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Board of Education Meeting  
September 21, 2010  
Meeting Minutes

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Vice Chairman Dean at 7:05 p.m.

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

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

The meeting was chaired by Board Vice-Chairman Dean in Chairwoman Coffey's absence.

2. Executive Session

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Ruggiero to enter Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Personnel matters involving confidential issues were discussed.

Legal matters were discussed.

MOTION: by Frey, seconded by Fitzgerald to adjourn Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

The Public Session of the Board of Education meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Dean at 7:34 p.m. Vice-Chairman Dean led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also present: David Klein, Superintendent of Schools; Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; District Administrators; staff; community members.

3. School / Community Session

3.1. Recognition:

Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School, 2010 National Blue Ribbon School

*Julie Phelps, Principal*

*Kathryn Hart, Assistant Principal*

Members of the Application Team:

*Michelle Catucci, School Counselor*

*Megan Chimento, Spanish Teacher*

*Jenny Coniff, Grade 6 Social Studies Teacher*

*Janet Dielman, Grade 6 Math Teacher*

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*Reid Gerritt, Band Teacher*  
*Laurie Humphries, Art Teacher*  
*Beth Micciche, Grade 6 Language Arts Teacher*  
*Lauren Ramondetta, Grade 5 Social Studies Teacher*  
*Mary Rao, Grade 6 Math Teacher*  
*Naomi Rosenstein, Reading/Language Arts Specialist*  
*Annie Schley, Spanish Teacher*  
*Nancy Sylvain, Grade 6 Special Education Teacher*

Mr. Dean stated that he was very proud to recognize staff from Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School on recently being named a National Blue Ribbon School.

Mr. Klein commented that he was thrilled for the staff and students of Brown Middle School, as this award showcases the commitment to excellence of both staff and students, and the award is indicative of the hard work that went into the application. Mr. Klein stated that Brown Middle School will “always and forever be a Blue Ribbon School”.

Mrs. Julie Phelps, Principal of Brown Middle School stated that she was proud to introduce some of the staff that worked on the application. All were volunteers and put in a great deal of time and effort on an application that was very labor intensive, but one she feels crystallizes everything that Brown Middle School is and stands for. She commented on the excellent students, the dedicated staff and support from the families of Brown students for making Brown the special place it is. Mrs. Phelps introduced members of the application team who were present, and the group was presented with a Certificate of Recognition signed by Mr. Klein and Mr. Dean.

### 3.2. Public Participation

None at this time.

### 4. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report (Andrew Chapman and Jessica Buller)

Mr. Chapman was not present. Ms. Buller reported on the following:

- Most clubs have started or will start soon, including several new clubs this year.
- Sports Night was held last week and was a great success.
- Fall sports are underway and the first home football game is this Friday at the Surf Club. The Band will perform during halftime under the direction of the new Band Leader, Mr. Gage.
- The senior picnic will take place on Friday, along with a Pep Rally.
- The fall play has been cast and the crew has had their initial meeting.
- PSAT Registrations are underway and will continue through October 8<sup>th</sup>. PSATs will take place on October 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Senior College Planning Night is scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup>. 140 colleges will visit Daniel Hand this year.
- College applications can be submitted electronically this year.
- The student portal of Finals site is being used. Ms. Buller remarked that she personally finds the site extremely helpful and easy to navigate.

The Board welcomed Ms. Buller as the Student Representative for the junior class and thanked her for her excellent report.

### 5. Superintendent's Report

- #### 5.1. Overview: 2009-2010 Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) Results 2009-2010 Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Results
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Mr. Klein prefaced Ms. Rutlin's report by stating that there was much good news to share, and areas needing improvement will also be addressed in her presentation. Mr. Klein remarked that Madison views itself as a district that has to be among the top 5 in the state, and that the high standards imposed are the district's own.

Ms. Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment introduced a PowerPoint presentation (on file) summarizing the Madison Public Schools student performance on the 2010 Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT). The results showed growth or areas for focus, with every school in the district meeting AYP. Ms. Rutlin explained that AYP, or Annual Yearly Progress, is the state's definition of a percentage of proficiency that all groups must meet in reading and mathematics in order to ensure that no child is left behind. Ms. Rutlin pointed out that in many areas of the CMT, Madison continues to outperform both DRG (District Reference Group) B and the state. She also pointed out that Madison met proficiency in all categories as related to AYP, but the focus in Madison is more on meeting goal, which is a higher standard. Ms. Rutlin commented that cohort comparisons showed growth in students scoring at the advanced level, which indicates the longer the students are with us, the better they do.

Ms. Rutlin and Mr. Klein reiterated that Madison sees itself as being among the top performers every year and the high expectations placed on students and staff are our own and not imposed by anyone else. Ms. Rutlin shared the objectives moving forward and stated that we will continue to focus attention in the areas of Science and Reading.

Madison's CAPT scores in reading and writing exceed DRG B, while we scored slightly behind DRG B in math and science. Ms. Rutlin commented that there was no one domain in math or science which had distinctly less mastery, so all content strands will receive focus. Mr. Klein stated that he and Ms. Rutlin have already met with the Daniel Hand administration, who agreed that the CAPT results were not particularly pleasant for anyone to hear, and we know we can do better. Daniel Hand High School Principal Barbara Britton stated that the administrators, coordinators and the staff are not satisfied with these scores, and neither are the students.

Mr. Klein stated that work is already underway with the high school staff to better align curriculum and assessments to improve CAPT scores. Ms. Britton stated that there may have been too much focus on formative and summative assessments and not enough on CAPT like assessments. She continued that because the focus has been on benchmark assessments, the playing field was 'uneven' with regard to CAPT. Work is underway now to integrate CAPT like assessments and testing into the curriculum to better prepare students for CAPT.

In conclusion, Mr. Klein and Ms. Rutlin reiterated that Madison is and will continue to be a top performing district in the state, and it will only get better.

Ms. Rutlin told the Board that she would share her presentation with them electronically in the interest of being green. She also requested that any additional questions be sent directly to her and she would then provide answers to the entire Board. The Board thanked Ms. Rutlin for her very informative presentation.

## 6. Board Member Comments

### 6.1. Rescheduling of November 2, 2010 Board of Education meeting to November 9, 2010

Mr. Dean explained that this meeting date is being changed due to Election Day, and asked for a motion to reschedule the meeting.

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Meier to reschedule the November 2, 2010 Board of Education meeting for November 9, 2010.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

### 6.2. School Liaisons for 2010-2011 School Year

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Mr. Dean pointed out the list of current assignments for Board of Education member liaisons to the schools.

Current assignments:

Island Avenue Elementary School	Bill Clorite
J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School	Seth Klaskin
Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School	Robert Ruggiero
Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School	OPEN
Walter C. Polson Middle School	John Dean
Daniel Hand High School	Becky Coffey

After a brief discussion, it was decided that Pam Meier will fill the slot at Brown and all other liaisons would remain the same. Mr. Dean stated that anyone who wished to change their assignment should contact Ms. Coffey to discuss.

## 7. Reports from Board Committees / Liaisons

### 7.1. Planning Committee

Ms. Frey reported that at their last meeting, the Committee discussed that the water was fully connected and up and running at Brown Middle School. Both Brown and Ryerson are now supplied by the Connecticut Water Company and there have been no issues or problems.

Ms. Frey next stated that the Committee will meet the following morning. One of the items for discussion is a proposal from MAPAC for a Boys Swim Team at Daniel Hand High School. The Committee will deliberate on the proposal before bringing a formal recommendation to the full Board.

Madison Police Chief Jack Drumm will also attend the meeting and Ms. Frey expects that he will give a formal proposal regarding a potential School Resource Officer Program (SRO).

Ms. Frey stated that there has been some confusion and miscommunication in the community with regard to the proposed SRO which she hoped to clear up. At this point there has been no formal presentation - only preliminary discussions and no decisions have been made. It is the intent of the Planning Committee to hear the proposal and then begin the evaluation process. She stated that it will be a methodical, deliberate and thoughtful process and she will keep the full Board fully informed and involved. Ms. Frey stated that input from district professionals and community members will be solicited and no decision regarding an SRO Program will be made in isolation.

### 7.2 Personnel Committee

Mr. Dean reported that negotiations continue with the MEA and the next session is scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup>. If no agreement is reached on that date, the next step will be mediation.

### 7.2. Policy Committee

Atty. Klaskin reported that the Committee met earlier tonight. They reviewed a list of policy topics and recommendations from CABA (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) which are being reviewed by the Administration. There was also some discussion on the use of live animals in the classroom at the request of a Board member.

### 7.4. Finance Committee

Mr. Clorite reported that the Committee had a brief meeting last week to review the first few weeks of the fiscal year. They will continue to monitor the budget and keep an eye on the status of state reimbursements.

### 7.5. LEARN Liaison

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No report.

8. Audience Response to Information Presented

None at this time.

9. Consent Agenda

9.1. Bills Payable: \$42,620.39 (09-10); \$1,563,292.41 (10-11)

9.2. Line Transfers: \$44,218.28

9.3. Donation: \$1,135.76 to Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School for 8 digital cameras, cases, and memory cards from the Ryerson School PTO.

MOTION: by Dean seconded by Klaskin, to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Atty. Klaskin called out the donation to Ryerson School and thanked the PTO for their generosity.

10. Action Item: Minutes of the September 7, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Ruggiero to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Clorite, Dean, Frey, Klaskin, Meier, Ruggiero

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Fitzgerald

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

11. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

12. New Business

No new business was discussed.

13. Future Agenda Items

12.1. Class of 2010 Update

12.2 Update: Review work of the School / Community Safety Team

Mr. Klein commented that the original date planned for the Safety Team update was October 19<sup>th</sup>, during America Safe Schools Week. However, Director of Guidance Jean Baker is planning her update on the Class of 2010 for the 19<sup>th</sup>, so the Safety Committee update will be moved up to the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

14. Meetings of Importance

Mr. Dean pointed out the meetings listed on the agenda.

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15. Adjournment

MOTION: by Fitzgerald, seconded by Frey to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Approved at the 10/05/10 Board of Education Meeting  
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