

Board of Education Regular Meeting #2
Tuesday, September 16, 2008 7:30 PM Eastern

Town Campus Hammonasset Room
10 Campus Drive
Madison, CT 06443

- I. Call to Order / Attendance
- II. Executive Session - 6:30 p.m.
- III. School Community Session - 7:30 p.m.
 - III.A. Recognition: Fran Thompson
 - III.B. Public Participation
- IV. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report
- V. Superintendent's Report
 - V.A. Transportation Update
 - V.B. Presentation on Fulbright Foundation Award
- VI. Board Members' Comments
- VII. Board Committees / Liaison Updates
 - VII.A. Planning Committee
 - VII.B. Personnel Committee
 - VII.C. Policy Committee
 - VII.D. Finance Committee
 - VII.E. Community Outreach Committee
 - VII.F. LEARN Liaison
- VIII. Audience Response to Information Presented
- IX. Consent Agenda (Items 9.1 - 9.5)
 - IX.A. Bills Payable: \$45,220.49 (07-08); \$310,715.59 (08-09)
 - IX.B. Line Transfers: \$6,000.00
 - IX.C. Donation: \$2,000 for Dr. Robert H. Brown Grade 5 students, field trip to Camp Hazen from the Brown School PTO (Ref. Policy 3281)
 - IX.D. Donation: \$2,000 to the Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School Library Media Center from the Ryerson PTO (Ref. Policy #3281)
 - IX.E. Notice of Intent for Instruction for Students at Home for 9 Students (Ref. Policy 6080.23)
- X. Action Item: Minutes September 2, 2008 Meeting
- XI. Action Item: Reschedule November 4, 2008 Board of Education Meeting to November 11, 2008 (Ref. Bylaw 9510)
- XII. Old Business
 - XII.A. Discussion: Appointment of 2008-2009 School Liaisons
- XIII. New Business
- XIV. Future Agenda Items
 - XIV.A. Updates to the Library Media Center as they relate to the District Strategic Plan
- XV. Meetings of Importance
- XVI. Adjournment

Board of Education Meeting

September 2, 2008
Town Campus

Meeting Minutes

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 7:11 p.m.

Present: Rebecca Coffey, John Dean, Debra Frey; Harriet Gowanlock; Bob Hale, Robert Ruggiero, and Holly Sellers.

Also present: David Klein, Superintendent.

2. Executive Session

MOTION: by Gowanlock, seconded by Frey to enter Executive Session at 7:11 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Personnel matters involving confidential issues were discussed.

MOTION: by Gowanlock, seconded by Dean to adjourn Executive Session at 7:22 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

The public session of the Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Hale at 7:32 p.m. Chairman Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also present: David Klein, Superintendent; Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; district administrators; community members.

3. School / Community Session

3.1. Recognitions

- *Mark Hershnik, English Teacher, Walter C. Polson Middle School
Madison Public Schools 2009 Teacher of the Year*

Superintendent Klein and the Board of Education recognized Madison Public Schools' 2009 Teacher of the Year, Mark Hershnik. Superintendent Klein stated that Mr. Hershnik is most deserving of this distinction, and that the District is very fortunate to have someone of Mr. Hershnik's caliber working so hard for its students.

Mr. Hershnik, who received his official award at the Opening Day event on August 27th, was presented with a certificate signed by Chairman Hale and Superintendent Klein.

- *Rachel Weiss,*
Assistant Principal, J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School

Superintendent Klein and the members of the Board publicly congratulated and recognized Rachel Weiss on her recent appointment as Assistant Principal at J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School. Superintendent Klein stated that it was a ‘coming home’ of sorts for Ms. Weiss, who served as the School Psychologist at Jeffrey for many years.

3.2. Public Participation

None at this time.

4. Superintendent’s Report

4.1. Overview: 2008-2009 “Back to School” Activities / Information (David J. Klein)

4.1.1. Opening of School Update

Superintendent Klein reported that the first few days of the new school year have gone extremely well. Students and staff at each of the six buildings seem very enthusiastic and upbeat, which bodes well for a great school year.

4.1.2. Student Enrollment / Class Sizes

Superintendent Klein reported that actual enrollment is currently at 3,713, and the ADS projection was 3,698. The numbers by school are as follows:

J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School	
K: 199; Grades 1-4: 404	603
Island Avenue Elementary School	323
Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School	321
Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School	592
Walter C. Polson Middle School	639
Daniel Hand High School	1,235
TOTAL ENROLLMENT	3,713

4.2. Overview: 2007-2008 Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) Results (Anita Rutlin) 2007-2008 Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Results (Anita Rutlin)

Ms. Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, presented PowerPoint report (on file) summarizing MPS student scores on the 2008 Connecticut Master Test (CMT) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT). Results on both test showed growth in all areas, with every school in the district meeting annual progress goals. Further, Madison consistently ranked among the strongest school districts in the state. Results were summarized across grades and included a number of point of emphasis addressing specific subjects as they relate to district initiatives such as RTI. Ms. Rutlin concluded her presentation by stating that although there is always room for growth and improvement, Madison students demonstrated remarkable academic achievement on these tests.

Ms. Gowanlock asked if these results will be available on line. Ms. Rutlin responded that they will be posted on the District website, and anyone interested could also visit www.ctreports.com.

5. Board Member Comments

Chairman Hale voiced his concerns over the recent news that over 100 college presidents seek to lower the drinking age to 18. He stated that there is no hard evidence that this will alleviate problems with binge drinking, and that he believes lowering the legal drinking age will create many more problems at the high school level. Chairman Hale stated that he has written letters to Congress and the Senate expressing his opposition, and hopes that other members

of the Board of Education will do so as well. Attorney Sellers suggested that a review of the information available concerning the college presidents' agenda could be informative for such a discussion.

6. Reports from Board Committees / Liaisons

6.1. Planning Committee

Ms. Frey reported that the Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. They have a meeting scheduled for September 10th and will have a report at the September 16th Board of Education meeting.

Chairman Hale reported that the Island Avenue School Building project is all but complete; all that remains to be done is installation of some insulation in the tunnels. The project came in within budget and ahead of schedule. Chairman Hale expressed his thanks to Mr. Bill McMinn, Director of Facilities for overseeing this project to a successful conclusion.

6.2. Personnel Committee

Mr. Dean reported that negotiations with the AMA continue and the tempo is increasing as the September 6th mediation date approaches. The Committee met earlier this evening and has another meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 3rd.

6.3. Policy Committee

Ms. Gowanlock reported that the Committee has not met since the last Board meeting, but a meeting is scheduled prior to the Board of Education meeting on September 16th.

6.4. Finance Committee

Ms. Coffey report that this Committee has not met recently but has a meeting scheduled for September 9th to begin discussing the structure of budget materials, as well as where we stand in the current year's budget.

6.5. Community Outreach Committee

No report.

6.6. LEARN Liaison

No report.

7. Audience Response to Information Presented

Mr. Gus Horvath of 50 Beechwood Drive addressed the Board. He shared with them that tonight marked the 40th anniversary of the first Board of Education meeting he attended.

Mr. Horvath commended the Board for the numbers that were presented this evening with respect to the CMT and CAPT results. He praised the record of achievements and results that have been accomplished in the Madison Public Schools over the years. He stated that Superintendent Klein now has the challenge to keep this momentum going and continue to improve results.

Mr. Horvath further stated that he has met with Superintendent Klein on several occasions, and how much he appreciates the time that Superintendent Klein has afforded him. He thanked Mr. Klein for listening to him and seriously considering his comments and suggestions.

Ms. Gowanlock expressed her appreciation for the 2009 Teacher of the Year, Mark Hershnik. She wished to state publicly on behalf of parents and students, how much he does for the Madison Public Schools and that he has increased the quality of the program substantially.

Ms. Kathi Traugh of the Board of Selectmen addressed the Board. She reported that at their August 25th meeting, the Board of Selectmen approved sending the Scranton Memorial Library Expansion Project proposal to public referendum on November 4th. Ms. Traugh stated that one of the Selectmen thought it was very important that information about the future of Academy School be included in this proposal, as he feels that this may be a factor in how many residents decide to vote on the library project. Ms. Traugh indicated that the Board of Education will probably be receiving a request for this information shortly. Chairman Hale stated that it would be difficult to provide information regarding the future of Academy School before the Facilities Review Project got underway, and the design professionals and engineers had a chance to assess the facilities. He added that the Board of Education has not yet received any such request but will address it if and when a request is received.

8. Consent Agenda

- 8.1. Bills Payable: \$34,415.17 (07/08); \$591,003.07 (08/09)
- 8.2. Line Transfers: \$3,442.00
- 8.3. Line Transfers: \$722,218.44
- 8.4. Line Transfers: \$183,330.39
- 8.5. Budget Expenditure Report as of August 27, 2008
- 8.6. Donation: Student Planners valued at \$3,205.50 for Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School students from the Brown School PTO
- 8.7. Donation: 50 Black and Gold Gym Bags valued at \$1,250 for the Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School from Fred Owsiany, TGA Creative Concepts
- 8.8. Donation: Pioneer 50 Inch Rear Projection Television Home Theater System valued at \$5,000 for the Walter C. Polson Middle School from Mr. Emile Geisenheimer
- 8.9. 2008-2009 School Health Services Standing Order

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

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Ruggiero, Sellers
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Ms. Gowanlock commented on the generous donations and expressed appreciation for the support from the PTO's and members of the community.

9. Action Item: Minutes of August 19, 2008 Board of Education Meeting

MOTION: by Gowanlock, seconded by Ruggiero to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2008 Board of Education meeting.

AYES: Gowanlock, Hale, Ruggiero, Sellers
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: Coffey, Dean, Frey
MOTION CARRIED: 4-0

10. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

11. New Business

11.1. Discussion: Appointment of 2008-2009 School Liaisons

Chairman Hale suggested that Board members email him with their choices and he would notify them of any conflicts.

Chairman Hale asked if any members of the Board are interested in attending the Delegate Assembly on the afternoon of November 13th prior to the CABE / CAPSS Convention, to please let him know.

12. Future Agenda Items

12.1. Transportation Update – will take place at the September 16, 2008 Board of Education meeting.

12.2. Updates to the Library Media Centers as they relate to the District strategic plan – will take place at a future meeting.

Ms. Coffey inquired about a Summary Report on the Class of 2008.

Attorney Sellers inquired about an update on the Curriculum Lab Project.

Superintendent Klein stated that he and Ms. Rutlin will work to develop a schedule with regard to special reports and presentations at future Board meetings.

13. Upcoming events.

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

14. Adjournment

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Dean to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Submitted for Approval at the 09/16/08 Board of Education Meeting
dmd

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September 2, 2008

Town Campus

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

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MOTION: by Gowanlock, seconded by Dean to adjourn Executive Session at 7:22 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

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

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Frey, Gowanlock, Hale, Ruggiero, Sellers
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

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NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Submitted for Approval at the 09/16/08 Board of Education Meeting
dmd
