

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 28, 2023 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 7:37 p.m. Mr. Klaskin led the Pledge of Allegiance

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

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Heather Dobson, Director of Human Resources; Arthur Sickie, Director of Administrative Services; Kathryn Hart, Polson Middle School Principal; Martha Curran, Polson Middle School Assistant Principal; Frank Henderson, Brown Intermediate School Principal; Becky Frost, Jeffrey Elementary School Principal; Kelly Spooner, Ryerson Elementary School Principal

II. School / Community Session

Selectman Scott Murphy gave an update on town projects.

III. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Eli Ackerman and Brooke Anderson

Eli reported on the close of the fall sports season, a recent NHS induction, and the arrival of new furniture for the DHHS bridge area. Brooke reported that Trimester 2 has begun, the fall play performances begin this week, Band and Orchestra is taking a trip to California soon, and the winter sports season has started.

IV. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

- 2022-2023 Accountability Index – Dr. Cooke and Assistant Superintendent Gail Dahling-Hench presented the 2022-2023 Accountability Index results, which are very positive. According to the index, Madison is ranked No. 1 in the state and all schools were named Schools of Distinction. The presentation can be viewed in full on the Meetings/Minutes section of the District website.
- 2024-2025, 2025-2026 School Calendars – Dr. Cooke presented the two calendars. He noted that there are additional PD days in June 2025 and in September 2025 to give staff time to move into the new and renovated PreK-5 buildings.
- HVAC Grant Update – Dr. Cooke shared that the District is going to postpone submitting a grant application until 2025 when more money becomes available and all cost estimates and construction bids are in.
- MYFS Survey Data – Dr. Cooke noted that representatives from Madison Youth and Family Services will attend the March 5 board meeting to present the biennial student survey data.

V. Board Members' Comments

Mr. Klaskin shared that the Board received the Board of Distinction Award and the recent CABE convention and encouraged Board members to participate in upcoming CABE events.

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

No members of the public spoke.

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

Curriculum and Student Development

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

Mr. Pynn gave a report on the Nov. 14 committee meeting. He shared that the committee heard three presentations: DHHS Chemical Hygiene Plan, DHHS Program of Studies, and an international trip proposal to the Galapagos Islands. He gave a brief summary of each presentation.

Facilities Committee

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

No Report.

Finance Committee

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

Mr. Cawley gave a report on the committee meeting that took place earlier in the evening. He said the committee, along with Dr. Cooke and Finance Director Stacy Nobitz, discussed some of the larger budget items that will be included in the proposed 2024-2025 budget including contractual increases, health insurance, etc.

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 reported on the following policies on the agenda for a first read or action.

Policy for Rescission, First Reading:

- 5100.9.1 Student Recruitment
- 9740 Board-Community Relations

Policy for Rescission, Waive Second Reading:

- 5120.8 Missing School without Parental Consent/Unaccounted for
- 5120.9.1 Supervision of Students
- 5120.9.2 Student Dismissal Precautions

Policy for Review, First Reading:

- 5110.4 Student Discipline
- 5040 Admission to the Public Schools at or Before Age Five
- 9540.2 Construction and Posting of Agenda
- 5180.1 Confidentiality and Access to Educational Records

Repeal and Replace:

- 5180.1 Records / Confidentiality
 - 5180.1.1 Directory Information
 - 5180.1.2 Relations with Non-Custodial Parents
- 5125.1 Health/Medical Records

- 9450 Committees

Repeal and Replace:

- 9450 Board Committees
- 9450.1 Committee of the Whole
- 9460 Advisory Committees

Policy for Review, Waive Second Reading:

- 4040 Plan for Minority Educator Recruitment

LEARN Liaison

Mary Ann Connelly

No report.

VIII. Action Item: Motion to waive the second reading and rescind the following policies: 5120.8 Missing School without Parental Consent/Unaccounted for, 5120.9.1 Supervision of Students, 5120.9.2 Student Dismissal Precautions

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Cawley to waive the second reading and rescind the following policies: 5120.8 Missing School without Parental Consent/Unaccounted for, 5120.9.1 Supervision of Students, 5120.9.2 Student Dismissal Precautions

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

IX. Action Item: Motion to waive the second reading and approve policy #4040 Plan for Minority Educator Recruitment

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Cawley to waive the second reading and approve policy #4040 Plan for Minority Educator Recruitment

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

X. Action Item: Motion to approve the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 School Year Calendars.

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Miller to approve the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 School Year Calendars.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

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

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

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

XII. Action Item: Motion to approve the 2023-2024 Chemical Hygiene Plan.

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Miller to approve the 2023-2024 Chemical Hygiene Plan.

AYES: Cawley, Klaskin, Maisano, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS:

ABSTAIN: Infantine-Vyce

MOTION CARRIED: 6 – 0 – 1

XIII. Action Item: Motion to approve an international field trip to the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador in April 2025.

MOTION: by Miller, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve an international field trip to the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador in April 2025.

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

NAYS: Maisano

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 6 – 1 – 0

XIV. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the October 17 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Cawley to approve the minutes of the October 17 Board of Education Meeting.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

XV. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the November 14 Board of Education Organizational, Regular, and Retreat Meetings (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Cawley to approve the minutes of the November 14 Board of Education Organizational, Regular, and Retreat meetings.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

XVI. Action Item: Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss NAGE Contract.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Pynn to enter into Executive Session to discuss NAGE Contract.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

Emily Rosenthal left the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

Christine Maisano left the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

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

AYES: Cawley, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Miller, Pynn,

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 0

XVII. Future Agenda Items

XVIII. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

XIX. Adjournment

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Miller to adjourn at 10:14 p.m.

AYES: Cawley, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Miller, Pynn

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 5 – 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.