

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
December 14, 2021
7:30 PM
Polson Library & 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

1.1. Pledge of Allegiance

The public meeting of the Madison Board of Education was called to order by Chair Seth Klaskin at 7:32 p.m. Mr. Klaskin led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Klaskin asked for a moment of silence to honor the lives lost at Sandy Hook nine years ago today.

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

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

2. School / Community Session

2.1. Public Participation

Five members of the public expressed their concerns about mask requirements and vaccinations. Comments can be heard in their entirety on the meeting recording posted on the district website.

3. Board of Education Student Representative Report

Isabelle Vagell and Lucy Fritzinger

Isabelle was not in attendance this evening. Lucy provided the following update – Trimester 1 is complete with exams taken and Trimester 2 has begun. A lot of positive energy and sense of normalcy continues, with an upcoming school wide spirit week sponsored by the student council. Student body chose the themes and every day leading up to the winter break will have a theme. Lucy spoke to the student participation this fall at sporting events and hopes to see continue into the winter, which just began this week with a boy's away hockey game at Greenwich. The chorus performance takes place December 20th and the jazz choir and ensemble bands perform on December 21st, both taking place in the cafeteria at 7:30. Masks are required to attend. At this point in the year, sr. students begin to hear back from colleges applied to and Lucy expressed the need to be supporting and respectful of our seniors during what can be a stressful time. This Friday, from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., DHHS will be hosting an American Red Cross blood drive. Anyone over the age of 16 can donate, with 16 year old students requiring a parental or guardian consent form.

4. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

Dr. Cooke outlined what his report will entail this evening.

Dr. Cooke shared how impressed he is with the generosity of our schools, community and parents during the holiday season and noted, in particular, the toy drive conducted by Faith Tremblay. Faith has coordinated a toy drive to benefit Yale New Haven Children's Hospital for the past few years in her previous town and brought the idea with her after moving to Madison last past year. She has exceeded her already very ambitious goals and with the help of radio stations and local businesses, collected 5,215 toys which were delivered today.

CIAC has gotten quite a bit of press recently with their announcement that vaccinated students do not have to wear masks during games. That has been changed to begin December 23. Dr. Cooke noted that from then until January 2 there are only a few events that will take place.

4.1. Enrollment Projections

Dr. Cooke shared enrollment projections updated from March. Demographer Mike Zumba, who originally conducted the study, has changed firms since that time and we have continued to utilize him. Dr. Cooke spoke to the various predictors of enrollment – population, birth, home sales, future developments, etc. The presentation can be viewed in its entirety on the meeting recording posted on the district website.

4.2. 2022-2023 School Year Calendar

Dr. Cooke reviewed the proposed changes to the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar which will make it ADA compliant. Colors, patterns and symbols are no longer utilized. Any date with an associated event is in bold and is referenced under Key Dates and days off are shaded in gray. The calendar reflects 182 student days and 188 teacher days, with 6 Professional Development Days (3 at the beginning of the year and 3 throughout the year). First day for students is August 29 with a tentative last day of June 12.

4.3. DHHS Graduation Date

Dr. Cooke confirmed that this year's graduation date will be June 14 with a rain date of June 15.

5. Board Member Comments

Chair Klaskin expressed his enthusiasm regarding all fundraising that had occurred at our schools this holiday season, as well as the toy drive. Thank you to all building administrators, faculty, staff, children and families who contributed.

The Board of Selectmen will be moving the School Renewal Plan, in the form presented to them which we voted on, forward to the Board of Finance for a vote on Wednesday evening. If passed, we anticipate a referendum date of February at, 2022.

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

One member of the public voiced concerns about both the physical and mental health of students having to wear masks. Comments can be heard in their entirety on the meeting recording posted on the district website.

7. Board of Selectmen Liaison

Scott Murphy

No report – Mr. Murphy was not in attendance.

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

8.1. Line Item Transfers as of December 14, 2021

8.2. Budget Expenditures as of December 10, 2021

9. Action Item: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

MOTION: By Rosenthal, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

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

10.1. Curriculum and Student Development

Steve Pynn, Chair; Catherine Miller, Jen Gordon

No report – the committee has not met. Next meeting January 4.

10.2. Facilities Committee

Emily Rosenthal, Chair, Steven Pynn, Galen Cawley

Mrs. Rosenthal reported that Mr. McMinn presented a PowerPoint overview of current projects:

- ADA compliance and security enhancements
- Brown entry and enhanced courtyard space, bollards along roadway and sidewalk
- Polson courtyard
- Add on to original plan if funding permits: Carpet, lighting, wall treatments in the main Polson hallway.

Mr. McMinn also gave a general facilities update which included carport status, high school rooftop, short- and long-term plan for other units, radon testing, preliminary research into energy savings.

10.3. Finance Committee

Galen Cawley, Chair; Diane Infantine-Vyce, Emily Rosenthal

Mr. Cawley reported the committee met this evening and discussed the 2022/2023 budget in the amount of \$60,290,416, representing a 1.72% increase over the prior year, 1.32% of which is contractually-obligated. Ms. Nobitz spoke to the recommended budget's scope, process and supporting details. Ms. Dobson, Ms. Dahling-Hench, Ms. Battaglia, Mr. McMinn each explained requests for their respective departments. Dr. Cooke reviewed the status of the ESSER II and ARP grants, comparing actual vs. projected expenditures. Further discussion ensued.

10.4. Personnel Committee

Maureen Lewis, Chair; Catherine Miller, Mary Ann Connelly

No report – the committee has not met.

10.5. Policy Committee

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

Dr. Infantine-Vyce reported the committee met this evening. The committee discussed the review schedule established by previous policy chairs, noting we are behind in this review process. Series 3000, 4000 and 5000 need to be completed in order to maintain the schedule. In order to move quickly, the committee will be looking to revise the 9000 series bylaws that restrict the adoption process. Minor changes to the following policies were reviewed and a motion was unanimously approved for each to waive the 1st and 2nd readings and move to the next Board meeting for a 3rd reading:

#1361: Visitors to Schools

#5110.4: Student Discipline

#9450: Board Committees

For rescission, motion unanimously approved to waive 1st and 2nd readings:

- #3020.2: Fiscal Year
- #3150: Medical Reimbursement for Special Education Students
- #3250: Materials/Service Fees, Charges
- #3526: Energy Conservation
- #3541.1: Student Transportation Services Contractor & Equipment
- #3541.2: Student Transportation Services – Drivers

- #4000: Concepts and Roles in Personnel
- #4030: Employee's Leave of Absence
- #4031: Professional Development Days: Teacher Requested
- #4031.1: Professional Development
- #4060: Evaluation/Supervision
- #4111: Recruitment/Selection
- #4112.1: Certification
- #4112.2: Health Examinations
- #4112.4: Orientation

10.6. LEARN Liaison

Mary Ann Connelly

Mrs. Connelly reported LEARN met on December 9 and was given a presentation by Superintendent Ian Neviaser. Key points follow:

- Regional school with 1,300 students and 365 staff, did not close for COVID and have experienced no major issues. Students are allowed to attend LEARN and pay monthly tuition. \$44M to renovate 4 schools.
- February vacation was discussed. Having the entire week off helps to keep infection rates in school down. Discussion ensued on having school calendars the same in all districts.
- ECHMC – insurance that has saved 14-20% in health benefit expenses. Discussion followed regarding the benefits of regional schools, magnet schools and the budget increase in expenditures that is anticipated.

- The Teacher Diversity Program as discussed – districts are active in this and the positive outcome of the program.
- CT Oil Purchasing Consortium: business officers have completed a roll out program that will be available to all districts/municipalities at a reduced price.
- A finger print scanner will be forthcoming from the state. The Police Department will no longer need to provide this service.
- A brief discussion on the mental health needs of the students will be continued at our next meeting.

11. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2021 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: By Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Cawley to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2021 Board of Education meeting.
 AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Infantine-Vyce, Pynn, Rosenthal
 NAYS: None
 ABSTAIN: None
 MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

12. Action Item: Motion to approve the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar

MOTION: By Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Gordon to approve the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar.
 AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Infantine-Vyce, Pynn, Rosenthal
 NAYS: None
 ABSTAIN: None
 MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

13. Action Item: Motion to approve the donation of \$1,726 from the Jeffrey PTO to the Jeffrey School to purchase typing club for grade 3 team and flashlights for flashlight reading

MOTION: By Lewis, seconded by Gordon to approve the donation of \$1,726 from the Jeffrey PTO to the Jeffrey School to purchase typing club for grade 3 team and flashlights for flashlight reading.
 AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Infantine-Vyce, Pynn, Rosenthal
 NAYS: None
 ABSTAIN: None
 MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

14. Future Agenda Items

15. Meetings/Dates of Importance

16. Adjournment

MOTION: By Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Gordon to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Infantine-Vyce, 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's ADA/Human Resources Director Debra Milardo at 203-245-5603 or by email to milardod@madisonct.org at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.