

Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, January 23, 2024 7:30 PM

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

## **Subject to Approval**

## **Meeting Minutes**

*Video documentation of these proceedings can be found in the Meetings/Minutes section of the website.*

### I. Call to Order / Attendance

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Education was called to order by Vice Chairman Galen Cawley at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Cawley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Klaskin arrived at 7:37 p.m.

Present: Galen Cawley, Mary Ann Connelly (on Zoom), Diane Infantine-Vyce, Seth Klaskin, Maureen Lewis, Christine Maisano (on Zoom), Cathy Miller, Steven Pynn, Emily Rosenthal

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Stacy Nobitz, Director of Finance; Becky Frost, Jeffrey Elementary School Principal; members of the New Elementary School Naming Committee

### II. School / Community Session

No members of the public spoke.

### III. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

*Eli Ackerman and Brooke Anderson*

Eli reported that DHHS Alumni visited senior advisory groups to share their experiences, DHHS conferences are Jan. 24, and the Class of 2028 orientation took place recently. Brooke shared that underclassmen are currently working on their course selection, the Winter Concert is coming up along with a number of athletic events and the counseling department is hosting a career fair on Feb. 6.

### IV. Superintendent's Report

*Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.*

- Presentation: Ad-Hoc New Elementary School Naming Committee Recommendations - Committee members Amelia Marcous and Becky Frost gave a presentation highlighting the committee's work, public input received, and the committee's final three names. The names are Neck River Elementary, Marguerite P. Bowes Elementary, and Hammonasset Elementary. The board will select and vote to approve one name for the new elementary school at its meeting on Feb. 13.
- Proposed 2024-2025 Budget Discussion – Dr. Cooke shared that he and his staff had received numerous questions about the budget and responses were provided. He thanked the Finance Department and Administrative Team for their hard work on this budget. Mr. Klaskin postponed further discussion until the budget action item later in the agenda.

### V. Board Members' Comments

Dr. Infantine-Vyce reported on the ongoing work of the branding committee and offered comments on the proposed budget. Mr. Klaskin shared information about CABA's ongoing work regarding the reading waiver.

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

No members of the public spoke.

VII. Consent Agenda (Ref. Bylaw #9540.2)

- Line Item Transfers as of December 31, 2023
- Budget Expenditures as of December 31, 2023
- December Personnel Report

VIII. Action Item: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the consent agenda.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

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

Curriculum and Student Development

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

Mr. Pynn reported that the committee last met in December and received a presentation from the DHHS school counseling department on SchoolLinks and the ongoing work for the College & Career counselor.

Facilities Committee

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

No Report.

Finance Committee

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

No report.

Personnel Committee

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

No report.

Policy Committee

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

Dr. Infantine-Vyce gave a report on the following policies on the agenda for a first reading, approval, or rescission.

**Policy for Rescission, First Reading**

- 9800 School Board Member Services
- 9810 New Board Member Orientation / Handbook
- 9820 Board Member Development Opportunities
- 9830 Board Facilities and Services

**Policy for Review, First Reading**

- 5090.4.2.1 Pledge of Allegiance

**Policy for Rescission, Waive Second Reading**

- 5100.5 Student Fundraising Activities
- 5120.1 Student Insurance Coverage
- 5120.2 Reports of Accidents
- 5150 Employment
- 5160 Gifts to Employees

**Policy for Rescission, Second Reading**

- 9540.11 News Media Service at Meetings
- 9900 School Board Legislative Program
- 9910 State Legislative Program
- 5120.9.4 Bicycle and Rollerblade Use
- 5120.4.2.3 Substance Abuse Counseling

**Policy for Review, Second Reading**

- 9510 Time, Place and Notice of Meetings  
*Repeal and Replace*  
9510 Regular Board Meetings  
9520 Special Board Meetings  
9540.1 Notification of Board Meetings
- 5090.8.1 Search and Seizure
- 5090.3.1 Student Dress
- 5144.4 Physical Activity, Undirected Play and Student Discipline

LEARN Liaison

*Mary Ann Connelly*

Mrs. Connelly said the first meeting of the year focused on new members of the board and learning about what LEARN does and how it is an asset to the various member districts.

X. Action Item: Motion to approve the proposed 2024-2025 budget.

The Board discussed the budget at length. Discussions focused on one-time expenses including band uniforms, paper towels, and AP Prep Program funding. The discussion can be heard in full in the meeting recording on the District website.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Cawley to reduce the proposed budget \$15,718, eliminating additional funding for the AP Prep Program.

*\*Rollcall vote*

AYES: Cawley, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: Connelly, Maisano

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 2 – 0

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Cawley to approve the amended 2024-2025 budget of \$63,885,156, a 3.41% increase in spending.

AYES: Cawley, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: Connelly, Maisano

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 2 – 0

XI. Action Item: Motion to approve the addition of paper towels at Daniel Hand High School for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the addition of paper towels at Daniel Hand High School for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.

AYES: Cawley, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: Connelly, Maisano

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 2 – 0

XII. Action Item: Motion to waive the second reading and rescind the following policies: 5100.5 Student Fundraising Activities, 5120.1 Student Insurance Coverage, 5120.2 Reports of Accidents, 5150 Employment, 5160 Gifts to Employees

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to waive the second reading and rescind the following policies: 5100.5 Student Fundraising Activities, 5120.1 Student Insurance Coverage, 5120.2 Reports of Accidents, 5150 Employment, 5160 Gifts to Employees.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

XIII. Action Item: Motion to rescind the following policies: 9540.11 News Media Service at Meetings, 9900 School Board Legislative Program, 9910 State Legislative Program, 5120.9.4 Bicycle and Rollerblade Use, 5120.4.2.3 Substance Abuse Counseling

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Miller to rescind the following policies: 9540.11 News Media Service at Meetings, 9900 School Board Legislative Program, 9910 State Legislative Program, 5120.9.4 Bicycle and Rollerblade Use, 5120.4.2.3 Substance Abuse Counseling

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:  
MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

XIV. Action Item: Motion to approve the following policies: 9510 Time, Place and Notice of Meetings, 5090.8.1 Search and Seizure, 5090.3.1 Student Dress, 5144.4 Physical Activity, Undirected Play and Student Discipline

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Cawley to approve the following policies: 9510 Time, Place and Notice of Meetings, 5090.8.1 Search and Seizure, 5090.3.1 Student Dress, 5144.4 Physical Activity, Undirected Play and Student Discipline

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

XV. Action Item: Motion to accept a donation from the Jeffrey PTO to Jeffrey Elementary School in the amount of \$2,500 for field trips.

MOTION: by Miller, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to accept a donation from the Jeffrey PTO to Jeffrey Elementary School in the amount of \$2,500 for field trips.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

XVI. Action Item: Motion to accept a donation from Steady Photography to Jeffrey Elementary School in the amount of \$1,610.53 for student photos.

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to accept a donation from Steady Photography to Jeffrey Elementary School in the amount of \$1,610.53 for student photos.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

XVII. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2023 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2023 Board of Education Meeting

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

XVIII. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2024 Board of Education Budget Workshop (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

Mr. Klaskin requested the minutes be amended as follows:

Original text: Mr. Klaskin did not lead a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amended text: Due to weather conditions requiring most participants to participate remotely, Mr. Klaskin dispensed with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Pynn to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2024 Board of Education Budget Workshop as amended.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Maisano, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS:

ABSTAIN: Lewis

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0 – 1

XIX. Future Agenda Items

XX. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

XXI. Adjournment

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Rosenthal to adjourn at 9:12 p.m.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 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](mailto:ferranted@madisonct.org) at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.