

- I. Call to Order / Attendance
- II. Executive Session - 7:00 p.m.
 - II.A. Personnel Items
 - II.A.1. MAESS Draft Contract (7/1/10 - 6/30/11)
 - II.B. Legal Items
- III. School Community Session- 7:30 p.m.
 - III.A. Recognitions:
 - III.A.1. Darius Mostaghini, Grade 8, Walter C. Polson Middle School; Winner in the 22nd Annual CT Geography Bee
 - III.A.2. Samuel Thorpe, Grade 5, Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School; State Winner in the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution American History Essay Contest for 2009-2010
 - III.A.3. National Teacher Appreciation Day (May 4, 2010)
 - III.A.4. National School Nurse Day (May 12, 2010): Jeffrey: Joann Boulden, RN, Patricia Drake; Island Avenue: Lisa Equi, RN; Ryerson: Stephanie Bulyk, RN; TCLC: Millie Gentile, RN; Brown: Valerie Albert, RN, Shirley Rinaldi; Polson: Karen Owen, RN, Sheila Judge; DHHS: Donna Konarski, RN, Karin Thelin
 - III.A.5. Dr. Martin Sklaire, Madison Public Schools Medical Advisor
 - III.B. Public Participation
- IV. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report
- V. Superintendent's Report
 - V.A. Discussion: Optional Healthy Snacks Program
 - V.B. Overview: K-12 Summer Reading List 2010 - Make a Splash - Read!
 - V.C. Discussion: Race to the Top Application II
- VI. Board Members' Comments
- VII. Board Committees / Liaison Updates
 - VII.A. Planning Committee
 - VII.B. Personnel Committee
 - VII.C. Policy Committee
 - VII.C.1. Final Reading: 2011-2012 School Year Calendar
 - VII.D. Finance Committee
 - VII.E. LEARN Liaison
- VIII. Audience Response to Information Presented
- IX. Consent Agenda (9.1-9.4) (Ref. Bylaw #9540.2 and #9540.8)
 - IX.A. Bills Payable: \$963,964.50 (09-10)
 - IX.B. Line Transfers: \$28,607.02
 - IX.C. Budget Expenditure Report as of April 29, 2010
 - IX.D. Request for Removal of Used Books / Equipment (Reference Policy #3260)
- X. Action Item: Minutes of the April 20, 2010 Board of Education Meeting

- XI. Action Item: Approval of 2011-2012 School Year Calendar (Reference Policy #6030)
- XII. Action Item: State of Connecticut Healthy Snacks Certification Program
- XIII. Action Item: Agreement between the Madison Public Schools and MAESS (Madison Association of Educational Support Services) for the period July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011 (Ref. Bylaw #9540.8)
- XIV. Action Item: June 1, 2010 Board of Education Finance Committee Meeting and Public Session
- XV. Old Business
- XVI. New Business
 - XVI.A. Textbook Adoption Preview (May 4-18, 2010) (Ref. Policy #6100.10)
 - XVI.A.1. SSA! America's Past; Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School Grade 5 Social Studies; Teacher's Curriculum Institute Publisher c 2010
- XVII. Future Agenda Items
 - XVII.A. Technology Update: Infinite Campus and Finals site - June 15, 2010
- XVIII. Meetings of Importance
 - XVIII.A. May 5, 2010: Planning Committee Meeting; 7:30 a.m., Central Office Room B
 - XVIII.B. May 12, 2010: Planning Committee Meeting; 7:30 a.m., Central Office Room B
 - XVIII.C. May 18, 2010: Budget Referendum
 - XVIII.D. May 18, 2010: Policy Committee Meeting; 6:00 p.m., Central Office Room B
 - XVIII.E. May 18, 2010: Board of Education Meeting; 7:30 p.m., Town Campus Hammonasset Room
- XIX. Adjournment

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting
Central Office Room B
May 4, 2010
7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

Executive Session Agenda

1. Executive Session (6:00 p.m.)

1.A. Personnel Issues

- **Status of Open Positions**
- **MAESS Draft Contract (07/01/10 – 06/30/10)**

1.B. Legal Issues

Adjournment (7:30 p.m.)

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 20, 2010
Town Campus

Meeting Minutes

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairperson Coffey at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Bill Clorite; Becky Coffey; John Dean; Jean Fitzgerald; Debra Frey; Seth Klaskin; Pamela Meier; Robert Ruggiero; Cindy Wood

Also present: David Klein, Superintendent of Schools

2. Executive Session

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Frey to enter Executive Session at 6:05 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin, Meier, Ruggiero, Wood

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Personnel matters involving confidential issues were discussed.

Legal issues were discussed.

MOTION: by Coffey, seconded by Klaskin to adjourn Executive Session at 6:20 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin, Meier, Ruggiero, Wood

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

The public session of the Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chairperson Coffey at 6:31 p.m. Ms. Coffey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Bill Clorite; Becky Coffey; John Dean; Jean Fitzgerald; Debra Frey; Seth Klaskin; Pamela Meier; Robert Ruggiero; Cindy Wood

Also present: David Klein, Superintendent of Schools; District administrators; staff; community members.

3. School / Community Session

3.2. Public Participation

Mr. Dick Duer, 22 Sandlewood Drive, shared with the Board a website he had recently heard about, brainbalancecenters.com that might be helpful for children with Autism. Mr. Duer stated that he thought it could be worth the District looking at. Ms. Coffey thanked Mr. Duer for his interest and his comments.

4. Board of Education Student Representatives Report

The student representatives were not present at the meeting.

5. Superintendent's Report

5.1. Report on Out of State Travel

Mr. Klein reported on an upcoming out of state field trip for students from Daniel Hand High School.

6. Board Member Comments

Ms. Coffey commented on the upcoming Daniel Hand High School Spring Musical, "Suessical", and urged all who could to attend, as the productions are always excellent.

7. Reports from Board Committees / Liaisons

7.1. Planning Committee

Ms. Frey reported that the Committee had met two weeks ago and the focus of their discussion was the community's use of school facilities. A packet has been assembled and is available to address questions raised by members of the community, and the only change was regarding fees for staff.

7.2. Personnel Committee

Mr. Dean reported that the Committee last met on April 7th for a negotiation session with MAESS and progress is being made.

7.3. Policy Committee

Atty. Klaskin reported that the Policy Committee meeting originally scheduled for tonight was canceled to accommodate the earlier start time for the full Board Meeting. He stated that a copy of the proposed 2011-2012 school year calendar was at each Board member's place, and the April vacation week chosen is in line with the majority of other area districts that have already approved their 2011-2012 calendars. He further stated that the Policy Committee will move to adopt this calendar at the May 4th Board of Education meeting. Mr. Klein commented that once Madison approves a calendar, other districts that have not yet done so will most likely follow suit and designate the same week for April vacation.

In preparation for tonight's presentation by DRA, Atty. Klaskin read Board Policy #7110, Education Facilities Planning and Capital Programming:

The Madison Board of Education endeavors to provide facilities and future school sites which sustain high quality programs for all students at a reasonable cost.

The Madison Board of Education believes that community understanding of the process by which facilities decisions are made contributes to sound decision making. Furthermore, the Madison Board of Education wishes to encourage community members and town government to communicate their comments, suggestions and concerns about facilities issues to the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools.

To achieve these purposes, the Madison Board of Education seeks to...

1. provide facilities which give each student equal access to regular and special programs in a school building which is efficiently utilized, but which also contains enough available space to permit flexibility in response to evolving changes in enrollment and program;
2. anticipate future facilities needs, as far as possible, in response to changes in enrollment; and
3. review on a regular basis the utilization and condition of existing school buildings so as to ensure that the buildings are configured to meet the needs of changing programs over time, and that the facilities are properly maintained.

The Superintendent will develop a Comprehensive Long-Range Plan for Educational Facilities, and other administrative regulations as necessary to establish guidelines and procedures for implementing this policy.

Policy Adopted: June 23, 1994

7.4. Finance Committee

Mr. Clorite reported that the Committee had not met and reminded all in attendance that the final Public Budget Hearing is scheduled for next Monday, April 26, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at Walter C. Polson Middle School.

Mr. Clorite also complimented the District Administration on their excellent management of the 2009-2010 budget.

Finally, Mr. Clorite commented that he had greatly enjoyed the Technology Presentation at the April 6th Board of Education meeting, and again complimented the presenters, Mr. Michael Kiefer and Mr. Dave Buller, as well as Mr. Arthur Sickie.

7.5. LEARN Liaison

No report.

8. Audience Response to Information Presented

None at this time.

9. Consent Agenda

9.1. Bills Payable: \$294,451.51 (09-10)

9.2. Line Transfers: \$1,235.00

9.3. Donation: Laminating Machine valued at \$1,800 to the Town Campus Learning Center Preschool from the TCLC PTO

9.4. Donation: \$3,500 to J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School for Field Trips from the Jeffrey School PTO

Atty. Klaskin commented on the generous donations from the TCLC and Jeffrey School PTO's and stated that these donations are extremely helpful to the schools and very much appreciated.

10. Action Item: Minutes of the April 6, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.

MOTION: by Frey, seconded by Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Coffey, Dean, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin, Meier, Wood

NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: Clorite, Ruggiero
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

11. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

13. Future Agenda Items

13.1. Technology Update – Infinite Campus and Finalsite

Ms. Coffey asked Mr. Klein if there was a timeline for this update. Mr. Klein reported that the Administrators are meeting the next day and would get a preview of Final Site. He also stated that Infinite Campus has been up and running since the beginning of the school year and the data conversion has been a great deal of work but we are in very good shape. The update for the Board of Education will be scheduled for a coming meeting and the presentation will be much like the one the Administrators will see tomorrow.

14. Meetings of Importance.

Ms. Coffey pointed out the list of meetings on the Board agenda, and again noted the Budget Public Hearing on April 26th.

Ms. Coffey called a recess of the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:29 p.m.

15. School Community Session (7:30 p.m.)

15.1. *Information Share:*

15.1.1. Fourth Annual Environmental Gift from Madison Land Conservation Trust

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

Mr. Klein welcomed David Skelly of the Madison Land Conservation Trust, to present this annual gift. Dr. Skelly stated his appreciation of the teaching of environmental subjects. He added that he knows that there is little money to support this teaching and he is very pleased that the MLCT is able to assist the Science Program at Daniel Hand High School in this way. DHHS Science Teachers Mr. John Gaskell and Mr. Michael Docker were present to accept the gift. Dr. Skelly complimented Mr. Gaskell and Mr. Docker and stated that they provide an educational experience that is all too rare.

Mr. Gaskell thanked the MLCT on behalf of the Daniel Hand Science Department and stated that this gift allows them to do remarkable things each year.

15.2. *Recognitions:*

15.2.2. Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School – Annual "Day of Pi" Event

Jake Fay, First Place, New School Record

Matthew Henry, Second Place
Marcus Tung, Third Place
Janet Dielman, Grade 6 Mathematics Teacher / Advisor

Mr. Klein introduced Ms. Janet Dielman and asked her to share with the Board some of the activities that take place at Brown Middle School on "Pi Day" which is held each year on or around March 14th. Ms. Dielman explained that the annual Pi celebration started at Brown 12 years ago as a way to make the concept of Pi understandable and fun to Grade 6 students. There are many activities, culminating with the 'Pi Eating Contest' where students recite the digits of Pi they have memorized. She introduced the three top finishers in this year's contest:

Marcus Tung placed third, reciting 257 digits. Matthew Henry came in second, reciting 331 digits. Matthew held the school record for a few moments, until it was broken by Jake Fay, who memorized and recited 401 digits of Pi.

The students were congratulated and each presented with a Certificate of Recognition signed by Mr. Klein and Ms. Coffey.

15.2.1. Participants in the 2009-2010 Madison Math Olympiad

Island Avenue Elementary School

Christina Lei
Dorritt Sampson
Stoddard Sampson

Branford

Erin Knox

Ms. Helen Tsai, Coach

Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School

Emma Boey
Courtney Burns
Gabrielle Martin
Ankita Roychouldhury
Connor Sakmar
Samuel Thorpe
Amy Williams

Mr. Klein next introduced Ms. Helen Tsai, who initiated the Math Olympiads for Elementary and Middle Schools and served as the coach for the Madison team. Ms. Tsai explained that the 12 students who participated began meeting in July 2009 to prepare for the contests. The contests were held each month for five months beginning in September 2009, and each consisted of five questions in word problem format, requiring problem solving skills drawn from basic pre-algebra, geometry, number theory and statistics. Ms. Tsai commended the students for their commitment and hard work. She then assisted Superintendent Klein in introducing the students, each of whom were presented with a Certificate of Recognition signed by Mr. Klein and Ms. Coffey. Mr. Klein also commented Ms. Tsai for her volunteerism in leading this team.

16. Presentation by Drummey Rosane Anderson, Inc. (DRA) on Madison Town and Elementary School Facility Review

Ms. Coffey first welcomed the Board of Education's honored guests, members of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance and read the following statement:

First let me welcome to our Board of Education meeting as our honored guests the elected members of the town's Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. We have invited these town leaders to our meeting tonight to hear Jim Barrett of Drummey Rosane Associates speak on the outcome of DRA's 16-month long study of selected town and school facilities.

Just a reminder: tonight's meeting is a Board of Education meeting held in public, it is not a public forum.

While the DRA presentation may reference the 20 town and school facilities studied, only the six school district facilities are under Board of Education oversight. As a result, this Board will focus its questions, comments and discussion on the six school district facilities studied: Ryerson Elementary School, Jeffrey Elementary School and modulars, Island Avenue Elementary School and modulars, the Polson Middle School Auditorium, the Town Campus Learning Center modulars, and last, but not least, the Academy School building.

Clearly the DRA recommendation with the greatest potential impact is the recommendation to return the Academy School building to town government control. Central to this choice was that DRA determined that the school district would only need three elementary school buildings in the next ten years instead of four, based on declining student enrollment trends. Academy School was the school of the four that the firm thought should be returned to the town because of the high cost to return it to school use.

With the release of the DRA facilities study, the Board of Education will now begin a public discussion of whether Academy school is an elementary school facility the district will need in the next ten years or not. This issue will be discussed over the course of the next few Board of Education meetings.

Tonight's meeting will begin the Board of Education's discussion of the merits of DRA's recommendation to return Academy School building control to town government.

Should the Board of Education vote to return Academy to the town, a second phase of study would begin. This second phase, facilitated by the town's Board of Selectmen, would focus on assessing the options – and feasibility – of re-using the Academy School building and site for municipal, private, or non-profit purposes.

Discussions of alternate uses for Academy School or options for its redevelopment and re-use are not within the Board of Education's area of responsibility.

Now let me review the meeting process we will follow.

2. Following DRA's presentation, I will ask the members of the Board of Education to make comments and ask questions of DRA. When the Board of Education members are finished, I will next invite our invited guests, the members of the Board of Finance and Selectmen, to make comments or ask questions of DRA, directing those questions to me as Board Chair.

3. Members of the general public are asked to hold their comments and questions about DRA's presentation or Academy School until the end of the Board meeting when a second public participation period is offered.

4. Now at this time, I would like to recognize Deb Frey, Chairman of the Board's Planning Committee that first suggested the concept of a joint town and school facilities study.

Ms. Frey read the following statement:

As current chair of the Planning Committee (PC) I am compelled to make a few opening comments and give some historical context to tonight's discussion.

Among PC responsibilities is the oversight of the district's educational facilities including maintenance, improvements, space utilization and spending priorities associated with our buildings. All are ongoing and regular topics associated with the committee's agenda.

Over the course of past 8 years, elementary space utilization has been a high priority given declining enrollment projections and the desire for fiscal prudence.

With opening of new hs in 2000 and renovation/reopening of Brown middle school, it was initially assumed that there would be an overall relief of overcrowding in elementary facilities providing the district with an opportunity to systematically eliminate its reliance on the 26 modular spaces acquired to accommodate the then burgeoning population.

Being mindful of the district's goals to provide effective educational space in an efficient and cost effective manner, both architectural and in house analyses were initiated in 2002-2003 that included inventory, enrollment and both program as well as building needs. The outcome of these studies indicated that the elimination of one of the elementary facilities would be more cost effective (in terms of operational cost and staffing) than reduction of modular spaces. Due to the significant needs of the Academy School Building which we will hear again tonight, the BOE suggested the elimination of Academy as part of the elementary school inventory with subsequent turnover of the building to the Town of Madison.

This proposal was met with resistance primarily due to sentiment and historical significance of the property. As such the BOE voted instead to take AES offline as an interim measure until further discussion and study would warrant a final decision on the issue. As part of this decision, the Board approved the consolidation of the elementary program into 3 buildings with pre-K & special education services housed at TCLC.

From 2004-2007 the Board of Education as well as the Board of Selectmen commissioned several additional studies which all resulted in similar conclusions: that the prospect of modernizing Academy to bring it up to current standards and code compliance would be a costly measure even if reopened as a school facility. In addition, updated enrollment projections did not necessitate the reopening of the facility for educational purposes.

Ms. Coffey then introduced Mr. Jim Barrett of Drummey Rosane Anderson, Inc. (DRA) and Mr. Doug Lajoie of Consulting Engineering Services (CES). Mr. Barrett explained that CES has been a large contributor to DRA's ability to complete the study, which began late in 2008. Mr. Barrett introduced a Power Point presentation (on file) briefly summarizing DRA's final report and discussed their study at length. He also stated that copies of the complete study are available at Town Campus.

Mr. Barrett explained that the study centered on 20 buildings in the Town of Madison, those pertaining to the Board of Education being Island Avenue Elementary School, J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School, Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School, the Town Campus Learning Center, the Walter C. Polson Middle School Auditorium, and Academy School. The purpose of the study was to position the community in a proactive rather than reactive way with regard to facilities. Mr. Barrett spoke about the three public workshops which took place, stating that the turnout for each was very good and DRA found the public comments made at those workshops very useful.

Mr. Barrett stated that each building in the study had been visited several times over the course of the study, at different times, when the buildings were both occupied and empty. The condition of each of the buildings was assessed and the people that use each of the buildings were interviewed as to how the buildings are used, as well as how the community uses the buildings and their expectations for each facility. Mr. Lajoie explained that CES also spent time at each of the buildings to carefully look at all MEP (Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing) systems.

A major focus of this study as it relates to Board of Education buildings was whether or not Academy is needed as an elementary school building. Mr. Barrett discussed each of the three currently operating buildings, and strengths and weaknesses at each. Though enrollment is declining, both Island Avenue and Ryerson are still short on space. However, enrollment projections continue on a downtrend and the study shows that the existing buildings will be sufficient over the next 10 years. Mr. Barrett demonstrated with graphs showing current enrollment along with building capacity, as well as projected enrollments and total building capacity for the 2014-2015 year, both with and without the modulares. He discussed options for improving the buildings as enrollment declines and the modulares are possibly phased out.

With regard to the elementary buildings, Mr. Barrett stated that DRA's study uncovers no need to bring Academy back on line as a school building. The 44,000 square feet is more than is needed, and the costs associated with bringing this building on line would be enormous. He touched on other possible uses for this building, and Ms. Coffey reminded the Board of Education that their only charge is to determine whether or not to return Academy School to the Town of Madison. It would then be up to the Board of Selectmen to determine how the building might be used.

There was discussion regarding the Polson Auditorium. Mr. Barrett explained that the auditorium is used as a performance space, for town meetings, and many other activities, the first focus of DRA was whether seats could be added to the space. Their assessment found that adding the 100 seats to the center wedge area would trigger code issues including seismic and ADA requirements that led DRA not to recommend this option. However, DRA did recommend three tiers of improvement for the space. First and highly recommended was to update the mechanicals in the auditorium, including considering adding air conditioning; the current mechanical and HVAC systems are original. The second tier was to update the theatrical lighting and sound systems. The third tier was to consider adding a flat multi-purpose space for rehearsals and that could be used for meetings.

Lengthy discussion ensued and Ms. Frey reiterated that the main purpose of the report is to guide the Joint Facilities Review Committee over the five year facilities plan, to prioritize in terms of long term capital projects and planned and cycled maintenance.

After the conclusion of Mr. Barrett's presentation, Ms. Coffey opened the floor to members of the Board of Education for questions and comments.

Atty. Klaskin thanked Mr. Barrett and Mr. Lajoie for sharing the excellent work they have done and for involving the community in their study. He inquired as to whether a full day kindergarten program was considered in this study, even though it is not feasible from a financial standpoint at this time. Mr. Barrett stated that full day kindergarten was considered and could be accommodated in the current three building model, along with Grades 1-4, based on enrollment projections.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked how DRA arrived at the capacity numbers for each building. Mr. Barrett responded that the numbers were determined based on core classrooms and related arts, and were based on Madison Public Schools policies regarding class size.

Ms. Wood asked Mr. Barrett to confirm whether the study includes putting back into play dedicated spaces for library, art, music and Special Education classes, as some of those services are now being delivered from a cart. Mr. Barrett stated that there would be dedicated space for all related arts, as well as core and special education classrooms. There were questions raised by several board members as to how building capacities as reported were determined, specifically for Island Avenue.

Mr. Dean stated that the Academy School is an historic building, and history proves that it has a very strong following in the community. He suggested that consideration might be given to selling Island Avenue to a developer who would perhaps build over 55 housing and get this property on the tax rolls. The proceeds from the sale could then be used toward the cost of upgrading Academy. Mr. Dean asked Mr. Barrett if DRA would be in a position to conduct a study of what he outlined and come up with potential revenues that might be generated from the sale of Island. Mr. Barrett said that DRA would be able to carry out such a study. Ms. Coffey stated that this issue has been previously discussed by the Board of Education and Island Avenue has many advantages over the Academy building as an elementary school, least of which have to do with egress rules and the fact that the entire building is at ground level. Ms. Frey stated that this information has been presented to the Board of Education at some point in the past when the Board decided to keep Island Avenue as part of the elementary school inventory. She will find the information for distribution to the current Board.

Ms. Coffey asked all Board members to direct specific questions regarding the study to Ms. Frey so they can be addressed at a future meeting.

Mr. Clorite asked if the study included an assessment of the condition of the current modulars. Mr. Barrett responded that was not part of the study, though they look to be very well maintained.

Ms. Coffey then asked if members of the Board of Selectmen or Board of Finance had any questions or comments for Mr. Barrett.

First Selectman Fillmore McPherson congratulated DRA on an excellent report and noted that some progress has already been made as a result of their study, in that the Probate Court has been moved to the Memorial Town Hall, where it has been combined with the Guilford Probate Court. That move frees up space at Town Campus which will be used by the currently overcrowded Finance Department. Mr. McPherson stated that he eagerly awaits the Board of Education's decision on Academy School.

Selectman Joseph MacDougald inquired as to whether potential reuses or repurposing for Academy have been considered, and if there was any thought to the recommendation of a process for the Town to follow assuming Academy is released by the Board of Education. Mr. Barrett recommended that if the building is released to the Town, they secure the services of Milone & McBroom, as they have already studied future uses and options for the Academy School Building and reached some preliminary conclusions.

Mr. Robert Hale, Citizen Representative for the Board of Education on the Joint Facilities Review Committee, commented that earlier recommendations by Milone & McBroom are no longer feasible as two large retailers who might have been considered for the spot are no longer available. Mr. Hale stated that situations change quickly and they will have to continue to study options regarding the best use of the building.

Selectman Al Goldberg remarked that the community is very well served by the study and the wealth of information DRA has provided will help us to move forward and make some decisions. He asked Ms. Coffey if she had an idea of when the Board of Education would make its decision regarding Academy. Ms. Coffey responded that the Board of Education will discuss the issue at their next two to three meetings. While not making promises, she stated that if the Board's questions are all sufficiently answered, she expects they may make a decision in the next six weeks.

Board of Finance member Kathleen Rossini thanked DRA for the excellent report and Mr. Barrett for his presentation, and she thanked the Board of Education for inviting the other Boards to this meeting. She then asked if there was any discussion about a facility, such as Island Avenue, being too small. Mr. Barrett responded that there was no discussion or specific questions posed regarding a building being too small. The results of the study show that there are plenty of 'right size' buildings and the ability to support the educational needs of the community with the modulars. Without modulars the district may need to look into other improvements, such as dedicated gymnasiums at Ryerson and Island where the cafeteria/gymnasium/performance spaces are now one room. Mr. Barrett also stated that the study was done with program equity among the elementary buildings in mind.

Ms. Rossini then commented that enrollment peaks and dips tend to be cyclical and asked if consideration had been given to the possibility of enrollment going back up at some point. Mr. Barrett replied that this topic had in fact come up at some of the community workshops. He explained that information from the Connecticut State Data Center was made part of the public workshops and the study itself and there appears to be a true paradigm shift in the United States regarding population growth. He used the example of a town in West Virginia that recently experienced zero growth, and experts predict this to be a trend nationwide. He also explained that it does not make sense to hold on to a building for 20 years for the possibility of increased enrollment because it would be too costly to bring it back on line and make it compliant. Mr. Klein concurred that it is extremely difficult and costly to put a building 'in mothballs' for 20 years and then try to reopen it.

Board of Finance member James Matteson asked why Brown Middle School was not included in the study and Ms. Frey explained that the study was strictly about elementary space utilization, and that the middle schools have been reconfigured and are fully utilized. Mr. Matteson then asked about the operating costs associated with the modulars at the elementary buildings. Mr. William McMinn, Director of Facilities stated there has been no analysis of the costs to operate the modulars versus the brick and mortar portions of the buildings. Finally, Mr. Matteson asked if there had been any consideration for the possibility of moving to a two building model for Grades K-4. Ms. Frey responded that two buildings would not be able to accommodate Grades K-4, even with the projected declining enrollment.

The topic of how DRA arrived at the capacity numbers in their report came up again, and after discussion, Mr. Klein stated that it would be helpful to see the formulaic model used to establish those numbers. Mr. Barrett said that he would provide that information.

Mr. McPherson commented that the TCLC modulars are fairly new and in very good shape, and asked if any other uses for that facility had been discussed. Mr. Barrett replied that the study did not include looking across the board at possible future uses of the modulars. Ms. Frey added that that was an issue beyond the scope of what DRA was charged with but worth looking at in the future.

Ms. Frey spoke to the reliability of enrollment projections and stated that when the district consolidated to a three building model, they knew that space would be tight for a few years. With enrollment declining as it is, the district can recapture the educational space lost in recent years and get back to using the buildings as they were intended, even with a decreased reliance on the modulars and possibly integrating the Pre-K and kindergarten programs back to the elementary buildings.

Ms. Frey stated that all issues brought up tonight will be addressed by the Planning Committee and at future Board of Education meetings.

17. Audience Response to Information Presented

Mr. Jim Deephouse of 11 Linden Lane stated that he had many of the same concerns as Ms. Rossini as far as enrollment going back up at one point. He also stated that there should be a cost analysis as enrollment drops and the District needs to watch overhead and take action to keep costs in line while maintaining the current program. Mr. Deephouse then shared some of his thoughts on future uses for Academy School.

Ms. Coffey thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and stated that there will be ongoing discussions at the Planning Committee meetings and future Board of Education meetings.

18. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Meier too
adjourn the meeting Fitzgerald at 9:48 p.m.

AYES: Clorite, Coffey, Dean, Fitzgerald, Frey, Klaskin, Meier,
Ruggiero, Wood

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Submitted for approval at the 05/04/10 Board of Education Meeting
dmd