

Board of Education Regular Meeting

August 21, 2012, 7:00 PM

Dr. Alfred B. Tychsen Administration Building

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Members Present: Franca Biales, Sheila Daniels, Ava Hart, Ryan Kennedy, Cheryl McClellan, Ed McKeon, Gene Nocera, and Mitchell Wynn

Board Members Absent: Ted Raczka

Others Present: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patricia Charles, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education Ann Perzan, Director of Facilities Ken Jackson, Director of Grant Services Elizabeth Nocera, Manager of Financial Operations Lynda MacPherson, Manager of Human Resources Michele DiMauro, Student Representative Michael Durso, Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Secretary Marcy Poppel, MFT Representative Steve McKeever, Hartford Courant Reporter Shawn Beals, Middletown Press Reporter Jim Salemi, and seven (7) visitors.

Chair Nocera called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Student Rep Michael Durso led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Adoption of the Agenda passed with a motion by Mr. McKeon and a second by Ms. Hart – unanimous vote.

IV. DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS – CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF WELCOME

Board Chair Nocera welcomed Dr. Charles and stated it is an exciting time for our school district. Superintendent Charles introduced two new members of Central Office staff, Michele DiMauro, the district's new Human Resources Manager and Lynda MacPherson, our new Financial Operations Manager. Chair Nocera said during this school year principals will come to Board meetings for discussions on their school improvement plans and to get the Board and community up-to-speed on their efforts. He commended Board members for their dedication during this very busy summer.

V. PUBLIC SESSION

Chair Nocera explained the rules of Public Session.

Donna Gagnon Smith welcomed new Superintendent Patricia Charles, spoke of moral character, deliberate indifference, and running the school district as a business.

Lee B. Smith addressed the Board about the right to criticize, district policies on sexual harassment, and an alleged teacher-student situation.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

VI.A. Report of Student Representative

Student Rep Michael Durso reported that Student Council officers will be in place shortly after school starts and there will be a pep rally.

Ms. Daniels stated that the Board received thank you notes from recent retirees Tracey Koff and Patricia Speight. She said the Board also received a thank you note from Silvia Mayo Molina on being chosen as the new Principal of Keigwin School.

Ms. Hart thanked the Board for their condolences on the recent loss of her father.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Move to accept the Consent Agenda was made by Ms. Daniels and a second by Mr. McKeon – unanimous vote.

VII.A. Minutes of June 19, 2012 5 PM BOE Special Meeting

VII.B. Minutes of June 19, 2012 6 PM BOE Regular Meeting

VII.C. Minutes of June 25, 2012 8 PM BOE Special Meeting

VII.D. Minutes of June 26, 2012 8 PM BOE Special Meeting

VII.E. Personnel Action

VII.F. Alliance District Grant

VII.G. Extended Field Trip - MHS VO-AG FFA Convention, October, 2012

VII.H. Extended Field Trip - MHS Boys Swimming & Diving Training Trip, February, 2013

VII.I. MHS Ultimate Frisbee Competition, May, 2013

VIII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

VIII.A. Connecticut Accountability Plan Overview

Superintendent Charles provided an overview of the Connecticut Accountability Plan through a PowerPoint presentation explaining the changes in how data will be reviewed and analyzed during the 2012 – 2013 school year. She noted that each subject area, reading, writing, mathematics, and science will have a target goal.

VIII.B. District Data Team (DDT)

Ms. Daniels said the DDT met in June, however she was unable to attend that meeting.

VIII.C. Transportation Report - June 2012

Mr. Jackson said busing cards with route information were recently mailed and calls are coming in this week. He added that Dattco is in good shape and ready for the new school year. Superintendent Charles added that Mr. Jackson put the bus routes on the District's website. Mr. Jackson responded to questions on parental protocol on bus route concerns. He added that calls regarding safety come directly from parents to our Transportation Department and site visits are done.

VIII.D. District News

Chair Nocera said the Board was very involved in the hiring process over the summer.

IX. COMMITTEES

IX.A. Budget Committee

Chair Nocera stated that Budget Committee Chair Ted Raczka is out-of-state and the Budget Committee did not meet over the summer.

IX.B. Communications Committee

IX.B.1. Board of Education Meeting Location

Communications Committee Chair Ryan Kennedy updated Board members with regard to Board meeting location. Former Interim Superintendent Dr. Larson told Mr. Kennedy that it is possible to purchase an encoder device for approximately \$6,000, plus minimal additional costs for cameras and microphones, using vendor HB Communications and our existing network infrastructure to televise Board meetings from the Board Room in Central Office.

Mr. Kennedy said an important goal of the Communications Committee is the broadcasting of the Board meetings. He spoke of the need for consistency in meeting location. At the location the Board used last year there were issues with the picture and sound quality. Concerns were expressed that using a smaller meeting room could present potential seating/space issues. He added that this evening there are two MHS Video Production students videoing the meeting. It will then go online tomorrow for folks to check out and compare. He asked Board members for feedback. The other concern, he added, is the online component. There was discussion.

Chair Nocera said this item will be put on the September Board meeting agenda for further discussion. Dr. Charles responded to questions and added that microphones would need to be purchased and that should be taken into consideration when reviewing this evening's meeting. Mr. McKeon felt the meetings should be on television and on the internet, as Comcast only reaches a partial audience. There was further discussion. Chair Nocera stated that until decisions are made, the Board would continue to meet at Central Office. It was suggested to contact Comcast Cable.

IX.B.2. Retreat Dates

There was a discussion about holding a Board Retreat on a Saturday. Chair Nocera said the process typically is that a retreat date is established, there is a meeting with the Superintendent, and the agenda is created. He mentioned that CAFE sent out a Communication Guide which contains a plan regarding roles and responsibilities, and discussion of CMT results as potential agenda items. He noted that the Agenda could be a combination of topics and asked Board members for input. There was a discussion of a date. Chair Nocera suggested Saturday, October 6th. He said a reminder and agenda will be sent to Board members for review.

IX.C. Curriculum Committee

Curriculum Committee Chair Franca Biales said the Committee did not meet over the summer.

IX.D. Feasibility Committee

Feasibility Committee Chair Ed McKeon said the Committee did not meet over the summer.

IX.E. Policy Committee

Policy Committee Chair Sheila Daniels said the Committee met several times over the summer. Minutes were provided in the Board packet. She thanked Mr. McKeon, Ms. Nocera, and Ms. Passarelli for their assistance with policies and their help in moving the

district forward. She added that several policies were brought forward this evening for action.

IX.F. Representative Reports

TEMS Rep. Ms. McClellan said TEMS did not meet over the summer and will resume their meetings in September.

ACES Rep. Chair Nocera said ACES did not meet over the summer and will be holding their September meeting in approximately two weeks.

X. ACTION ITEMS

X.A. SmartBus Live!

Superintendent Charles said the district has an opportunity to put cameras on the arm that comes out on school buses and the camera will take a photograph of anyone driving past the bus while the semaphore is fully extended. There is no cost to the district or municipality and it will provide the district with revenue, as well as increase safety for our children. Superintendent Charles recommended the district do this. She responded to Board member questions.

MOTION: Move to approve the installation of cameras as part of the SmartBus Live! Program was made with a motion by Ms. Daniels and a second by Mr. McKeon.

There was a discussion about notifying the community, police involvement, and the old process.

VOTE: Approval of the installation of cameras as part of the SmartBus Live! Program passed with a unanimous vote.

X.B. Policy #4147.1 Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens (Revision) - First Reading

Committee Chair Sheila Daniels explained the revision to this policy stating it is to put the district in compliance with OSHA.

MOTION: Move to approve the first reading of Policy #4147.1 Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens passed with a motion by Ms. Daniels and a second by Ms. McClellan – unanimous vote.

X.C. Policy #5141.3 Health Assessments and Immunizations (Revision) - First Reading

Committee Chair Sheila Daniels explained the revision to this policy and noted there were quite a few changes to this policy.

MOTION: Move to approve the first reading of Policy #5141.3 Health Assessments and Immunizations passed with a motion by Ms. Daniels and a second by Mr. McKeon – unanimous vote.

X.D. Policy #5144.1 Restraint and Seclusion (New) - First and Final Reading

Committee Chair Sheila Daniels explained the revision to this policy noting this is a mandate from the State of Connecticut. The Committee had extensive conversation with regard to this policy.

MOTION: Move to approve the first and final reading of Policy #5144.1 Restraint and Seclusion passed with a motion by Ms. Daniels and a second by Ms. Biales – unanimous vote.

X.E. Policy #5145.6 Student Grievance Procedures (Title IX)(New) - First Reading

Committee Chair Sheila Daniels explained the revision to this policy and thanked Mr. McKeon for his efforts on this policy. She thanked Special Education Director Ann Perzan for all her work in doing the forms.

MOTION: Move to approve the first reading of Policy #5145.6 Student Grievance Procedures (Title IX) passed with a motion by Ms. Daniels and a second by Mr. Wynn – unanimous vote.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

XI.A. New Items

There were none.

Chair Nocera called for a brief recess. The meeting was called back to order at 8:13 PM.

XII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT POSITION

MOTION: Move at 8:13 PM to go into Executive Session for a discussion with regard to the Associate Superintendent position passed with a motion by Ms. Daniels and a second by Ms. Biales – unanimous vote.

XII.A. Executive Session

MOTION: Move to return to Public Session at 8:39 PM was made with a motion by Ms. Daniels and seconded by Ms. McClellan – unanimous vote.

Public Session

MOTION: Move to appoint Ms. Enza Macri as Associate Superintendent for the Middletown Public Schools passed with a motion by Ms. Daniels and a second by Mr. Kennedy – unanimous vote.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 8:41 PM passed with a motion by Mr. McKeon and a second by Ms. Daniels – unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward McKeon
Secretary