

Board of Education Meeting  
April 5, 2011  
Meeting Minutes

1. The public session of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairperson Coffey at 7:30 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; Anita Rutlin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; district administrators; faculty; staff; community members.

2 School / Community Session

2.1 Recognitions:

2.1.1 National Library Week, April 10-16, 2011

Mr. Klein announced that National Library week is April 10-16<sup>th</sup> and expressed his gratitude to the staff of the Madison Public Schools' Library Media Centers as well as the Scranton Memorial Library. Mr. Klein commented that these individuals are invaluable to our school community and the District is fortunate to have such wonderful people in these roles.

2.1.2 Public School Volunteer Week, April 17-23, 2011

Mr. Klein next announced Public School Volunteer Week from April 17<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup>. He commented that the Board members all know how much our school volunteers do throughout the year, and that we could not do this important work without them.

2.1.3 Administrative Professionals Week, April 24-30, 2011

Mr. Klein also stated that Administrative Professionals Week is coming up later this month. He commented that these individuals at the school buildings as well as Central Office are crucial to the fine work we do and our students are the direct beneficiaries.

2.1.4 Daniel Hand High School Art Student Awards

Mr. Klein stated that he was pleased to recognize students from Daniel Hand High School for awards they recently won in the Connecticut Scholastic Art Awards Program and the Future Choices Exhibit. He read the following information about each program which was furnished by DHHS Art Teacher and Program Coordinator Angela Medley:

**Connecticut Scholastic Art Awards Program**

Recently the **22nd Annual Connecticut Scholastic Art Awards** program, sponsored by the Connecticut Art Education Association, recognized the work of talented young artists in grades 7 to 12 from public, private and parochial schools throughout Connecticut.

Student artwork was juried by professional artists and university art faculty and some pieces were included in a three-week art exhibit held at the University of Hartford Art School.

The exhibit included 663 artworks out of almost 2,000 student entries from 135 schools. Artworks were recognized with Gold Key, Silver Key and Honorable Mention awards, as well as special awards that included "Best in Show" cash prizes, art product awards and university scholarships.

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The Connecticut Scholastic Art Awards is an affiliate of the National Scholastic Art Awards and The Alliance For Young Artists and Writers. The work of Gold Key winners from each national region -- including Connecticut -- was reviewed by a national panel of judges in March and selected pieces will be included in an exhibit in [New York City](#) during June. The national awards ceremony will be held at [Carnegie Hall](#) in mid-June.

**Future Choices Exhibit sponsored by the Shoreline Arts Alliance**

*Future Choices*, now in its 27<sup>th</sup> year is an annual juried student art show presented by the Shoreline Arts Alliance. This competition and exhibition is open to all high school students who live or go to school in any of the 18-town region\* that Shoreline Arts Alliance serves.

- 18-towns: Branford, Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Haven, Essex, Guilford, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Madison, Middlefield, North Branford, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Westbrook.

Mr. Klein read the names of the students and the awards they had received.

**Connecticut Regional Scholastic Art Awards Program**

- ~ Megan Brink, Gold Key Award in Drawing
- ~ Luke Taylor, Gold Key Award in Printmaking
- ~ Charles Bratches, Honorable Mention in Printmaking
- ~ Samantha Morris, Honorable Mention in Printmaking
- ~ Kelsey Sparn, Honorable Mention in Mixed Media

**Future Choices Exhibit sponsored by the Shoreline Arts Alliance**

- ~ Kelsey Sparn, First Place Mixed Media
- ~ Luke Taylor, First Place Prints
- ~ Katherine Meier, Second Place Sculpture
- ~ Emma Stewart, Second Place Drawing
- ~ Wilson Stevens, Second Place Prints
- ~ Anne Pancak, Wall Street Gallery Award
- ~ Tiffany Li, Scholarship from the Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts

Mrs. Medley and DHHS Art Teacher Suzanne Gaskell assisted in presenting Certificates of Recognition to the students present: Megan Brink, Anne Pancak, Tiffany Li and Wilson Stevens. Mrs. Medley stated that the students who were unable to attend were likely involved in the upcoming musical at Daniel Hand or with sports, and they would receive their certificates.

Mrs. Medley also announced three upcoming art shows that will feature work of Madison students:

- The Madison Public Schools K-12 Art Show opens at the Scranton Memorial Library the following day (Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>) and the work of some DHHS Seniors will be on display at an Art Show in New Haven beginning on May 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The Annual Greater New Haven Area High School Art Exhibition at the John Slade Ely House Center for Contemporary Art, 51 Trumbull Street in New Haven, April 21-May 1, 2011
- The Daniel Hand High School Annual Arts Exhibit. Opens with a reception on May 12<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 8:30; the show is available for public viewing after school hours from May 12<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.

2.2. Public Participation

None at this time.

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

Mr. Chapman reported on the following:

- The Spring Musical, Fiddler on the Roof, will be performed this Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>.
- There has been a 'no texting while driving campaign' all week, with information being released each day. On Wednesday and Thursday, students will be able to add their fingerprints to a banner and take a pledge not to text while driving.
- The Connecticut Drama Association Festival took place at the end of March. The students did well, performing in a play called "Thank You for Flushing My Head in the Toilet". It is about three students being bullied and how it affected them. It will be shown to freshman and sophomores on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Buller reported on these additional items:

- CAPT testing is completed and trimester 3 is underway.
- A student group called LIFE (Living Intoxication Free Everyday), which works to promote making good choices, has been active all year, creating a billboard which was next to Zhang's Restaurant in Madison, and bringing in the performance of "DIRT". Next on their agenda is a pasta dinner on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to raise funds for youth leadership training.

4. Superintendent's Report

4.1. Enrollment Update

Mr. Klein reported that enrollment currently stands at 3,611; 28 students more than the ADS projection of 3,583.

For the 2011-2012 school year, current enrollment is 3,431; only 20 under the ADS projected 3,451. While the variance in actual vs. projected enrollment usually lies in kindergarten, ADS has projected 123 kindergarteners for next year, and actual enrollment is currently at 118. Mr. Klein commented that there is typically a much bigger differential at this time of year, but could not say why the numbers are so much closer this year. He explained that there are eight sections planned for kindergarten next year which would put class sizes at approximately 15 students per class. Even if we do enroll more students than ADS has projected, we have the ability to absorb them while maintaining very manageable class sizes.

4.2. Report on Out of State Travel

Mr. Klein reported on some upcoming out of state field trips for Daniel Hand High School students.

4.3. Other

Mr. Klein had nothing further to report on.

5. Board Members' Comments

Ms. Meier stated that two Madison students who also attend ECA (Education Center for the Arts) in New Haven are performing in a concert the following evening in New Haven. She commented that it is another example of what arts oriented students are doing.

6. Reports from Board Committees / Liaisons

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6.1. Planning Committee

No report.

6.2. Personnel Committee

Mr. Dean reported that negotiations with MAESS continue and are going well.

6.3. Policy Committee

No report. While the Policy Committee had not met since the previous meeting, Atty. Klaskin reminded board members that they would be voting on the District's 2012 – 2013 calendar proposal at the first meeting in May. Further, the Policy Committee will perform its annual review of the Student Conduct Code in May and bring it before the board for ratification of any changes.

6.4. Finance Committee

No report. Mr. Clorite did remind the viewing public that the Budget Public Hearing will be held on Monday, April 25, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Walter C. Polson Middle School auditorium. This will be an opportunity for members of the community to ask any questions they may have about the Board of Education's historically low budget.

6.5. LEARN Liaison

No report.

7. Audience Response to Information Presented

None at this time.

8. Consent Agenda

8.1. Bills Payable: \$2,162.30 (09-10); \$955,377.30 (10-11)

8.2. Line Transfers: \$102,856.99

8.3. Budget Expenditure Report as of March 31, 2011

8.4. Donation: \$4,864 to Island Avenue Elementary School for the purchase and installation of a Smart Board, from the Island Avenue PTO

8.5. Textbook Adoption (*Reference Policy #6100.10*)

United States History

Beginnings to 1877

Holt Rinehart and Winston Publisher, 2009

Social Studies Grade 8

Walter C. Polson Middle School

MOTION: by Meier seconded by Klaskin to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

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Atty. Klaskin commented on the very generous donations from the Island Avenue PTO. Mr. Klein explained that while the PTO raised the funds for the Smart Board, the donation was monetary and the purchase and installation of the Smart Board is being coordinated by Mr. Arthur Sickle, Director of Administrative Services.

9. Action Item: Minutes of the March 15, 2011 Board of Education Meeting.

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Frey to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2011 Board of Education Meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Dean

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

10. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

11. New Business

11.1 Textbook Adoption Preview (April 5-May 3, 2011)

Ms. Rutlin noted the following textbook available for preview in her office

Repase y escriba: Curso avanzado de gramatica y composicion  
Sixth Edition (Spanish and English Edition)  
John Wiley and Sons, Inc., Higher Education, 2010  
ECE / UCONN 3178 Intermediate Spanish Composition: Spanish 6 Honors  
World Languages Grade 12  
Daniel Hand High School

12. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Klein noted the following upcoming presentations.

12.1. NAVIANCE Presentation for Grades 5 & 6: Scheduled for May 3, 2011

Mr. Klein also stated that he is working to bring our State Legislators to a Special Meeting of the Board later this month. He explained that Public Act 10-111 may be delayed two, possibly four years. Issues that may be affected include high school reform, student success plans and kindergarten reform. Mr. Klein stated that this delay will not affect Madison moving forward with student success plans, as the initiative is already underway and we will continue to do the work we see as appropriate. Mr. Klein stated that it is important to have these direct conversations with our representatives in Hartford, to find out what bills are gaining strength and as well as to let them know what we see as important. He stated that the Board members will be contacted shortly with some possible dates, and the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance will also be invited to this meeting once a date is confirmed.

13. Meetings of Importance

Ms. Coffey noted the list of meetings on the agenda, and again pointed out the Budget Public Hearing scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged all Board members to attend to support what is the lowest requested budget in more than a decade. Ms. Coffey pointed out that the Board of Education's requested budget for 2011-2012 is \$57,000 less than the current year's budget. She credited the Superintendent, Administration, and the Board's Negotiations Team for bringing forth a budget which will allow us to continue with the quality program currently in place. Atty. Klaskin

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commented that the low budget is also a credit to the Madison Educators Association (MEA), who negotiated their new contract in good faith recognition of the financial burdens facing the town.

14. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean seconded by Fitzgerald to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Approved at the 05/03/11 Board of Education Meeting  
dmd

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