

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 7:00 PM

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

I. Call to Order / Attendance

I.A. Pledge of Allegiance

II. School / Community Session

II.A. Public Participation

III. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Speaker (s): Grace Ackerman and Katherine Rizzo

IV. Superintendent's Report

Speaker (s): Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

IV.A.

- Health Insurance Update
- Polson Construction Update

V. Board Members' Comments

VI. Audience Response to Information Presented (Ref. Bylaw #9540.10)

VII. Board Committees / Liaison Updates (Ref. Bylaw #9450)

VII.A. Curriculum and Student Development

Speaker (s): Members: Catherine Miller, Chair; Mary Ann Connelly, Jessica Wilen

VII.B. Facilities Committee

Speaker (s): Members: Emily Rosenthal, Chair; Diane Infantine-Vyce, Lisa Deane

VII.C. Finance Committee

Speaker (s): Members: Galen Cawley, Chair, Emily Rosenthal, Jessica Wilen

VII.D. Personnel Committee

Speaker (s): Members: Maureen Lewis, Chair; Catherine Miller, Mary Ann Connelly

VII.E. Policy Committee

Speaker (s): Members: Diane Infantine-Vyce, Chair; Maureen Lewis, Galen Cawley

VII.F. LEARN Liaison

Speaker (s): Galen Cawley

VIII. Action Item: Discuss and take action on the 2026-2027 Recommended Budget.

IX. Action Item: Motion to approve an international trip to Germany in Summer 2026.

X. Action Item: Motion to approve the following curriculum units: Conceptual Astronomy Units 1

& 2.

XI. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2026 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

XII. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2026 Board of Education Budget Workshop (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

XIII. Future Agenda Items

XIV. Adjournment

XV. The Town of Madison does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and the meeting facilities are ADA accessible. Individuals who need assistance are invited to make their needs known by contacting the Town ADA/Human Resources Director, Debra Ferrante, at 203-245-6310 or by email at ferranted@madisonct.org at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.



Office of the Superintendent
 Madison Public Schools
 Madison, CT 06443

School Trip Proposal / Request Form Student International Travel

School: Daniel Hand High School Principal: Anthony Salutari

Date(s) of Trip: 6/25/2026 - 7/6/2026 Trip Organizer(s): Martin Glasser

Trip Destination: Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany

Date of departure: 6/25/2026 Date of return: 7/6/2026

Grade level of student participants: 10, 11, 12 No. of Students: 13

Educational objectives of trip including related classroom activities prior to / following trip:
Students are participating in an exchange program with students from St. Ursula's
Gymnasium in Freiburg, learning about

German culture and building international connections.

Trip Funding

Funding source: student families

Total student fees: \$2200

Fees required for: Transportation 1650 Tour 100 Meals _____ Other 550

Name of Tour Company: Explorica

Name of Transportation service vendor: Swiss Air

No. of buses required: 1 Cost per bus: 300

No. of chaperones on trip: 2 (attach list of chaperones with contact information to form)

Include the following information when submitting this form. Check items to indicate inclusion.

- Parent/ guardian letter explaining trip and travel itinerary. Include information on individual financial responsibility in the event of emergency cancelation.
- Parent / Guardian Permission and Acknowledgement of Risk for Student International Travel
- Emergency Plan (include arrangements for medical needs, parent/guardian contact information, access to communication devices, emergency response procedures)
- List of chaperone names and phone numbers with MPS employees noted
- Provide the building administrator a list of those students going on the trip.



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School Trip Proposal / Request Form Student International Travel

I/We certify that this trip is in accordance with Madison Public Schools policy #5142 and corresponding regulations:

X M. Ham Lane
 Signature, Trip Organizer

Trip Approved
 X M. Whitcher
 Signature, Principal / Assistant Principal 12-22-25
 Date

X [Signature]
 Signature, Superintendent of Schools 1/5/26
 Date

Board of Education Approval: _____ (Date)

Trip Denied

Reason _____

X _____
 Signature, Principal / Assistant Principal Date

School Trip Checklist

- Obtained approval at least six (6) months prior to the trip. (Include enough time for BOE approval)
- Submitted list of participating students to Principal at least three (3) months prior to the trip,
- Submitted an updated list of participating students to the Principal and Health Office one (1) month prior to the trip.
- Submitted flight, hotel, charter bus, and airport information one (1) month prior to trip.
- Arranged appropriate number of chaperones and provided orientation.
- Clearly explained expectations of students.
- Received parent forms and emergency medical forms.



Daniel Hand High School

286 Green Hill Road
Madison, CT 06443
(203) 245-6350

Anthony R. Salutari, Jr., Principal
Brian M. Bodner, Assistant Principal
Melanie A. Whitcher, Assistant Principal

December 12, 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This summer your child will participate in the second part of our exchange with the St. Ursula School in Freiburg, Germany. Your child will stay with the same student you recently hosted. We plan to leave on **Friday June 26 and return on Monday, July 6**. Your child will participate in school activities and present about DHHS, Madison, and our Culture. On other days we will take short day trips to see Staufen, the Black Forest, Basel, Switzerland, and Europa Amusement Park. On the weekend, your child will spend time learning about German culture with their host family.

Itinerary

June 25 - Fly nonstop to Zurich on Swiss Airlines flight
June 26- Chartered bus from Zurich to Freiburg
June 27, 28 - Students spend weekends with host families
June 29 - Daytrip to Basel
June 30 - Daytrip to Titisee, Germany
July 1 - student presentation about DHHS, Madison and USA in St. Ursula's
July 2 - Daytrip to Europark
July 3 - Daytrip to Staufen, Germany
July 4,5 - Students spend weekends with host families
July 6 - Students fly home to NYC

Although we hope everyone stays healthy, in the event of a medical emergency, the St. Ursula host teachers, Mr. Glasser and Mrs. Stott will assist and contact parents. While in Freiburg, we will have school phones with international access. Parents and students may use this number to reach us or through WhatsApp. Mr. Glasser will be staying in an apartment in downtown Freiburg, and Mrs. Stott will be staying with the host teacher from St. Ursula School in Freiburg.

The costs of the June 25-July 6 trip to Freiburg will be approximately \$2,200. This price reflects air and ground transportation, both here and in Europe. It also includes five day trips we take the week of June 29-July 3, as well as housing, breakfasts, dinners and weekend lunches with your child's German host family. In addition, the cost reflects much but not all of the costs that the chaperones will incur, as we discussed in our November meeting.

Should you decide to cancel, the airfare refund will depend on the airline's policy, which I will know by January. The \$300 each family provided by chaperones may be refunded, but the rest of the group would have to absorb that fee.

Please sign the attached **Permission and Acknowledgement of Risk Form** and the **Medical Form** and have your child **return the forms by Monday, February 2** to Mr. Glasser. Thank you for supporting this unique opportunity for your child.

Best Regards,
Martin Glasser
Laura Stott
Department of Social Studies
Daniel Hand High School



Office of the Superintendent
 Madison Public Schools
 Madison, CT 06443

Parent / Guardian Permission and Acknowledgement of Risk for Student Travel

Parent Directions: Please read this form, and, if you give your child permission to attend the school trip, sign and return it to your child's teacher.

School: Daniel Hand High School Principal: Mr. Salutari
 Date(s) of Trip: _____ Trip Organizer(s): Martin Glasser
 Destination of Trip: Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
 Cost of Trip: _____
 Educational Objectives: Students are participating in an exchange program with students from St. Ursula's Gymnasium in Freiburg, learning about German culture and building international connections.

Supervision:

- Students will be directly supervised by adults at all times
- Students will be directly supervised by adults with the following exceptions: _____
 _____ Students will be staying with their host families as described in the parent letter.
- A School Nurse will be present on this school trip.

Transportation Provided: School Bus Charter Bus Train Personal Vehicle Leased Vehicle

Drivers of Personal or Leased Vehicles (Gr. 4-12): Parent Teacher / Staff Member Other Adult

Related Risks: Swimming Pool Amusement / Theme Park Beach or Ocean Other None
 Air Travel

Student Agreement:

While participating in this school trip, I will accept responsibility for maintaining conduct in accordance with the Madison Public Schools Code of Conduct and I will follow directions of the school trip organizers/chaperones at all times.

Student Signature (Gr. 4 -12): _____ Date: _____

Parent / Guardian Acknowledgment of Risks:

I understand that participation on this school trip is voluntary and that it exposes my child to some risk(s). I also understand that the trip may include amusement/theme park activities and that participation in amusement/theme park activities will expose my child to some risk of injury or even death. I have read and understand the attached description of the school trip. I also understand that participation in the school trip will involve activities on school property; therefore, neither the Board of Education nor its employees and volunteers will have any responsibility for the condition or use of any non-school property.

Parent / Guardian Permission

I give permission for _____ to participate in all aspects of this school trip.

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

The Madison Public Schools cannot be responsible for reimbursements to parents or students of money submitted as "advance payment" (e.g., Broadway shows, transportation, hotels) for any field trip that the district cancels.



Daniel Hand High School

286 Green Hill Road
Madison, CT 06443
(203) 245-6350

Anthony R. Salutari, Jr., Principal
Brian M. Bodner, Assistant Principal
Melanie A. Whitcher, Assistant Principal

Student Travel Medical Form

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Will your child require medication during this trip? _____ YES _____ NO

If NO please proceed to the BACK of this form. If YES please complete BOTH sides of this form.

- Medications currently stored in the Health Office for your child will be sent on school trips. If additional medication is required, please provide only the amount of medication needed for the duration of the trip.
- The parent/guardian must deliver the medication directly to the nurse (at least 24 hours before departure of the field trip). Controlled substances must be counted with the nurse, or their designee, at the time of delivery.
- All medication must be in original pharmacy labeled containers, including student's name, dosage, route, and frequency of administration (including inhalers, Epi Pens, and all regularly or occasionally taken medications).
- Students may only self-carry life threatening medical provider authorized medications (examples, Epi pens, inhalers, diabetic medications)

Staff Administered Medication(s) - List each medication individually			
Medication Name	Dosage Information <i>Frequency, AM/PM, etc.</i>	Comments <i>Optional</i>	FOR STAFF USE ONLY Given By & Date / Time

Authorized Self-Administered Medication(s) - List each medication individually	
Medication Name	Comments (Optional)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Phone: _____

Medical Provider Signature: _____ Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact in Case of Emergency

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Health Insurance Provider: _____ **Policy #:** _____

Health History

Allergies/Dietary Restrictions (food, medicine, environment, etc.): _____

Medical Concerns and Health Conditions: _____

Parent/Guardian Consent and Release:

I/We, the undersigned parent/guardian, agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the Madison Public Schools and their employees and agents from and against any claim either I/We or my child may have as a result of any act or omission which may arise out of this authorization.

I/We further consent to urgent medical treatment by a health care provider in the event of illness or injury of our child during their participation in the trip/activity/program. I/We accept full responsibility for all costs for any medical treatment.

I/We consent for the release of confidential medical information to be released to and from medical providers and the school trip/activity/program organizers and chaperones as needed to maintain my child's health and safety.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Chaperones:

Martin Glasser 203-868-9870

Laura Stott 203-640-8292

Conceptual Astronomy Curriculum Overview

2025-2026

<p><u>Unit 1</u> <i>Interpreting Starlight</i></p>	<p>In this unit, students will explore the idea of how the universe may have formed. Students will learn about light and its composition as well as how it can be used to identify, explain, and predict movements of celestial objects in our galaxy and beyond. Additionally, students will learn how the tools in astronomy and advances in technology are used to acquire information about distant celestial objects and their movements. Working both independently and with their peers, students will utilize essential skills such as mathematics, reading for information, critical thinking, and problem-solving to enhance their understanding.</p> <p>Profile of a Graduate Capacities: Analyzing, Product Creation</p>
<p><u>Unit 2</u> <i>Origin of The Solar System</i></p>	<p>This unit is designed to enable students to independently analyze quantitative and qualitative data and use the scientific process to solve complex problems. The core Understandings center on the idea that the Sun's energy generation, stability, and influence—driven by nuclear fusion and energy transfer—are governed by fundamental physical laws. Students will also grasp that the formation, structure, and motion of all orbiting bodies, including phenomena like elliptical orbits and retrograde motion, are predictable consequences of universal laws of physics, such as gravity and conservation of momentum. Essential Questions driving this unit include: How do observations of the Sun inform our understanding of stellar internal workings and its impact on Earth? and What scientific evidence explains the origin, structure, and movements of planets in our solar system?</p> <p>Profile of a Graduate Capacities: Analyzing, Product Creation</p>

Subject to Approval

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order / Attendance

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Secretary Emily Rosenthal. Mrs. Rosenthal led the pledge of allegiance.

Present: Galen Cawley, Mary Ann Connelly, Lisa Deane, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Maureen Lewis, Cathy Miller, Emily Rosenthal, Jessica Wilen

Also present: Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Elizabeth Battaglia, Ed.D., Director of Special Education; Heather Dobson, Director of Human Resources; Aaron Fliss, Director of Administrative Services; Peter Anderson, Director of Facilities; Ben Whitaker, Director of Construction and Planning; Stacy Nobitz, Director of Finance; Anthony Salutari Jr., Daniel Hand High School Principal; Brian Bodner, Daniel Hand High School Assistant Principal; Melanie Whitcher, Daniel Hand High School Assistant Principal; Kathryn Hart, Polson Middle School Principal; Martha Curran, Polson Middle School Assistant Principal; Kelly Spooner, Brown Elementary School Principal; Frank Henderson, Brown Elementary School Assistant Principal; Becky Frost, Neck River Elementary School Principal; Sherry Farmer, Neck River Elementary School Assistant Principal; Chris Farrell, Athletic Director

II. School / Community Session

No members of the public spoke.

III. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

- 2026-2027 Recommended Budget Presentation – Dr. Cooke presented the Administrative Team’s proposed 2026-2027 budget. The presentation can be seen in full on the meeting record posted on the District website.

IV. Board Members' Comments

Mr. Klaskin submitted a comment reminding Board members about the upcoming legislative breakfast. Dr. Infantine-Vyce asked a question about the recent roof drain leak at Neck River.

V. Audience Response to Information Presented (Ref. Bylaw #9540.10)

No members of the public spoke.

VI. Consent Agenda (Ref. Bylaw #9540.2)

- Budget Expenditures as of December 31, 2025
- December 2025 Personnel Report

VII. Action Item: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

MOTION: by Cawley, seconded by Connelly to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Infantine-Vyce, Lewis, Miller, Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

VIII. Board Committees / Liaison Updates (Ref. Bylaw #9450)

Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Catherine Miller, Chair; Mary Ann Connelly, Jessica Wilen

Mrs. Miller gave a report on the Jan. 13 committee meeting. The agenda included a presentation on an international trip to Germany, SchooLinks, AI SEL lessons, the Mastery Transcript pilot program.

Facilities Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal, Chair; Diane Infantine-Vyce, Lisa Deane

No report.

Finance Committee

Members: Galen Cawley, Chair, Emily Rosenthal, Jessica Wilen

No report.

Personnel Committee

Members: Maureen Lewis, Chair; Catherine Miller, Mary Ann Connelly

No report.

Policy Committee

Members: Diane Infantine-Vyce, Chair; Maureen Lewis, Galen Cawley

Dr. Infantine-Vyce gave a report on the policies on the agenda for action this meeting as well as the policies discussed at the Dec. 16 committee meeting:

Policy for Review, Second Reading:

- 5110.4 Student Discipline

Policy for Review, Waive Second Reading:

- 4119 Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees
- 5180.1 Confidentiality and Access to Education Records
- 6130.2.2 Curricular Exemptions
- 6050 Parental Access to Instructional Material

LEARN Liaison

Galen Cawley

No report.

IX. Action Item: Motion to approve policy #5110.4 Student Discipline.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Miller to approve policy #5110.4 Student Discipline.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Infantine-Vyce, Lewis, Miller, Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

X. Action Item: Motion to waive the second reading and approve the following policies: 4119 Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees, 5180.1 Confidentiality and Access to Education Records, 6130.2.2 Curricular Exemptions, 6050 Parental Access to Instructional Material

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Lewis to waive the second reading and approve the following policies: 4119 Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees, 5180.1 Confidentiality and Access to Education Records, 6130.2.2 Curricular Exemptions, 6050 Parental Access to Instructional Material.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Infantine-Vyce, Lewis, Miller, Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XI. Action Item: Motion to approve a donation from Steady Photography to Neck River Elementary School in the amount of \$3,208.50 for staff development.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Wilen to approve a donation from Steady Photography to Neck River Elementary School in the amount of \$3,208.50 for staff development.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Infantine-Vyce, Lewis, Miller, Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XII. Action Item: Motion to approve a donation from Steady Photography to Polson Middle School in the amount of \$2,316.10 to support student activities.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Lewis to approve a donation from Steady Photography to Polson Middle School in the amount of \$2,316.10 to support student activities.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Infantine-Vyce, Lewis, Miller, Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XIII. Action Item: Motion to approve a donation from the Madison Foundation to Daniel Hand High School in the amount of \$10,000 for the Spring 2026 International Bermuda Trip.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Deane to approve a donation from the Madison Foundation to Daniel Hand High School in the amount of \$10,000 for the Spring 2026 International Bermuda Trip.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Infantine-Vyce, Lewis, Miller, Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XIV. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2025 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Wilen, seconded by Miller to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2025 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Infantine-Vyce, Lewis, Miller, Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XV. Future Agenda Items

XVI. Adjournment

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Deane to adjourn at 7:00 p.m.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Infantine-Vyce, Lewis, Miller, Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

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Subject to Approval

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order / Attendance

The workshop meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Chairman Seth Klaskin. Mr. Klaskin led the pledge of allegiance.

Present: Galen Cawley, Mary Ann Connelly, Lisa Deane, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Seth Klaskin, Cathy Miller, Jessica Wilen

Also present: Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Elizabeth Battaglia, Ed.D., Director of Special Education; Heather Dobson, Director of Human Resources; Aaron Fliss, Director of Administrative Services; Peter Anderson, Director of Facilities; Ben Whitaker, Director of Construction and Planning; Stacy Nobitz, Director of Finance; Anthony Salutari Jr., Daniel Hand High School Principal; Brian Bodner, Daniel Hand High School Assistant Principal; Melanie Whitcher, Daniel Hand High School Assistant Principal; Kathryn Hart, Polson Middle School Principal; Martha Curran, Polson Middle School Assistant Principal; Kelly Spooner, Brown Elementary School Principal; Frank Henderson (on Zoom), Brown Elementary School Assistant Principal; Becky Frost, Neck River Elementary School Principal; Sherry Farmer, Neck River Elementary School Assistant Principal; Chris Farrell, Athletic Director

II. 2026-2027 Recommended Budget Discussion

The Board discussed the 2026-2027 recommended budget. The discussion can be heard in full on the meeting recording posted on the District website.

III. Audience Response to Information Presented (Ref. Bylaw #9540.10)

IV. Adjournment

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Miller to adjourn at 6:05 p.m.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Miller, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

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the Town ADA/Human Resources Director, Debra Ferrante, at 203-245-6310 or by email at ferranted@madisonct.org at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.