

## **SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

**Madison Public Schools  
Board of Education Regular Meeting  
April 06, 2021  
7:30 PM  
Remote**

### **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 Galen Cawley at 7:32 p.m. Mr. Cawley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Galen Cawley, Greg DeSantis, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Happy Marino, Cathy Miller, Violet McNerney, Tom Pellegrino, Emily Rosenthal, Katie Stein.

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Liz Battaglia, Sped Director, Heather Dobson, Human Resource Director, Stacy Nobitz, Finance Director, Art Sickler, Director of Administrative Services, Bill McMinn, Director of Facilities, Zoe Roos, Communications Specialist.

#### **2. School / Community Session - 7:30 p.m.**

The board welcomes and appreciates comments from the public, via email to board members, via the contact the board page on the district website or via public comment at meetings. In advance of tonight's meeting, we did receive three communications from community members, each of which were shared with the entire board as well as the administration. I will briefly report on the messages we received in advance of this meeting and then I will open up to public comment.

Mrs. Rosenthal noted two emails were received from community members, asking about end of year graduation plans and other celebrations, hoping for some of those traditions to return as much as normal as we approach the end of the school year. An email was also received from a parent concerned about school safety, as well as an email asking about guidance for quarantine. As mentioned, we do welcome public comment at our meetings, and ask that when you speak you please state your name and your address. We request that comments are limited to three minutes in length, and we'll be keeping track of the time. Please speak on one topic and it should not be expected that the board will respond. We will do our best, however, to follow up and contact you after the meeting if you prefer.

If you'd like to have your comments read, please let us know so you can go ahead and raise your hand and Wendy will call on you for any members of the public who would like to speak at this time.

##### **2.1. Public Participation - none**

#### **3. Board of Education Student Representative Report**

Isabelle Vagell and Eric Dillner

Isabelle reported on the SAT Testing day in March and the upcoming NGSS testing, for which the same schedule will be followed. Students will be divided in cohorts and sit in separate areas of the building.

Students are eagerly waiting to hear an announcement this Friday regarding Jr. Prom. Contact tracing after April break – quarantine will become 10 days, no days if you are fully vaccinated.

Eric reported the sr. class will be meeting on Friday regarding the prom and all sr. end of the year news. Spring sports has begun, mostly practicing. Saturday will begin competitions – outdoor sports allow for 2 spectators per player. Working on a way to conduct freshman orientation for incoming freshmen.

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

Dr. Cooke confirmed that once students and staff are fully vaccinated, (two weeks after their second Pfizer shot or two weeks after their one Johnson & Johnson shot) there will be no need to quarantine. At this point, only students 16-18 years old are eligible to receive their first Pfizer vaccine. Dr. Cooke also reported that the district held one of its second clinics last week with over 200 vaccinations given – another second (and final) clinic will be held this Thursday. As a result, Friday will be a distance learning date for the entire district in anticipation of possible illness. With regard to April break, we will convey to families in this week's message to follow applicable travel advisories and test upon return (although that is not a requirement).

Students and staff have done a great job at Hand, although there were a few COVID cases addressed yesterday. To reiterate, we will move to a 10-day quarantine period after break, consistent with what other towns in the shoreline area are doing. After break, we will also no longer utilize the desk shields used for our younger students, as the CDC no longer recommends their use. We will however, use them for mask breaks, snack time and lunchtime when eating in the classroom. We presently have 11% of the district in full remote, with 18% at Hand. Some families plan to be in full remote this week to ensure their plans for April break are not impacted by any quarantine.

##### **4.1. Building Project Update**

Dr. Cooke shared that a meeting occurred this past week with the State Building Commission. Updated information was provided which will be placed on the website. Draft educational specs were received today which will be shared with the Board in the near future.

##### **4.2. Mike Zuba, SLR Consulting – Enrollment Projection Discussion**

Dr. Cooke introduced Mike Zuba of SLR Consulting who gave a presentation on enrollment projections. Mr. Zuba outlined the data gathered for which the 10-year enrollment projection was based upon and spoke to the drivers - home sales & prices, geographic basis and new student hotspots. Future housing developments, enrollment history for the past 12 years (both private and public), key trends in opt outs and actual and projected births were also reviewed. Mr. Zuba provided projections based on high, medium and low recovery, but focused on enrollment at the medium level and provided projections at all three levels for the purpose of planning for the elementary schools.

##### **4.3. 2021-2022 Budget**

Stacy Nobitz reviewed the items which will comprise the \$100,000 reduction in the budget requested by the Board of Finance, all of which will be taken from grant dollars. This brings the Board of Education budget down to \$59,272,037, an increase of 1.23%:

- Building-based substitutes - \$49,000
- Madison Intervention Academy - \$30,000
- Interactive Boards - \$21,000

Dr. Cooke provided further detail of those expenses which will be covered by the grants for Year 1 (2021/2022), Year 2 (2022/2023) and Year 3 (2023/2024).

## 5. Board Member Comments

A question and answer period ensued at the end of the previous agenda item. Board members asked questions regarding the budget at the end of the previous agenda item (Dr. Cooke's report).

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

### 8.1. Line Item Transfers as of March 31, 2021

### 8.2. Budget Expenditures as of April 1, 2021

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

AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Marino, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

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

### 9.1. Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Diane Infantine-Vyce, Chair; Greg DeSantis, Catherine Miller

The committee was given a presentation at its March 23 meeting by both elementary school principals. Kelly Spooner spoke about data teams and Tier One work, showing how data teams work with specific examples from Ryerson, focusing on the easy CBM results. Students were flagged through that assessment as requiring more intervention at the tier one level, and examples were given showing how the intervention is being approached. Students met in small groups working with various professionals, teachers, coaches, interventionists and para professionals with an all hands-on deck approach this year, deploying and utilizing all resources available. Focus was on small group sessions, the frequency of meeting, and the format for the meetings. Letter sound, fluency phoneme segmentation, passage reading fluency and word reading fluency were discussed. Follow-up assessments and progress monitoring were also discussed. Becky Frost then gave a Tier Two/Tier Three case study with an example from Jeffrey. Monitoring progress and reevaluation was discussed, focusing on how the students responded to instruction, and what is what is done when they do not respond.

Gail Dahling-Hench then gave a presentation regarding the staff development consultations about professional development, including the Wilson Foundations training, the videotape zoom training from Penny Kittle, a mini-series from Dr. Ben Powers on Word Morphology, and planned math training sessions in May from Lindsay Ramos.

### 9.2. Communications Committee

Members: Tom Pellegrino, Chair; Diane Infantine-Vyce, Greg DeSantis

The Communications Committee met this evening beginning with a report from Zoe Roos, Communications Specialist, who reported on some key metrics regarding surveys. The survey response rate for two recent high school surveys was well above average with 91 and 94%, respectively. Reported open email rates from various buildings were very high – 65% from the district, 56% from Hand, and 67% from Ryerson. In general, a strong open rate is considered to be approximately 23%. Committee members commented they are very appreciative

and praiseworthy of the communications that are coming out from the buildings, administrators, as well as the district.

Zoe also reported on end of year communications about graduations, testing exams, most of which come directly from the building administrators directly, not from Central Office. With that said, Central Office does facilitate the communications and staff are available to answer any questions. Some events fall in the “to be determined” category as we are waiting further COVID regulation updates.

Dr. Cook noted a two-page budget summary for public use is currently under development and will be provided to the Board and distributed on social media. Upcoming building projects were also discussed and assuming a November referendum date, a communications timeline was discussed. Dr. Cooke is currently utilizing various meetings and events to relay information and an early September public forum was suggested. A FAQ sheet will be developed based on questions coming from the building project and what we can anticipate from our last referendum.

There was no old business, new business or public comment.

### **9.3. Facilities Committee**

Members: Emily Rosenthal, Chair, Happy Marino, Katie Stein

The committee has not met – the next meeting is April 20.

### **9.4. Finance Committee**

Members: Katie Stein, Chair, Happy Marino, Tom Pellegrino

No report.

### **9.5. Personnel Committee**

Members: Violet McNerney, Chair, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Catherine Miller

The committee has not met – there is no report.

### **9.6. Policy Committee**

Members: Happy Marino, Chair; Violet McNerney, Emily Rosenthal

The committee has not met; however, the following policies are on the agenda tonight for a third reading:

- #1380 - Sexual Offenders on School Property (formerly #2270)
- #2240 - Retention of Electronic Records and Information (formerly Education Data/Records Retention)
- #2280 - Uniform Treatment of Recruiters
- #2300 - Holds on the Destruction of Electronic Information and Paper Records
- #4119 - Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees
- #5120.4.2.5 - Procedures for Reporting Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault
- #5131.911 - Bullying Prevention and Intervention
- #5131.914 - Safe School Climate Policy

And for a first reading:

- #2000 - Administration Concept and Roles in Administration (Rescind)
- #2120 - Administration Organization Chart (Rescind)
- #2131 - Superintendent of Schools (Rescind)
- #2210 - Administrative Leeway in Absence of Board of Education Policy (Rescind)
- #2220 - Administration Representatives and Deliberative Groups (Rescind)
- #2110 – Administrative Positions (Revise)

**9.7. LEARN Liaison**  
Katie Stein

No report.

**10. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2021 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)**

MOTION: by DeSantis, seconded by Pellegrino to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2021 Board of Education meeting as amended.

AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, Marino, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: McNerney

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-1

**11. Motion to approve the revised 2021-2022 Budget**

MOTION by DeSantis, seconded by Pellegrino to approve the revised 2021-2022 Budget in the amount of \$59,272,037. This reflects a change from a 1.40% increase to a 1.23% increase.

AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Marino, McNerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: Infantine-Vyce

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-1

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

- #2240 Retention of Electronic Records and Information (formerly Education Data/Records Retention)
- #2280 Uniform Treatment of Recruiters
- #2300 Holds on the Destruction of Electronic Information and Paper Records
- #4119 Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees
- #5120.4.2.5 Procedures for Reporting Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault
- #5131.911 Bullying Prevention and Intervention
- #5131.914 Safe School Climate Policy

MOTION: by DeSantis, seconded by McNerney to approve the following policies:

- #2240 Retention of Electronic Records and Information (formerly Education Data/Records Retention)
- #2280 Uniform Treatment of Recruiters
- #2300 Holds on the Destruction of Electronic Information and Paper Records
- #4119 Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees
- #5120.4.2.5 Procedures for Reporting Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault
- #5131.911 Bullying Prevention and Intervention
- #5131.914 Safe School Climate Policy

AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, Marino, McNerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

**13. Action Item: Motion to approve Policy #1380 Sexual Offenders on School Property and rescind Policy #2270 Sex Offender Notification**

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by McNerney to approve Policy #1380 Sexual Offenders on School Property and rescind Policy #2270 Sex Offender Notification:

AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, Marino, McNerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

**14. Future Agenda Items**

**15. Meetings/Dates of Importance**

**16. Action Item: Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following:**

MOTION: by DeSantis, seconded by Pellegrino to enter into Executive Session and to invite Dr. Craig Cooke, Superintendent of Schools/

AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, Marino, McNerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

**16.1.** Discuss contract of Central Office Administrator. The Board may take action upon exiting Executive Session.

**16.2.** Discuss the contract of employment for two employees to not be renewed for the following year based upon reduction in force, upon its expiration at the end of the 2020-2021 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action.

**Return to Regular Session**

MOTION: by Stein, seconded by Pellegrino to approve a new contract for the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment to be effective July 1, 2021 through and including June 30, 2024; salary to be adjusted accordingly.

AYES: Cawley, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: Infantine-Vyce, Marino, DeSantis

ABSTAIN: McNerney

MOTION CARRIED: 5-3-1

MOTION: by DeSantis, seconded by Infantine-Vyce that the contract for employment for Danielle Wandel and Jonathan Garcia not be renewed for the following year, based upon a reduction in force, upon its expiration at the end of the 2020 – 2021 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action.

AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, Marino, McNerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None  
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

## 15. Adjournment

MOTION: by Stein, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 p.m.

AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, Marino, McNerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED:9-0

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