

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 2, 2024 7:30 PM

Town Campus Hammonasset Room/Zoom
10 Campus Drive
Madison, CT 06443

Subject to Approval

Meeting Minutes

Video documentation of these proceedings can be found in the Meetings/Minutes section of the website

I. Call to Order / Attendance

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Seth Klaskin at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Klaskin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Galen Cawley, Mary Ann Connelly, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Seth Klaskin, Maureen Lewis (on Zoom), Christine Maisano, Cathy Miller, Steven Pynn, Emily Rosenthal

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Heather Dobson, Director of Human Resources; Adam Levitus, Colliers International

II. School / Community Session

No members of the public spoke.

III. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Eli Ackerman and Brooke Anderson

Eli reported that SAT and NGSS testing is complete, NHS applications are out, Hands on Stage's spring musical is April 18-20, Hand's Got Talent show is April 26, spring sports are underway, and in Advisory junior class groups recently met with sophomore groups to discuss junior year. Brooke was unable to attend the meeting.

IV. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

- Multilingual Learners Family Art Night – Mrs. Dahling-Hench shared that the annual Multilingual Learners Family Art night took place this evening and was very well attended. She thanked staff for making this great community event possible.
- Neck River Elementary School Project Update – Adam Levitus from Colliers International gave an update on the project. He reiterated that the project is on time and on budget and shared information about the next phase of construction. The report can be heard in full on the meeting recording.
- 2024-2025 Budget Reduction – Dr. Cooke shared that the Board of Finance cut the Board of education proposed budget by \$240,000. He and the administrative team have identified areas to make the reductions. The board will not vote on the specific reductions until after the Budget Referendum.

- Paraprofessional Appreciation Day - April 3 is Paraprofessional Appreciation Day. Dr. Cooke thanked the many paras we have at MPS for the work they do each and every day to help us deliver education.

V. Board Members' Comments

No Board member comments.

VI. Audience Response to Information Presented (Ref. Bylaw #9540.10)

No members of the public spoke.

VII. Consent Agenda (Ref. Bylaw #9540.2)

- Line Item Transfers as of March 28, 2024
- Budget Expenditures as of March 28, 2024
- March 2024 Personnel Report

VIII. Action Item: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the consent agenda.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Maisano, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

IX. Board Committees / Liaison Updates (Ref. Bylaw #9450)

Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Steve Pynn, Chair; Catherine Miller, Mary Ann Connelly

Mr. Pynn reported on the meeting that took place earlier in the evening. The committee heard a presentation on Social Studies units up for adoption, a textbook adoption, and a proposed international trip to London and Paris.

Facilities Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal, Chair, Steven Pynn, Diane Infantine-Vyce

Mrs. Rosenthal reported that the committee took a tour of the Brown School renovations. All committee members were very impressed with the transformation of the 300 wing.

Finance Committee

Members: Galen Cawley, Chair, Christine Maisano, Emily Rosenthal

Mr. Cawley reported on the meeting that took place earlier in the evening. The committee discussed formally asking the town to place funds the board returned last year into the special education reserve fund to cover unanticipated costs this current year. Dr. Cooke also shared with the committee the plan he and the administrative team propose to make up the \$240,000 cut the Board of Finance recently approved for next year's budget.

Personnel Committee

Members: Maureen Lewis, Chair; Catherine Miller, Mary Ann Connelly

No report.

Policy Committee

Members: Diane Infantine-Vyce, Chair; Maureen Lewis, Galen Cawley

Dr. Infantine-Vyce gave a report on the following policies:

Policy for Rescission, First Reading:

- 9550 Board Hearings / Appeal Proceedings
- 9850 Board Member Insurance / Liability

Policy for Rescission, Waive Second Reading:

- 8110 Purpose and Role of the Board
- 8111 Board Liaison to Schools

Policy for Review, First Reading:

- 9440 Board-Superintendent Relationship
- 9540.5 Parliamentarian
- 9540.12 Broadcasting/Taping of Meetings
- 3542.4 Meal Charging

LEARN Liaison

Mary Ann Connelly

X. Action Item: Motion to waive the second reading and rescind the following policies: 8110 Purpose and Role of the Board and 8111 Board Liaison to Schools

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Rosenthal to waive the second reading and rescind the following policies: 8110 Purpose and Role of the Board and 8111 Board Liaison to Schools.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Maisano, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

XI. Action Item: Motion to approve the disposal of electronic waste.

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the disposal of electronic waste.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Maisano, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

Motion to add an agenda item to approve a request that the district funds returned to the Town at the end of the previous fiscal year (2022-23), in the amount of \$226,000, be returned to the Board of Education to cover unanticipated special education costs.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Rosenthal to add an agenda item to approve a request that the district funds returned to the Town at the end of the previous fiscal year (2022-23), in the amount of \$226,000, be returned to the Board of Education to cover unanticipated special education costs.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Maisano, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

XII. Action Item: Motion to approve a request that the district funds returned to the Town at the end of the previous fiscal year (2022-23), in the amount of \$226,000, be returned to the Board of Education to cover unanticipated special education costs.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Cawley to make a friendly amendment to the motion to read as follows: to approve a request that the district funds returned to the Town at the end of the previous fiscal year (2022-23), in the amount of \$226,541, be returned to the Board of Education to cover unanticipated special education costs.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Maisano, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Connelly to approve a request that the district funds returned to the Town at the end of the previous fiscal year (2022-23), in the amount of \$226,541, be returned to the Board of Education to cover unanticipated special education costs.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Maisano, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

XIII. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2024 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Rosenthal to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2024 Board of Education meeting.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Maisano, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

XIV. Executive Session

XIV.A. Action Item: Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Non-Renewals for the 2024-2025 School Year and invite in Dr. Cooke and Heather Dobson.

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to enter executive session.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Maisano, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

XIV.B. Action Item: Motion to return to Regular Session

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to return to regular session.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Maisano, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

XV. Action Item: Non-Renewal(s) for the 2024-2025 School Year

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Infantine-Vyce that the contract for employment for Megan Bucknall and Allison McMahon not be renewed for the following year, based upon a reduction in force, upon its expiration at the end of the 2023-2024 school year, and that the superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Maisano, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

XVI. Future Agenda Items

XVII. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

XVIII. Adjournment

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Connelly to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis,
Maisano, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

The Town of Madison does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and the meeting facilities are ADA accessible. Individuals who need assistance are invited to make their needs known by contacting the Town ADA/Human Resources Director, Debra Ferrante, at 203-245-6310 or by email at ferranted@madisonct.org at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.