

## **SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

**Madison Public Schools  
Board of Education Regular Meeting  
May 24, 2022  
7:30 PM  
Hammonasset Room and Zoom**

### **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 Seth Klaskin at 7:36 p.m. Mr. Klaskin led the Pledge of Allegiance and recognized a moment of silence for the victims of the Uvalde, Texas shooting.

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

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

#### 2. School / Community Session

No public comment

#### 3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report Isabelle Vagell and Lucy Fritzing

Lucy reported on the Jr. prom held at Woodwinds in Branford last week, noting 100% of the people who signed up were in attendance. UConn exams are ongoing – AP Calculus is finished, AP Physics starting next week and AP Chemistry occurred today and will go into tomorrow. All are 1.5 hour exams that will count toward college credit. National Honor Society Induction this Thursday on the bridge. Chorus concert tomorrow evening. Best of luck to the sports teams moving to the SCC finals.

Isabelle reported boy's tennis won the SCC this evening for the fourth consecutive year. A 1-hour Wellness Wednesday is scheduled for tomorrow. The Band will be participating in the Memorial Day parade on Monday. June 1 – a pre-prom assembly, then off to Six Flags. Next Thursday – Sr. Award ceremony, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation on June 3 and then the Sr. Prom on June 4 at Cascades.

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

Dr. Cooke spoke to year-end events – exams at Hand, National Honor Society Induction next Thursday (May 26); Awards Night, June 2; Graduation, June 14; Polson Promotion Ceremony June 16. In the process of filling teacher vacancies due to one-year contract positions, retirements and resignations. Eight positions open, 7 have been filled. Expect to have a one-year contract with Chartwells soon. May need to increase lunch items due to the increase in food costs. Note June 21 is a regular Board meeting, not a workshop.

Connecticut School Accountability Report – Gail Dahling-Hench gave a Power Point presentation which can be viewed in its entirety on the recording posted on the district website.

Educational Specifications Update – Ed Specs have been revised due to increased enrollment projections from 601 to 640 students. We are able to adjust the State application and are requesting 4 additional classrooms – one each in Grades 1 and 2 and Grades 3 and 5.

A discussion ensued with regard to the specifications being more qualitative as opposed to just basic facts.

5. Board Members' Comments

No comments.

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

No comments.

7. Board of Selectmen Liaison  
Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy was not in attendance this evening

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

8.1. Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Steve Pynn, Chair; Catherine Miller, Jen Gordon

No report – the committee has not met. Next meeting is June 7, 5:30 p.m. in the Hand Library.

8.2. Facilities Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal, Chair, Steven Pynn, Galen Cawley

No report – the committee has not met. Next meeting June 7 at 4:30 p.m. in the Hand Library.

### 8.3. Finance Committee

Members: Galen Cawley, Chair, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Emily Rosenthal

The Finance Committee met this evening and discussed the results of the budget referendum, year-end funds, end of year line item transfers and funds to be returned to the town. Mr. Cawley expressed his gratitude to the voters, the PTO's, the administration and volunteers who helped with the successful passing of the budget referendum for both the town and the district. It was noted that in the future, schools will remain open on voting day.

Stacy Nobitz provided an update to the end of year funds and line item transfers and Mr. Cawley summarized the handout provided, which will be brought to a vote at the June 7 Board of Education meeting. Mr. Cawley commended Mrs. Nobitz for a conservative budget, budgeting accuracy and for helping to narrow the gap between the projected and actual budget, as well as the administration managing a positive balance. A discussion ensued regarding the rationale for returning unused funds at the end of every fiscal year to the town, with a 7-year average of \$300,000, which represents ½ of 1% of the district budget. Of particular note is the district health care costs are self-funded and the fact the district does not depend on the State's Educational Cost Sharing revenue of approximately \$400,000 (which goes to the Town). Additionally, we have built a special education reserve fund of approximately \$350,000 which is never used to offset the budget and is solely intended for emergency use.

### 8.4. Personnel Committee

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

Maureen Lewis reported MAESS negotiations are ongoing.

### 8.5. Policy Committee

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

The committee met this evening. Dr. Infantine-Vyce reported that not all policies on the agenda will be moved forward as further review and discussion is necessary and due to the lack of time to review during the meeting. Policies which were reviewed will go to the June 7 Board of Education meeting for a first reading and those not reviewed will return to the next Policy Committee meeting scheduled for June 21.

### 8.6. LEARN Liaison

Mary Ann Connelly

LEARN met last Thursday and reviewed their budget, discussed new hires in the magnet schools and spoke to changes in the food services policies. Additionally, new officers were presented.

### 8.7. Town American Rescue Plan Funding Committee

Emily Rosenthal

Mrs. Rosenthal reported the committee met last week and is planning a Public Forum scheduled for June 8, location TBD. Available funds and the application process will be reviewed. The committee will continue reviewing proposals as they are received.

8.8. Town Marijuana Advisory Committee  
Mary Ann Connelly

The committee has not met.

9. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2022 Board of Education Meeting  
(Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Gordon, seconded by Connelly to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2022 Board of Education Meeting as amended.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Infantine-Vyce, Lewis

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0-2

10. Action Item: Motion to approve the STEAM Curriculum modules for Grades 4 and 5

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Gordon to approve the STEAM curriculum modules for Grades 4 and 5.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

11. Action Item: Motion to approve the Educational Specifications dated May 11, 2022

MOTION: by Cawley, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the Educational Specifications dated May 11, 2022.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

12. Old Business

13. Future Agenda Items

14. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

15. Evaluation of the Superintendent (discussion proposed for Executive Session)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Lewis to enter into Executive Session to discuss the evaluation of the Superintendent and to invite Dr. Craig Cooke to attend.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Gordon to exit Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

16. Adjournment

MOTION: by Lewis, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, 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 Paula Carabetta at 203-245-5644 or by email to [carabettap@madisonct.org](mailto:carabettap@madisonct.org) at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.