members posed questions which were answered by Mr. Sickle and his team. Discussion also took place regarding the request to waive the RFP process, and Atty. Sellers explained that it is within Board policy to waive this process when appropriate. Ms. Frey commented that Mr. Sickle and his team had met with the Planning Committee and the Technology Plan was thoroughly discussed. She stated that they were very impressed with the amount of time and work that has gone into this proposal, and the Planning Committee fully supported the recommendations before the Board tonight.

Members of the Board thanked Mr. Sickle and his team for the very comprehensive presentation and complimented the work they have done and the information presented.

## 6. Board Member Comments

None at this time.

## 7. Reports from Board Committees / Liaisons

### 7.1. Planning Committee

Ms. Frey reported that the majority of the last Planning Committee meeting was spent discussing the proposed Technology Plan. She stated that the Committee unanimously supported the Technology Department's request and she hoped the Board would approve the Motion before them tonight. She commented that the motion as stated on the Planning Committee's recommendation included in the Board packet read slightly differently from the one on the agenda, and while the spirit of the motion was not any different in the Planning Committee's printed recommendation, the Board would be voting on the motion printed in the Board agenda.

Ms. Frey next reported that the Planning Committee's next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> and would be held in the Facilities Office rather than Central Office.

Atty. Klaskin requested that Action Item #12 on the agenda be moved up; the Board complied.

## 12. Action Item: Waive the RFP Process for Infinite Campus and Final Site

MOTION: by the Planning Committee to waive the RFP Process and authorize the Director of Administrative Services to proceed with the acquisition of Infinite Campus and to enter into a 5 year agreement with Final Site.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Ms. Frey reiterated that the level of due diligence involved in developing the Technology Plan went well above and beyond what would have been done in a typical RFP.

### 7.2. Personnel Committee

Mr. Dean reported that negotiations have begun with the Teamsters Union, whose contract expires on June 30, 2009. At this point discussions are preliminary but they have established ground rules for the negotiations as well as a schedule of meeting dates. The next negotiation meeting is scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup>.

At this time, Chairman Hale requested that Action Item #11 on the agenda be moved up to this point; the Board complied.

11. Action Item: Agreement between the Madison Public Schools and NAGE (National Association of Government Employees)

Chairman Hale read the Motion as originally presented:

MOTION: to ratify the agreement between the Madison Public Schools and NAGE (National Association of Government Employees).

Ms. Coffey discussed that while the Committee agreed in principle with the terms of the contract as presented, before moving forward with approval at Board level, it was decided that the Board's attorney would review the language of the contract.

MOTION by Hale, seconded by Dean, to amend the motion as follows: to agree with the conditions of the contract, and move it forward to the next Board of Education meeting agenda for approval, pending review by the attorney.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

MOTION by Hale, seconded by Coffey to approve the amended motion

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

### 7.3. Policy Committee

Ms. Gowanlock reported that the Committee had met just prior to the Board meeting. They completed their discussion and streamlining of the Code of Conduct to make it more user friendly. A joint meeting will be scheduled in the near future between the Board and the Administrators to review the minor revisions. The review will be done in plenty of time so the Code of Conduct can be printed over the summer for timely distribution in the 2009-2010 school year.

The Policy Committee also continued review of Policy #5090.7, Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco Use and Policy #4116, Smoking, Drinking and the Use of Drugs on School Premises. Ms. Gowanlock stated these policies are being developed to integrate multiple policies and provide consistency.

Ms. Gowanlock referred to the three policies on the agenda tonight; two are technical revisions and the other is a first revision reading.

7.3.1 Policy #5090.3.2, Vandalism - Technical Revision Reading

7.3.2 Policy #5120.4.2.4, Sexual Harassment Among Students - Technical Revision Reading

7.3.3 Policy #5060.1.2, Nonresidents - First Revision Reading

Ms. Gowanlock stated that the Committee also discussed a review of the Board's Strategic Plan, possibly over the summer, as it has been three years since it was reviewed. Discussion ensued and it was determined that a date would be scheduled for sometime in the summer for a Board Retreat to discuss the Strategic Plan Renewal Process.

### 7.3. Finance Committee

Ms. Coffey reminded everyone about the Public Budget Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Walter C. Polson Middle School Auditorium, and urged all who support public education to attend.

### 7.5. Community Outreach Committee

No report.

### 7.6. LEARN Liaison

Mr. Dean reported that the presentation at the April meeting was on a program in New London County called Building Blocks. It is for 3-4 year old children from unstable homes and is a two pronged approach. First, a social service agency tries to help the parents with whatever issue they are dealing with, and second, an education plan is put in place to teach these children how to learn and help prepare them for kindergarten, and also focus on their social and emotional development. Mr. Dean stated that results are proving this program to be very beneficial to the children involved.

### 8. Audience Response to Information Presented

None at this time.

Ms. Gowanlock requested to add to the agenda a motion to approve the technical revisions to Policy #5090.3.2, Vandalism and Policy #5120.4.2.4, Sexual Harassment Among Students. The Board complied.

MOTION by the Policy Committee to approve the Technical Revisions to Policy #5090.3.2, Vandalism, and Policy #5120.4.2.2, Sexual Harassment Among Students.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

### 9. Consent Agenda

9.1. Bills Payable: \$875.00 (07/08); \$368,207.41 (08/09)

9.2. Line Transfers: \$19,234.30

MOTION: by Frey, seconded by Coffey 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 of April 7, 2009 Board of Education Meeting

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Gowanlock to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2009 Board of Education meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Hale, Ruggiero

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

13. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

14. New Business

No new business was discussed.

15. Future Agenda Items

15.1 Presentation: Madison Public Schools Edublogs

16. Meetings of importance.

Chairman Hale referred to the list of upcoming meetings on the agenda.

17. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Sellers to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Submitted for approval at the 05/05/09 Board of Education Meeting  
dmd