

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
April 26, 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, Maureen Lewis, Mary Ann Connelly Jen Gordon, Cathy Miller.

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent.

2. Action Item: Motion to open and amend the agenda to move Item 9 (Board of Selectmen Update) to Item #2.

MOTION: by Miller, seconded by Gordon to move Item 9 to Item 2 and renumber the agenda accordingly.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Board of Selectmen Liaison
Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy reported the School Building Committee members have been selected and the committee will be chaired by Graham Curtis. Mr. Curtis was also on the Library Building Committee and has been an integral part of various other school building committees. Members are as follows:

- Diana Colcord & Sharon Shoemaker, both architects
- Woodie Weiss, who has also served on the Library Committee
- Bob Blundon, who has also served on several project committees in town
- Amanda Mitchell, attorney
- George Noewatne, Cheshire Town Engineer
- Karen Rankin & Kathy Rasmus – alternates

More than 11 RFQ responses have been received.

3. Executive Session

Action Item: Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the appointment of the District Athletic Director

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Gordon to enter into Executive Session to discuss the appointment of the District Athletic Director and invite Dr. Craig Cooke, Superintendent, Anthony Salutari, Jr., DHHS Principal, Kathryn Hart, Polson Principal, and Heather Dobson, HR Director.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

MOTION: by Cawley, seconded by Lewis to return to Regular Session

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

4. Introduction of Athletic Director

Action Item: Motion to approve the appointment of the District Athletic Director

MOTION: by Cawley, seconded by Lewis to appoint Chris Farrell as the District Athletic Director, effective July 1, 2022.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

5. School / Community Session

Matthew Guarnieri, Italian American Defense League President, addressed the Board, asking for consideration of indicating Columbus Day, as opposed to "School Holiday" on the 2022-2023 calendar.

6. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report
Isabelle Vagell and Lucy Fritzingler

Lucy reported – only 30 school days left for the year. AP testing for upper classmen and the NGSS (Science assessment) begin next Wednesday. Spring Fling, April 30 and tickets are on sale through Infinite Campus. Hands Got Talent, the fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity, takes place this Thursday at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and \$10, and canned goods are collected. Jr. Prom – May 20, Sr. Prom – June 4. Graduation June 15.

Isabelle reported this Wednesday is Wellness Wednesday and this Friday there will be a 30-minute PAW session at which time we will work on “Helping Hands” (nomination forms to commemorate students & staff who have been exceptionally engaged in the school community and helped others). We will also be working on the new Advisory Committee structure which will begin next year. This Friday is college decision day. Next week, pictures will be taken of seniors wearing merchandise from the college they will be attending.

7. Superintendent's Report
Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

Dr. Cooke and Mr. Salutari attended a CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) luncheon yesterday honoring Kathryn Beiner and Darian McMahon, two DHHS seniors who were the recipients of the award given for their leadership and service to DHHS and the community, as well as their academic achievements. Dr. Cooke noted there are many scholarship opportunities available and recognized Megan Hart, recipient of the scholarship established in the memory of Dawn Hochsprung, Sandy Hook Elementary School Principal.

COVID cases both in town and in our area were closely monitored over the break. There has been very minor impact to our district, with numbers much lower than what had been reported for our town.

Dr. Cooke spoke to the recognition of upcoming events – Administrative Assistant Day tomorrow and Teacher Appreciation the week of May 2-6. Dr. Cooke thanked his assistant, as well as all the administrative assistants in the district. Teachers will be recognized at the May 10 board meeting with union leadership present.

8. Board Members' Comments

Chair Klaskin expressed his appreciation of the many administrative assistants throughout the district as well as the board clerk. Various board members also expressed their appreciation.

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

No comments.

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

10.1. Curriculum and Student Development

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

The committee has not met. Next meeting scheduled for May 10th.

10.2. Facilities Committee

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

Mrs. Rosenthal reported the committee has not met. She did, however, provide an update. Four firms were interviewed for the Brown School Project and Tecton Architects was unanimously chosen. The committee was impressed with their presentation and recommended them to the Board of Selectmen who approved them and the proposed amount of \$289,200.

10.3. Finance Committee

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

Mr. Cawley reported the Finance Committee met today. District year end balances and spending were reviewed and Stacy Nobitz reviewed the line items. Current projected available funds are approximately \$130,000 vs. deficits of \$126,000 for a net of approximately \$4,400. More precise estimates should be available next month. The school referendum bonding process was reviewed and projected bond issuance dates and interest rates were discussed. Mrs. Nobitz noted the DHHS school debt will roll off the books during the 24/25 school year, with impact of savings realized in 25/26. Colliers is working to submit the State of CT applications by end of June 2022. Town Budget Referendum is scheduled for May 17, 2022. Polls will be open at Hand, Polson and Brown schools and those students will be in attendance remotely.

10.4. Personnel Committee

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

Mrs. Lewis reported negotiations are ongoing regarding the NAGE contract.

10.5. Policy Committee

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

The committee did not meet this evening. In Dr. Infantine-Vyce's absence, Chair Klaskin provided the following. Policies scheduled for a second reading this evening will stay on schedule and will also be voted on for adoption as follows:

- Policy #3100.3 - Petty Cash Accounts
- Policy #3130 - Money in School Buildings
- Policy & Regulation #3281 - Grants, Gifts & Bequests to the District
- Policy #4112.5 - Drug Free Schools (rescind)
- Policy #4116 - Alcohol, Tobacco & Drug Free Workplace
- Policy #5090.7 - Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco and Inhalant Use by Students
- Policy & Regulation #5141 - Fundraising Activities

Policies on tonight's Policy Committee agenda will be moved to the next Policy Committee meeting.

10.6. LEARN Liaison

Mary Ann Connelly

Mrs. Connelly reported on the April 14 meeting. Jan Perruccio, Old Saybrook Superintendent, presented and spoke how they are working their way back from COVID. The executive director

spoke about new hires & resignations and provided an update regarding the teacher residency program.

10.7. Town American Rescue Plan Funding Committee
Emily Rosenthal

The committee did not meet last week, but does meet regularly to review considerations and distribution of funds.

10.8. Town Marijuana Advisory Committee
Mary Ann Connelly

Jen Gordon attended the meeting on April 14, where a presentation was given from a Quinnipiac University law student regarding marijuana legislation. Of particular note is that edibles are not covered in this legislation. The committee discussed and took action on a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen regarding the prohibition of retail sales of commercial product and processing of cannabis and its by-products. We are recommending to the town to address this ordinance. The committee then took action to recommend to the Board of Selectmen regulations on the usage on town-owned properties and other properties and also discussed the establishment of a municipal sales tax for the products, as well as amending current regulations to include cannabis. This is similar to what we have done in the policy committee as current town policy does not address cannabis. Also recommending the Board of Selectmen take the question of sale to referendum and if it were to pass, recommending a sales tax.

11. Action Item: Motion to express the support of the Board of Education regarding the potential installation of EV charging locations at Brown, Polson & Hand

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Gordon to express the support of the Board of Education regarding the potential installation of EV charging locations at Brown, Polson & Hand
AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

12. Action Item: Motion to approve the following policies:

- #3100.3 - Petty Cash Accounts
- #3130 - Money in School Buildings
- #3281 - Grants, Gifts & Bequests to the District
- #4116 - Alcohol, Tobacco & Drug Free Workplace and rescind #4112.5 – Drug Free Schools
- #5090.7 - Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco and Inhalant Use by Students
- #5141 - Fundraising Activities

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Gordon to approve the following policies:

- #3100.3 - Petty Cash Accounts
- #3130 - Money in School Buildings

- #3281 - Grants, Gifts & Bequests to the District
 - #4116 - Alcohol, Tobacco & Drug Free Workplace and rescind #4112.5 – Drug Free Schools
 - #5090.7 - Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco and Inhalant Use by Students
 - #5141 - Fundraising Activities
- AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
 NAYS: None
 ABSTAIN: None
 MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

13. Action Item: Motion to approve trip to Canada February 17-20, 2023

MOTION: by Miller, seconded by Connelly to approve trip to Canada, February 17-20, 2023
 AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
 NAYS: None
 ABSTAIN: None
 MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

14. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2022 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Gordon, seconded by Lewis to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2022 Board of Education Meeting.
 AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
 NAYS: None
 ABSTAIN: None
 MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

15. Old Business

16. Future Agenda Items

17. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

18. Action Item: Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Teamsters Union contract and invite Dr. Cooke, Superintendent and Heather Dobson, HR Director.

MOTION: by Gordon, seconded by Lewis to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Teamsters Union Contract.
 AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
 NAYS: None
 ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

MOTION: by Gordon, seconded by Lewis to return to Regular Session

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

19. Action Item: Motion to approve Teamsters Union contract, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024

MOTION: by Miller, seconded by Lewis to approve the Teamsters Union Contract, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

20. Adjournment

MOTION: by Connelly, seconded by Gordon to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

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