

Board of Education Special Meeting
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 5:00 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 special meeting of the Madison Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Seth Klaskin at 5:01 p.m. Mr. Klaskin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Galen Cawley, Mary Ann Connelly, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Seth Klaskin, Maureen Lewis, Cathy Miller, Steven Pynn, Emily Rosenthal

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Heather Dobson, Director of Human Resources (on Zoom)

II. School / Community Session

No members of the public spoke.

III. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

- **Increasing Educator Diversity Plan:** Dr. Cooke shared that the plan is a new state requirement. While districts have to complete a plan using the state template, Dr. Cooke said many of these efforts are already in place and spoke generally with the Board about the District's hiring practices.
- **Building Project Updates:** Dr. Cooke shared that bids have been received for the new elementary school building and the project is currently on time and on budget. Colliers International will attend a future Board meeting to give a more detailed report and the project groundbreaking will be scheduled for some time in late March / early April.

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

No members of the public spoke.

V. Consent Agenda (Ref. Bylaw #9540.2)

- Line Item Transfers as of January 31, 2024
- Budget Expenditures as of January 31, 2024
- January 2024 Personnel Report

VI. Action Item: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Miller to approve the consent agenda.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

VII. Action Item: Motion to adopt the Increasing Educator Diversity Plan and authorize the Superintendent or superintendent's designee to execute any necessary revisions.

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to adopt the Increasing Educator Diversity Plan and authorize the Superintendent or superintendent's designee to execute any necessary revisions.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

VIII. Action Item: Discuss and take action to approve a name for the new PreK-5 Elementary School.

Rosenthal made a motion to move the discussion, seconded by Infantine-Vyce. The Board discussion of the new school name can be heard in full on the meeting recording posted on the District website.

MOTION: by Cawley, seconded by Connelly to name the new PreK-5 elementary school building Neck River Elementary School.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

IX. Action Item: Motion to rescind the following policies: 9800 School Board Member Services, 9810 New Board Member Orientation / Handbook, 9820 Board Member Development Opportunities, 9830 Board Facilities and Services

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Lewis to rescind the following policies: 9800 School Board Member Services, 9810 New Board Member Orientation / Handbook, 9820 Board Member Development Opportunities, 9830 Board Facilities and Services.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

X. Action Item: Motion to waive the second reading and rescind policy 5120.5 Social Services.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Lewis to waive the second reading and rescind policy 5120.5 Social Services.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XI. Action Item: Motion to approve policy 5090.4.2.1 Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Miller to approve
policy 5090.4.2.1 Pledge of Allegiance.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XII. Action Item: Motion to approve a donation from the Jeffrey PTO to Jeffrey Elementary School in the amount
of \$4,500 for student activities.

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve a
donation from the Jeffrey PTO to Jeffrey Elementary School in
the amount of \$4,500 for student activities.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XIII. Action Item: Motion to approve a donation from Steady Photography to Ryerson Elementary School in the
amount of \$1,407.24 to support student activities.

MOTION: by Miller, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve a
donation from Steady Photography to Ryerson Elementary
School in the amount of \$1,407.24 to support student activities.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XIV. Action Item: Motion to approve a donation from Scholastic Books to Ryerson Elementary in the amount of
\$4,117.55 to further enhance classroom libraries.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Lewis to approve a
donation from Scholastic Books to Ryerson Elementary in the
amount of \$4,117.55 to further enhance classroom libraries.

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

NAYS:
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XV. Action Item: Motion to approve the disposal of used books and equipment.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Lewis to approve the disposal of used books and equipment.

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

NAYS:
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XVI. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2024 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Lewis to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2024 Board of Education Meeting.

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

NAYS:
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XVII. Board Members' Comments

Dr. Infantine-Vyce said she feels the District needs to further emphasize the dangers of fentanyl and suggested additional resources to be shared with students. Mrs. Connelly said this is an issue she feels strongly about and mentioned work the District has done with DemandZERO to date.

Mr. Klaskin gave an update on the ongoing efforts surrounding a waiver for the Right to Read Act.

XVIII. Future Agenda Items

XIX. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

XX. Adjournment

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Lewis to adjourn at 6:05 p.m.

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

NAYS:
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 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.