

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
February 8, 2022
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

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.

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

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent. By Zoom: Kathryn Hart, Polson Principal; Martha Curran, Polson Assistant-Principal; Frank Henderson, Brown Principal; Kelly Spooner, Ryerson Principal.

2. School / Community Session

Numerous members of the public expressed their concerns regarding the current mask mandates. Comments in their entirety can be heard on the recording of the meeting posted on the website.

3. Board of Education Student Representative Report Isabelle Vagell and Lucy Fritzinger

Students not in attendance tonight. No report.

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

COVID Update

Dr. Cooke thanked teachers and staff for their hard work and dedication during these challenging times. He shared that while Gov. Lamont has indicated that he would like to see the mask mandate extended until Feb. 28, districts are still waiting for the CT legislature to debate the issue. It is the legislature that will now determine when the mandate will end and masking will be turned over to local control. Dr. Cooke shared that while we wait for final guidance from the legislature district officials are having meetings on a local level to discuss what masking might look like in our schools once the decision is ours to make. Dr. Cooke also shared the following important facts about the upcoming expiration of the mandate:

- Wearing masks on school buses is a federal order by the CDC and will continue after Feb. 28 unless the CDC takes action.

- If we go to mask optional there is always a chance we will have to revert back to full masking if there is a community need due to an outbreak.
- The CIAC is currently petitioning for an early removal of masks for athletes in active competition.

Dr. Cooke thanked the community for doing their part to get us to a point where officials can consider going mask optional including getting vaccinated, wearing masks in schools and generally making smart decisions for themselves and their families. The administration hopes to share a decision on mandatory masking in schools with the community very soon.

2022-2023 Budget Update

Dr. Cooke reviewed the budget schedule, noting the budget has been submitted to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance and will formally be presented on February 16.

5. Board Member Comments - None
6. Audience Response to Information Presented (Ref. Bylaw #9540.10)

Additional public comments regarding the current mask mandates can be heard on the recording of the meeting posted on the website.

7. Board of Selectmen Liaison
Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy was not in attendance this evening. No report.

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

8.1. Line Item Transfers - None

8.2. Budget Expenditures as of February 3, 2022

9. Action Item: Motion to approve Consent Agenda

MOTION: By Rosenthal, seconded by Miller to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

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

10.1. Curriculum and Student Development

Mr. Pynn reported the committee met this evening and were given multiple presentations:

- Mrs. Dahling-Hench presented the results of the winter administration of the easy CBM which indicates good progress, particularly in the second grade. Math is consistently high, raising questions as to the reliability of the Math portion of the test. Mrs. Dahling-Hench spoke to the comprehensive framework for tracking individual students and groups and then the work of data teams, grade level teams and individual teachers in adjusting instruction and interventions in response to assessment data. Board members praised the work of the teachers during these

challenging times in maintaining continued growth. Social Emotional Learning assessments are delayed due to state level difficulties in implementing training contracts. Some staff trained others waiting training.

- Library Coordinator Dawn Fiorelli gave a presentation which spoke to library collection choices and the managing of information in coteaching with language arts and social studies as well as discreet lessons in the library media centers. Interest in printed materials remains high among our young people with 38,000 books circulated this year.
- A brief presentation was given regarding a trip to Greece that had been approved but postponed due to COVID and proposed for April of 2023.

10.2. Facilities Committee

Mrs. Rosenthal reported the committee met this evening. Bill McMinn, Facilities Director, spoke about EV car charging stations and his recent meeting with the Board of Selectmen regarding a grant program to help cover the cost of the stations. Project would be funded by the Town with the grant covering ½ the equipment cost and 100% of the infrastructure costs. The Town is considering Polson, Hand and possibly Brown as EV charging sites. The Board of Education would give permission to the Town to use the school sites with work occurring over the summer/early fall. Universal chargers would be installed with a fee incurred for anyone that utilizes them (a maximum of 4 hours). An outside firm would handle the billing.

Mr. McMinn also gave a general update, updating the committee on the Polson and Brown entrances. Contracts have been awarded and meetings have begun. Jeffrey and the TCLC recently experienced roof leaks. Students were relocated when needed and the roofs are being patched and repaired.

10.3. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has not met. Next meeting is scheduled for February 23.

10.4. Personnel Committee

Maureen Lewis reported the Personnel Committee met on Tuesday, January 25 to discuss the process dates and times for the MAESS Teamsters negotiations.

10.5. Policy Committee

The committee has not met; however, Dr. Infantine-Vyce reported on the policies scheduled for a first reading:

- Bylaw #9600: Formulation, Adoption, Amendment or Deletion of Bylaws and Policies
- Bylaw #9640 - Formulation, Adoption, Amendment or Deletion of Administrative Regulations
- Bylaw #9660 - Suspension of Policies, Bylaws or Administrative Regulations

The committee is proposing to change the current three readings for policy and bylaw approval to two readings. Of particular note is bylaw proposals for amendment would originate from the Policy Committee, whereas policy changes can originate from the superintendent OR the Policy Committee. Emergency changes can continue to come from the superintendent. Additionally, we are keeping the ability to waive a first reading, as we are changing the required number of readings to two.

Policies noted in the motion below have been recommended by Shipman & Goodwin to be rescinded and the committee is asking the Board to waive the first and second readings and take action tonight.

10.6. LEARN Liaison

Mary Ann Connelly

No report – LEARN has not met.

11. Action Item: Motion to waive the 1st and 2nd readings of the following policies proposed for rescission:

- #3440: Inventories
- #3543: Employees Self-Funding Health Insurance Plan
- #4122.6: Personnel Records
- #4114: Transfer/Reassignment
- #4115.1: Evaluation of Certified Staff
- #4117.1: Retirement
- #4117.3: Personnel Reduction
- #4117.4: Dismissal/Suspension
- #4118: Tenure

MOTION: By Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Miller to waive the 1st and 2nd readings of the following policies proposed for rescission:

- #3440: Inventories
- #3543: Employees Self-Funding Health Insurance Plan
- #4122.6: Personnel Records
- #4114: Transfer/Reassignment
- #4115.1: Evaluation of Certified Staff
- #4117.1: Retirement
- #4117.3: Personnel Reduction
- #4117.4: Dismissal/Suspension
- #4118: Tenure

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

12. Action Item: Motion to approve rescission of the following policies:

- #3440: Inventories
- #3543: Employees Self-Funding Health Insurance Plan
- #4122.6: Personnel Records
- #4114: Transfer/Reassignment
- #4115.1: Evaluation of Certified Staff
- #4117.1: Retirement
- #4117.3: Personnel Reduction
- #4117.4: Dismissal/Suspension
- #4118: Tenure

MOTION: By Gordon, seconded by Lewis to approve rescission of the following policies:

- #3440: Inventories
- #3543: Employees Self-Funding Health Insurance Plan
- #4122.6: Personnel Records
- #4114: Transfer/Reassignment
- #4115.1: Evaluation of Certified Staff
- #4117.1: Retirement
- #4117.3: Personnel Reduction
- #4117.4: Dismissal/Suspension
- #4118: Tenure

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

13. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2022 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: By Connelly, seconded by Miller to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2022 Board of Education meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

14. Action Item: Motion to approve trip to Greece April 6 - 14, 2023

MOTION: By Miller, seconded by Gordon to approve the trip to Greece April 6-14, 2023.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

15. Future Agenda Items

16. Meetings/Dates of Importance

17. Adjournment

MOTION: By Gordon, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m..

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

NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
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 Paula Carabetta at 203-245-5644 or by email at carabettap@madisonct.org at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.