

## **SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

**Madison Public Schools  
Board of Education Regular Meeting  
May 10, 2022  
7:30 PM  
Hammonasset Room and Zoom**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

*Full documentation of these proceedings can be found through on demand video located in the Meetings/Minutes section of the district website*

### **1. Call to Order / Attendance**

The public meeting of the Madison Board of Education was called to order by Chair Seth Klaskin at 7:32 p.m. Mr. Klaskin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Seth Klaskin, Galen Cawley, Emily Rosenthal, Steve Pynn, Mary Ann Connelly Jen Gordon, Cathy Miller.

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Anthony Salutari, Jr., DHHS Principal; Kathryn Hart, Polson Principal.

### **2. School / Community Session** No public comment.

### **3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report** Isabelle Vagell and Lucy Fritzinger

Isabelle reported this evening. Seniors had their photos taken wearing merchandise from the colleges they will be attending. AP Tests finishing this week. Jr. Prom is next Friday and tickets are currently on sale. Sr. Prom tickets will begin as soon as the jr. prom sale ends (May 16). Seniors just received schedule of year-end events. Current sophomores have been invited to apply for the Board of Education Student Representative position. Class council applications are ongoing; 9 students have applied. Sports teams are heading to the SCC and State Championships, with seniors in their final sport season. Art Show, orchestra and chorus concerts are coming up and the band concert is this Thursday night. Talent Show on April 28, to benefit Habitat for Humanity, was very successful. Looking forward to a “normal” Night in Hand. Graduation is set – no more rescheduling due to snow!

### **4. Superintendent's Report** Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

Mr. Salutari announced the recipients of the CAPSS Student Achievement Award – Kathryn Beiner & Darian McMahon and the recipients of the CABA Student Leadership Awards – Kelly Fay & Charles McIntyre and read the biographies of each of the students. Mrs. Hart

announced the recipients of the CABE Student Leadership Award – Grace Ackerman and Christopher Lee and read their biographies.

Dr. Cooke spoke to Teacher Appreciation Week (last week), stating how impressed he is with the many celebrations that occur during the week throughout the district. Mike Ginsburg, MEA President and STEAM/Instructional Technology Specialist was in attendance along with Erin Smith, Brown 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and MEA Secretary. Mr. Ginsburg noted the appropriateness of tonight's meeting and thanked the board for their support on behalf of all teachers. Also in the audience was Stephanie Lesnik, Nurse Supervisor who began in the district just prior to COVID. Stephanie noted it has been a challenging two years, but working with 6 other amazing nurses have made it an easy position to step into. Thank you for your children and for the great staff.

#### 5. Board Members' Comments

Chair Klaskin spoke, congratulating the students attending this evening, as well as the parents who have raised them. Chair Klaskin also expressed appreciation for the school nurses and teachers. As Mary Ann Connelly, our board member and retired school nurse has pointed out, the nature of the school nursing job has changed and expanded over the years. It's amazing how much responsibility they have and our nurses do it so well that with smiles and with compassion for our students. Thank you so much for all of your dedication and hard work in support of our kids, especially over these last couple of years. Thank you as well to our teachers. Madison is classified as a high performing district and that is not attainable without your devotion and constant pursuit for improvement. Our teachers do not accept the mediocrity, and have worked through very difficult circumstances. These past couple of years COVID has uprooted your methods and raised curriculum challenges. Yet you also have reported dutifully and have discharged your teaching skills in a way that kept our students ahead of the curve as they've returned to from the world of remote learning. You represent a huge credit to your profession, and we value your contributions to the betterment of our town. My mom was a teacher for many years. and I'm reminded daily of all the ways that many of my teachers have positively influenced my life. At this time, when teachers are leaving the profession. I would like to personally thank you all, and reaffirm that your work is very important.

#### 6. Audience Response to Information Presented (Ref. Bylaw #9540.10) - None

#### 7. Board of Selectmen Liaison Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy reported the Board of Selectmen met this morning. Budget referendum is coming up on May 17; please promote voting. Budget increase overall is 3.34%, with an estimated tax increase of 1.63%. School Building Committee meetings have begun with a second meeting scheduled for tonight. Academy Building Committee will begin meeting mid-June. Island Avenue School – Planning & Zoning issue related to portables is solved. Closing date is mid-May. Town Charter – Joe MacDougald, Chair and team members presented with a number of changes for consideration. Short-term rentals discussed – presentation given by Town Planner with a good deal of public comment.

8. Consent Agenda (Ref. Bylaw #9540.2 and #9540.8)

8.1. Line Item Transfers as of May 10, 2022

8.2. Budget Expenditures as of May 6, 2022

9. Action Item: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Miller to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

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

10.1. Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Steve Pynn, Chair; Catherine Miller, Jen Gordon

Mr. Pynn reported the committee met this evening and was given two presentations. Mike Ginsburg gave a presentation on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) modules for grades four and five, for which Board approval is requested. Each grade contains two modules that develop knowledge and skills in designing small robots as well as proficiency in working with art programs on iPads. The units support student centered creative projects that encourage design thinking and self-expression. As the units progress the students get exposure to design thinking, elementary coding, teamwork, digital art and can begin to see science principles in play such as friction. The units are highly motivating to students and help teach them that there is often more than one way to reaching an outcome.

The committee board members had numerous comments in support of this program and its contribution to 21st century skills and Profile of a Graduate.

The second presentation was given by Leah Stillman, Performing Arts Coordinator, who discussed how performing arts fit in the curriculum and the role of the arts in supporting the Profile of a Graduate. Creative and critical thinking were highlighted as well as collaboration and communication skills. Ms. Stillman shared that she had met with student focus groups at all levels to determine what was important to them in music and theater programs and what they would like to see. Ms. Stillman spoke to the need for careful vertical alignment of course offerings so that students had a guaranteed curriculum and didn't ever find themselves repeating what had been offered in previous classes.

Board member comments included the value of the arts and music for students in relation to social and emotional learning at this particularly stressful time for many students. In addition to the contribution of the performing arts to supporting other curricular areas it

was underscored that it also brings joy to learning which is very much a part of the districts mission.

#### 10.2. Facilities Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal, Chair, Steven Pynn, Galen Cawley

Mrs. Rosenthal reported the committee met this evening and was provided an update on the new school. The Building Committee has been appointed and has met twice to-date. Eleven firms have responded to the RFQ for architecture and engineering services, with eight proceeding for review next week and four for final selection in early June. The committee is particularly interested in renewable energy and is looking into regulatory and permitting issues. Tomorrow (May 11) is the closing on the new school property.

Justin Hopkins and Kathryn Mease from Tecton Architects joined by Zoom and provided updates regarding the Brown School improvements. They introduced the team and shared the milestone schedule and GANTT chart. Digital scans were conducted during the school break and key design considerations were reviewed. Next update will take place at the June 7 Facilities Committee meeting.

Polson and Brown improvements – working toward completion the beginning of fall. Mr. McMinn is working closely with Colliers regarding the best way to proceed with the Polson HVAC project.

The RFP will go out this Thursday regarding the EV charging locations. There will be 13 locations in town, with 3 at the schools – Brown upper and lower lots, Polson and Hand underneath the solar panels. Some of the 13 locations will not be accessible to the public, all will be funded through the town.

Mr. McMinn reviewed the summer work that is scheduled to occur.

#### 10.3. Finance Committee

Members: Galen Cawley, Chair, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Emily Rosenthal

The committee has not met; next meeting is June 7.

#### 10.4. Personnel Committee

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

Chair Klaskin reported in Maureen Lewis' absence. MAESS negotiations are ongoing.

#### 10.5. Policy Committee

Members: Diane Infantine-Vyce, Chair; Maureen Lewis, Jen Gordon

The committee has not met; next meeting scheduled for May 24.

#### 10.6. LEARN Liaison

Mary Ann Connelly

No report.

10.7. Town American Rescue Plan Funding Committee  
Emily Rosenthal

No report. The committee is meeting this Thursday.

10.8. Town Marijuana Advisory Committee  
Mary Ann Connelly

No report.

11. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2022 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Gordon, seconded by Connelly to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2022 Board of Education meeting as amended.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

12. Old Business

13. Future Agenda Items

14. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

15. Adjournment

MOTION: by Gordon, seconded by Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

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 Paula Carabetta at 203-245-5644 or by email to [carabettap@madisonct.org](mailto:carabettap@madisonct.org) at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.