

Madison Public Schools Board of
Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 29, 2022 7:30 PM

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

Subject to Approval

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order / Attendance

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

Present: Galen Cawley, Mary Ann Connelly (Zoom), Jen Gordon, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Seth Klaskin, Maureen Lewis, Steven Pynn, Emily Rosenthal.

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

2. School / Community Session – no public participation.

3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report
Lucy Fritzinger and Eli Ackerman

Eli reported that exams take place tomorrow, Thursday and Friday. Fall sports have ended and winter sports will begin (gymnastics, ice hockey, basketball, wrestling, swimming, fencing). School play is scheduled for December 8, 9 and 10 at 7 p.m. Tickets sold in advance for \$10 and at the door, \$15.

Lucy reported on upcoming concerts – Chorus on December 14 and Jazz on December 21. Pep rally scheduled for last day before break, followed by a double header of girls' and boys' basketball that night. Underclassmen currently making selections for their sr. year schedule.

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

Dr. Cooke spoke to the letter addressed to the Office of School Construction and Grants that will be cosigned with Chairman Klaskin, the intent of which is to put forward Madison Public Schools' argument about why we should be considered for the grant program in the future. It is hopeful we will receive answers from the new director by way of this letter, which we are sharing with the Boards of Selectmen and Finance and our local politicians.

Dr. Cooke also spoke to the NESDEC enrollment report which is showing an increase in enrollment and in the birth rate. It was noted this has been taken into consideration regarding the new school design.

5. Board Members' Comments

Chair Klaskin commented favorably on the CABA Convention held on November 18, noting more board members attended this year than in the past.

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

None

7. Board of Selectmen Liaison
Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy was not in attendance this evening.

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

8.1. Curriculum and Student Development

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

The committee has not met; next meeting scheduled for December 13 at 5:30 p.m.

8.2. Facilities Committee

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

The committee has not met; next meeting scheduled for December 20 at 4:30 p.m.

8.3. Finance Committee

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

Mr. Cawley reported the Finance Committee met this evening. Changes were noted to the Budget calendar; key dates include the upcoming December 7 Administration Council retreat. The proposed budget is scheduled to be distributed to the Board on December 21. A budget workshop is scheduled for January 10. Chair Klaskin proposed an agenda item to examine the potential budget impact of the Open Choice Program if it were to be implemented in 2024, 2025 or beyond. Mr. Cawley encouraged board members to submit questions / agenda items for the workshop. Dr. Cooke noted administration will list items for positions and purchases not as budget requests for the current cycle, but for possible future requests based on educational priorities and trends.

Dr. Cook also noted the additional key town dates, including the February 8 distribution of the Budget to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance, with the public hearing scheduled for February 28. Stacy Nobitz informed the board of the projected increases in fuel (app. 20%), electricity (app. 5%, mitigated by the placement of solar panels and LED lights), and health insurance (app. 9%, post-COVID catch up). A discussion ensued regarding contingency plans in the event costs continue to rise for the 23-24 cycle and beyond.

It was noted that the board has returned about \$300,000 per year to the town for the past 7 years. This led to a discussion regarding the special education reserve which is currently \$350,000. Dr. Infantine-Vyce requested trends for outplaced and special education requests. Mrs. Rosenthal would like to see the history of internal spending and in relation to our DRG. There were no public comments.

8.4. Personnel Committee

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

Maureen Lewis reported the committee has begun negotiations with the newly-formed Nurse's union.

8.5. Policy Committee

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

Dr. Infantine-Vyce reported the committee met this evening. After review of the following policies, the committee voted to waive the second reading and move them to the December 13 Board of Education meeting for rescission: #5050 School Attendance Objectives, #5050.1 Compulsory Attendance, #5050.2 Entrance Age Requirements, #5060 Registration for School, #9200 School Board Legal Status, #9220 Board Membership Elections / Appointment, #9220.1 Board Qualifications, #9220.7 Board Election Campaigns, #9240 Treasurer, #9350 Control of Funds, #9353 Bonding of Officers, #9430 Appointed Board Officials, #9540.6 Suspension of Rules of Order, and #9560 School Board Work Sessions and Retreats. The committee also discussed policies slated to be repealed and replaced: #6030 School Calendar, #7551 Naming/Renaming of Schools, #9220.2 Board Member Oath of Office, #9220.3 Board Member Resignation, #9220.5 Unexpired Term Fulfillment/Vacancies, #9325.43 Attendance at Meetings via Electronic Communications. Revisions will be made as indicated and will also be brought forth for approval to the December 13 Board meeting.

8.5.1. Policy for a First Reading, proposed for rescission

- #5070.1 - Assignment of New Students to Classes & Grade Levels

Motion to amend the agenda to create Action Item 9.1 to move Policy #5070.1, Assignment of New Students to Classes & Grade Levels, to a vote tonight.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Lewis to create Action Item 9.1 to move Policy #5070.1, Assignment of New Students to Classes & Grade Levels to a vote tonight.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Motion to waive the second reading of Policy #5070.1.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Gordon to waive the second reading of Policy #5070.1, Assignment of New Students to Classes & Grade Levels

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Dr. Infantine-Vyce also reviewed the policies on tonight's agenda scheduled for rescission as noted in Item #9 below, as well as the policies for a second reading and subsequent approval.

8.6. LEARN Liaison

Mary Ann Connelly

LEARN will be meeting on December 15.

8.7. Town American Rescue Plan Funding Committee

Emily Rosenthal

The committee has not met.

8.8. Town Marijuana Advisory Committee
Mary Ann Connelly

The committee has not met.

9. Action Item: Motion to rescind the following policies: #2250, Crisis Management; #5010, Student Policies Goals/Priority Objectives; #5020, Equal Educational Opportunity; #5030.1, Intradistrict School Attendance Areas; #5040, School Census; #5060.3, Withdrawal from School/Drop-Outs; #5070.2, Assignment of Former Home Schooled Students to Class; #5080.1, Tardiness; #5080.2.1, Attendance Records and Monitoring; #5090.1, Student Due Process Rights; #5090.1.2, Age of Majority/Emancipated Minors; #5090.1.4, Student Misconduct in Schools; #5090.3.2, Vandalism; #5090.3.3, Student Conduct on School Buses; #5090.3.6.1, Hazing; #5090.8, Weapons and Dangerous Instruments; #5100.1.2, Equal Access Act; #5120.4.2.7, Racial Harassment of Students

MOTION: by Gordon, seconded by Lewis to rescind the following policies:

#2250, Crisis Management;
#5010, Student Policies Goals/Priority Objectives;
#5020, Equal Educational Opportunity;
#5030.1, Intradistrict School Attendance Areas;
#5040, School Census;
#5060.3, Withdrawal from School/Drop-Outs;
#5070.2, Assignment of Former Home-Schooled Students to Class;
#5080.1, Tardiness;
#5080.2.1, Attendance Records and Monitoring;
#5090.1, Student Due Process Rights;
#5090.1.2, Age of Majority/Emancipated Minors;
#5090.1.4, Student Misconduct in Schools;
#5090.3.2, Vandalism;
#5090.3.3, Student Conduct on School Buses;
#5090.3.6.1, Hazing;
#5090.8, Weapons and Dangerous Instruments;
#5100.1.2, Equal Access Act; and
#5120.4.2.7, Racial Harassment of Students.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

- 9.1 Action Item: Motion to rescind Policy #5070.1, Assignment of New Students to Classes & Grade Levels, upon waiving of second reading

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Lewis to rescind Policy #5070.1, Assignment of New Students to Classes & Grade Levels, upon waiving of second reading.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

10. Action Item: Motion to approve the following policies: #5030, Assignment of Students to Schools; #5120.4.2.1, Suicide Prevention and Intervention; #5144, Physical Restraint and Seclusion of Students and Use of Exclusionary Time Out; #5220, Improve Completion Rates of the FAFSA; #6080.23, Home Schooling; #6080.26.4, Enrollment in an Advanced Course or Program or Challenging Curriculum; #6130.2.2, Curricular Exemptions.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Lewis to approve the following policies:
#5030, Assignment of Students to Schools;
#5120.4.2.1, Suicide Prevention and Intervention;
#5144, Physical Restraint and Seclusion of Students and Use of Exclusionary Time Out;
#5220, Improve Completion Rates of the FAFSA;
#6080.23, Home Schooling;
#6080.26.4, Enrollment in an Advanced Course or Program or Challenging Curriculum; and
#6130.2.2, Curricular Exemptions.
AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

10.1. Action Item: Motion to approve Policy #6030, School Calendar.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Gordon to approve Policy #6030, School Calendar.
AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS: Lewis
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 7-1-0

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

MOTION: by Gordon, seconded by Rosenthal to approve the disposal of used books and equipment.
AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Infantine-Vyce
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0-1

12. Action Item: Motion to approve the donation of \$4,900 Scholastic Dollars to Purchase Classroom Books for Ryerson Elementary School from the Ryerson PTO

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Lewis to approve the donation of \$4,900 Scholastic Dollars to purchase Classroom Books for Ryerson Elementary School from the Ryerson PTO.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Infantine-Vyce,
Klaskin, Lewis, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

13. Action Item: Motion to approve Printmaking Curriculum

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Gordon to approve the
Printmaking Curriculum.
AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Infantine-Vyce,
Klaskin, Lewis, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

14. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes as amended of the November 15, 2022 Board of
Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Gordon to
approve the minutes of the November 15, 2022 Board of
Education Meeting.
AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Infantine-Vyce,
Klaskin, Lewis, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

15. Future Agenda Items

16. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

17. Adjournment

MOTION: by Gordon, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to
adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m.
AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Infantine-Vyce,
Klaskin, Lewis, 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 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.