



Madison Public Schools

10 Campus Drive
Madison, CT 06443
(203) 245-6300

TO: Madison Board of Education
FROM: Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: September 26, 2023 Board of Education Retreat

The purpose of this Memo is to summarize the activities and outcomes from the Madison Board of Education Retreat dated September 26, 2023. The objectives of the retreat included the following:

- Describe how Artificial Intelligence can impact how we learn and work in the world
- Differentiate between assessments types and the information they provide
- Determine the value + time distribution of priorities
- Discuss “the why” of the Madison approach

The intended deliverable was to examine time and money allocations for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years to help inform the budget process and align with Board of Education priorities. Chair Seth Klaskin opened the evening with context for the meeting and introduced some key components to consider for the future of Madison Public Schools. He gave direction to the Board to think about the “Madison Way” and *why* of what we do. The memo from Board Vice Chair Galen Cawley dated October 25, 2022 was reviewed by each board member as a reminder of the work valued by the Board a year ago.

Dr. Craig Cooke, Superintendent of Schools presented the methodology of the recent US News Ranking and the associated metrics using data from 2018-2019 (standardized testing 50%) and 2020-2021 (12th grade AP 40% and graduation rate 10%). The NICHE rankings came out earlier in the day and were also shared. Board member Mary Ann Connelly brought forth the NICHE report for DHHS illustrating a ranking of 15th in the State and 1st in New Haven County. Each ranking system is based on several indicators and often not done in the same manner. Some indicators and beliefs actually combat other systems resulting in a negative impact on state or national rankings (example: the belief that all students should be able to take AP classes without the constraint of recommendations or exams). The presentation of the revision of the Madison Mission Statement was vetted by several groups to date and will be formally presented to the Board of Education at a future meeting. The student belief statements are relevant when considering the future of the world of work.

Steven Pynn, Chair of the Curriculum Committee presented on AI (Artificial Intelligence) and why we need to talk about the impact of AI on our students and their future. He led the group through an examination of the potential benefits to education as well as the challenges and ethical considerations. The discussion that followed focused on the future and compelled the Board to look forward to the changing landscape of education.

After a brief break, Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent, invited Board members to examine the memo from the last retreat to conduct an “information walk”. There were 3 walls of data and information

that offered the current status of the 3 priority areas: academics, projections, and social-emotional. The group used post-it notes to individually comment on the prompts:

- *What have we accomplished?*
- *What is remaining?*
- *What have we learned?*

The post-it notes are captured in photos. The academic wall displayed data from 2022 compared to 2023 with ranking from the DRG (District Reference Group). A brief presentation on blueprints and test design gave an introduction on the Depth of Knowledge (DOK) and the Madison Performance Dashboard. Madison Board of Education members sorted sample assessments from the Madison curriculum and Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) into the four DOK levels. The teams could identify the difference in the complexity of tasks for standardized assessments versus the DOK 3 and 4 assessments in each Madison Unit. The board considered all of the information as they engaged in a discussion about the following questions: *What is at stake at this juncture? What do we think will change for students? staff? districts? To what degree do we respond to today and prepare for tomorrow?*

The last hour was a group discussion about the priorities on the horizon that involve time, money or both. Project cards were generated by the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent and there were additional blank cards for write-ins. Board members had the opportunity to write-in additional priorities as well.

The discussion was captured by Secretary Emily Rosenthal as the group directed where the various priorities would fall (see end of document):

- In school year 2024-2025
- In school year 2025-2026, or
- In a Parking Lot for future consideration.

The meeting concluded at 8:55 PM. Due to an error in the survey, there is an electronic link to collect the group response to the evening.



