

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 20, 2024 7:30 PM

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

Subject to Approval

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order / Attendance

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

Present: Galen Cawley, Mary Ann Connelly, Seth Klaskin, Maureen Lewis, Christine Maisano (on Zoom), Steven Pynn, Emily Rosenthal

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Anthony Salutari Jr., Daniel Hand High School Principal

II. School / Community Session

Julia Phillips –member of Madison Youth Unplugged who shared with the Board information about the groups mission which includes making schools phone free spaces.

Lauren Carpenter-Martinez –member of Madison Youth Unplugged who shared with the Board data on the impact phones have on students’ mental and physical wellbeing.

Larry Ciotti – invited Board members to attend the upcoming Madison Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. He also asked why the District does not teach cursive writing.

III. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

- 2024-2025 School Year – Dr. Cooke welcomed staff and students back for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Summer Work – Dr. Cooke gave a report on summer construction including work at Neck River elementary, Brown school, and Polson school. He also gave an update on the HVAC project at Hand as well as minor maintenance work at Jeffrey and Ryerson elementary schools.
- Nonlapsing Reserve Fund – the State now allows school boards to maintain a nonlapsing fund to support onetime expenditures. Dr. Cooke provided the Board with a memo asking them to support the establishment of such fund.
- Cell Phones – Following up on some of the public comments, Dr. Cooke shared that the State is planning to release a model policy regarding cell phones in schools for Districts to consider modeling or adopting. Dr. Cooke said currently the District is fairly strict when it comes to cell phones in schools, especially at the high school which implemented a number of successful changes to further restrict phone use last school year. He said the District will continue to closely monitor the cell phones in schools’ debate.

- Teacher Evaluation Plan – The MPS Teacher Evaluation Plan was approved following some minor state-required adjustments. Mrs. Dahling-Hench reviewed the plan adjustments with the Board.
- Athletics Logo Presentation – Athletic Director Christopher Farrell (via a recording) and Mr. Salutari presented the final athletics logo. The presentation can be heard in full on the meeting recording on the District website.

IV. Board Members' Comments

Mrs. Rosenthal shared that the Board will conduct a self-evaluation this year and that process will begin next month. She mentioned she has attended one of the Madison Youth Unplugged meetings and was impressed with the range of parents of students of all ages that are interested in the issue.

Mr. Klaskin wished students and teachers a successful year and encouraged all Board members to attend convocation.

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

No members of the public spoke.

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

Curriculum and Student Development

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

No report.

Facilities Committee

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

Mrs. Rosenthal said the committee met earlier in the evening to review the 25-26 CIP.

Finance Committee

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

No report.

Personnel Committee

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

Mrs. Lewis reported that the Teamsters contract was recently approved.

Policy Committee

Members: Diane Infantine-Vyce, Chair; Maureen Lewis, Galen Cawley

Mr. Cawley discussed the following policies on the agenda tonight:

Policies for Rescission, Waive Second Reading:

- 0100/6010 Our Mission
- 6050 Organization of Instruction
- 6080.11 Technology and Instruction
- 6100.9 Use of Computers in Instruction
- 6100.9.1 Computers: Web Sites / Pages

- 6100.15.2 Use of Internet/Online Services

Policies for Review, First Reading:

- 5110.4 Student Discipline

Policies for Review, Waive Second Reading:

- 5113 Student Attendance: Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism

LEARN Liaison

Mary Ann Connelly

No report.

VII. Action Item: Motion to waive the second reading and rescind the following policies: 0100/6010 Our Mission, 6050 Organization of Instruction, 6080.11 Technology and Instruction, 6100.9 Use of Computers in Instruction, 6100.9.1 Computers: Websites / Pages, 6100.15.2 Use of Internet/Online Services

The action item was amended to remove policy 0100/6010 Our Mission from the list of policies for rescission.

MOTION: by Lewis, seconded by Connelly to waive the second reading and rescind the following policies: ~~0100/6010 Our Mission~~, 6050 Organization of Instruction, 6080.11 Technology and Instruction, 6100.9 Use of Computers in Instruction, 6100.9.1 Computers: Websites / Pages, 6100.15.2 Use of Internet/Online Services

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

VIII. Action Item: Motion to waive the second reading and approve policy 5113 Student Attendance: Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Cawley to waive the second reading and approve policy 5113 Student Attendance: Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

IX. Action Item: Motion to establish a Board of Education nonlapsing reserve fund, in keeping with the conditions set forth in Public Act 24-45, to support one-time educational expenditures.

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Cawley to establish a Board of Education nonlapsing reserve fund, in keeping

with the conditions set forth in Public Act 24-45, to support one-time educational expenditures.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

X. Action Item: Motion to approve the MPS Teacher Evaluation Plan as amended.

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Rosenthal to approve the MPS Teacher Evaluation Plan as amended.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

XI. Action Item: Motion to waive policy #1200 School District Logo and Mascot and accept the Athletics logo as recommended by the Athletics Logo/Branding Committee.

MOTION: by Lewis, seconded by Connelly to waive policy #1200 School District Logo and Mascot and accept the Athletics logo as recommended by the Athletics Logo/Branding Committee.

Following a discussion, the motion was amended to the following:

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Lewis to waive policy #1200 School District Logo and Mascot and accept the Athletics logo as recommended by the Athletics Logo/Branding Committee subject to discussion and to authorize the superintendent to approval the final version of the paw print logo.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

XII. Action Item: Motion to approve a donation from the Ryerson PTO to Ryerson Elementary School in the amount of \$15,630 to fund educational experiences for the 2024-2025 school year.

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Connelly to approve a donation from the Ryerson PTO to Ryerson Elementary School in the amount of \$15,630 to fund educational experiences for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

XIII. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2024 Special Board of Education meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Connelly to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2024 Special Board of Education meeting.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

XIV. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2024 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Cawley, seconded by Pynn to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2024 Board of Education Meeting.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

XV. Discuss and take possible action on Central Office Contracts and Teacher Negotiations (Discussion proposed for Executive Session)

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Lewis to enter into Executive Session to discuss Central Office Contracts and Teacher negotiations at 9:00 p.m. and invite in Superintendent of Schools Dr. Craig Cooke.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

Mrs. Maisano left the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Connelly to return to regular session at 9:21 p.m.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 6 – 0

Action Item: Motion to authorize the Superintendent to execute an amendment to an existing central office contract in keeping with the terms discussed in executive session.

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Lewis to authorize the Superintendent to execute an amendment to an existing central office contract in keeping with the terms discussed in executive session.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 6 – 0

XVI. Future Agenda Items

XVII. Adjournment

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Connelly to adjourn at 9:24 p.m.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 6 – 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.