

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
April 5, 2022
7:30 PM
Hammonasset Room and Zoom**

MEETING MINUTES

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, Steve Pynn, Maureen Lewis, Mary Ann Connelly Jen Gordon, Cathy Miller.

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

2. School / Community Session - None

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

Isabell was not in attendance this evening. Lucy reported. The Night in Hand Prom Dress event was a big success, with an excellent turnout of juniors and seniors. Spring Fling, which was cancelled in the fall, will take place on April 30. T2 exams went well and the 30-minute break which was added back into the schedule was much appreciated. Spring sports have started; boys Lacrosse is playing this evening. Congratulations to gymnastics and boys' basketball for their state championships. The Band/Orchestra/VIBE Orlando trip went well. Congratulations to the cast & crew of Rent, who just wrapped up four performances. Jr. SAT taken over the weekend (online).

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

Dr. Cooke congratulated the various winter sports teams and gave a recap:

- Gymnastics won the SEC Championship and was awarded Team of the Year
- Boys' swimming and diving – Class M finalists
- Boys' hockey advanced to the SEC Finals (finished 3rd) and State Quarter Finals (top 10 in State).
- Both boys' and girls' indoor track finished 6th in the SEC Conference
- Girls' Ice Hockey co-opt with Branford, Haddam-Killingworth, Coqinchaug, Old Lyme and Valley Regional and had a successful season
- Fencing won 2 state titles – men's Epee team and women's Saber team

Dr. Cooke expressed his appreciation to the DHHS Administration and teachers for their support of the rescheduled Homecoming from the fall, occurring just prior to two prom events.

Dr. Cooke also thanked the Polson and Brown PTO who will be hosting a presentation on April 11th at 6 p.m. entitled "Keeping You Safe Online: What Every Person Should Know".

We expect to bring the next Athletic Director to the April 26 Board of Education Meeting. We are currently finalizing the process and hope to have that person meet with the Board prior to the next meeting.

Dr. Cooke introduced members of Madison Youth and Family Services, presenting this evening.

Scott Cochran, Director; Catherine Barden, Assistant Director, Community Support and Dave Buller, MYFS Chair, were in attendance. Mr. Cochran and Ms. Barden gave a presentation, recapping the student youth survey and how the results of this survey drive their future work. Areas of strength and of concern were discussed, as well as how those areas of concern are addressed. Highlights of the year and future plans were reviewed.

The presentation can be viewed in its entirety on the recording posted on the district website.

Board members expressed their gratitude for the partnership between the Madison Public Schools and MYFS. The district is so fortunate to benefit from the programming and counseling services discussed this evening. The biennial survey is a highly anticipated, important piece of collective information that we look forward to. Mr. Cochran expressed his appreciation of the relationship with the school district and willingness of the district to support their efforts.

Paraprofessional Recognition

Tomorrow is National Paraprofessional Day and Dr. Cooke expressed his appreciation and gave thanks to our paraprofessionals who make up the second largest group of employees in the school district. Dr. Cooke noted the diverse roles they fill and how they touch the lives of all students.

Chair Klaskin also expressed his appreciation to the district paraprofessionals, noting that we rely a great deal on our rich complement of paraprofessionals to aid in the success of our educational program. They bring much to each classroom, including an obvious love for what they do. Thank you for supporting learning throughout the district and thank you especially for the extraordinary contributions over the past few years during COVID.

5. Board Member Comments

Chair Klaskin congratulated all winter sport participants – teams, coaches and student athletes for their commitment and dedication, as well as their accomplishments.

Chair Klaskin also shared information regarding a joint initiative of the Executive Committee, Finance Committee and Dr. Cooke who are working together to identify and apply for State and Federal grants more aggressively. We share the Town's sense that the Madison Public Schools has not received much funding from State and Federal resources in support of its operating budgets in recent years. We also believe it is within our capacity, as well as part of our responsibility to the community, to seek funding that may be available to us this year. The district was successful, for example, in obtaining grant money for tech updates and security enhancements. These, as well as future efforts will assist with maintaining a reasonable budget(s) while moving the educational program forward.

Chair Klaskin reported he attended a seminar entitled "Let's Keep it Civil – How to Lead Public Meetings in Contentious Times", which was co-sponsored by the Connecticut Conference on Municipalities and CABE. Key takeaway is that we need to prepare for meetings by monitoring social media and implementing police presence. If prudent, we should allow attendees to express themselves to the extent they behave appropriately, utilize a meeting recess, (if necessary) and make sure we utilize public comment.

April is Autism Awareness month. Chair Klaskin recognized the special challenges faced by autism spectrum students and thanked them and their parents and families for never giving up. We take pride in the efforts to address the unique challenges these students face as cherished members of our school community.

6. Audience Response to Information Presented (Ref. Bylaw #9540.10) - none

7. Board of Selectmen Liaison
Scott Murphy

In Mr. Murphy's absence, Chair Klaskin provided the following report. Mr. Murphy and Bruce Wilson are leading the Building Committee interviews for Academy and the school building. The School Building Committee charge was passed unanimously today by the Board of Selectman.

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

8.1. Line Item Transfers - None

8.2. Budget Expenditures as of March 31, 2022

9. Action Item: Motion to approve Consent Agenda

MOTION: By Gordon, seconded by Lewis 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

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

Mr. Pynn reported the committee met this evening and was given two presentations. Topic of the first presentation was English Language Arts, which served as a demonstration of how the district pursues the types of goals we find in Profile of a Graduate. This was a presentation highlighting how the district carries through learning outcomes referred to as Transfer Goals throughout the grades from early elementary grades through high school. This process was walked through utilizing video presentations and student performance around such skills as developing alternate perspectives, and presenting cogent arguments. What was stressed was the ongoing process of monitoring student progress and adjusting as needed.

Topic of the second presentation was FAB LAB, presentation by Corey Rice, Dawn Fiorelli and Brian Bodner, which addressed the development of a small Fabrication Lab to promote design thinking, independent projects and collaboration and entrepreneurship. The FABLAB could support the independent studies and interdisciplinary learning bridging math, science and the arts. The lab would include 3D printers, a CNC machine, a sewing machine, digital music equipment, and animation equipment to identify just a few items.

10.2. Facilities Committee

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

Mrs. Rosenthal reported the committee met this evening and provided the following:

- She and Mr. McMinn serve on the selection committee for the Building Committee members, along with Board of Selectmen members. It is anticipated appointment of members will occur next month.
- Four firms applied to fill the role of Owner Representative which will be selected by committee and appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Interviews occurring this week.
- Currently soliciting qualifications for RFQ for the new school building. RFP for Brown went out for qualifications and pricing, six firms applied which were shared with the Facilities Committee. Four firms have been selected for interviews which will take place April 8th.
- Mr. McMinn is working with the Town Energy Committee on considering ten EV charging locations in town with four at Brown, four at Polson and up to four at DHHS. Committee voted unanimously supporting the concept, and will go the full Board for approval on April 26.
- Janssen property closing is moving along.
- Front entry work at Brown and Polson going well and on schedule.

10.3. Finance Committee

Members: Calen Cawley, Chair; Diane Infantine-Vyce, Emily Rosenthal

Mr. Cawley reported the committee has not met – next meeting scheduled for April 26th at 5:30 p.m.

10.4. Personnel Committee

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

Mrs. Lewis reported the committee met on March 29th and is currently discussing and negotiating the MAESS contract.

10.5. Policy Committee

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

Dr. Infantine-Vyce reported the committee met on March 15th and reviewed the policy notes included in tonight's packet. Scheduled for a third reading tonight and approval are:

- Bylaw #9600 – Formation, Adoption, Amendment or Deletion of Bylaws and Policies
- Bylaw #9640 – Formation, Adoption, Amendment or Deletion of Administrative Regulations
- Bylaw #9660 – Suspension of Policies, Bylaws or Administrative Regulations
- Policy #5113 – Student Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism
- Policy#5121- Chemical Health for Student Athletes
- Policy #5131.911 – Bullying Prevention and Intervention
- Policy #5131.914 – Safe School Climate

Language needs to be added to the motion to approve the bylaws to include the rescission of Bylaw #9601 with the approval of Bylaw #9600. Once this bylaw is approved, Policies 5113, 5121, 5131.911 and 5131.914, which are scheduled for a second reading, will not require a third reading and can also be approved.

Dr. Infantine-Vyce reviewed the policies for a first reading. Policy #1150 – Prohibition Against Nicotine and Cannabis Use has been referred to legal counsel as it does not address the issues of drug and alcohol use by the public. The committee would like to see all three policies related to drug and alcohol use (Policy #1150, Policy #4116 – Alcohol, Tobacco & Drug Free Workplace and Policy #5090.7) to be in accord with each other. Although Policy #4112.5 has been suggested for rescission, it will go through two readings simultaneous with the approval of Policy #4116. Policy #3100.1 – Petty Cash Accounts and #3130 – Money in School Buildings will be retained, and have been revised accordingly. Other first read policies are being revised per advice of legal counsel and/or inclusion of language per committee recommendation.

Policies proposed for rescission are at the advice of legal counsel, as the topics are covered elsewhere, by State law, or by contract.

- #4118.5 - Freedom of Speech/Expression
- #4121 - Substitute Teachers
- #4122 - Student Teachers/Internship
- #4126 – Consultant
- #4135 - Organizational Development/Employee Communications
- #4140 - Computers: Websites/Pages
- #4211.1 - Affirmative Action
- #4212.42 - Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers

10.6. LEARN Liaison

Mary Ann Connelly

Mrs. Connelly reported. Superintendent Mariana Reyes from the Regional Multicultural Magnet School presented on the work being done and the international baccalaureate school project, which the magnet schools are assisting with. The LEARN Board of Directors then spoke to the school repairs and ongoing projects, and are considering hosting a future visit to their schools.

10.7. Town American Rescue Plan Committee

Emily Rosenthal

Mrs. Rosenthal has been appointed to this committee, along with members of the public and Boards of Finance and Selectmen. The committee has begun meeting weekly to review the funding the town has received, the different categories, the submission process, etc. There will be an informational session for the public to be held at a date to be determined.

10.8. Town Marijuana Advisory Committee

Mary Ann Connelly

The Town Marijuana Advisory Committee has met twice, with the 2nd meeting being an on open meeting for attendees to ask questions. Mrs. Connelly was unable to attend the meeting, but will forward the minutes and slide presentation to the Board.

Action Item added: Motion by Lewis, seconded by Cawley to amend item 11 to read: Bylaw #9600 Formulation, Adoption, Amendment or Deletion of Bylaws and Policies and rescind Bylaw #9600.1 Policy and Bylaw Development, Revision, Discussion, Adoption and Review

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

11. Action item: Motion to approve the following policies:

- Bylaw #9600 - Formulation, Adoption, Amendment or Deletion of Bylaws and Policies and rescind Bylaw #9600.1 Policy and Bylaw Development, Revision, Discussion, Adoption and Review
- Bylaw #9640 - Formulation, Adoption, Amendment or Deletion of Administrative Regulations
- Bylaw #9660 - Suspension of Policies, Bylaws or Administrative Regulations

MOTION: By Gordon, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the following policies:

- Bylaw #9600 - Formulation, Adoption, Amendment or Deletion of Bylaws and Policies and rescind Bylaw #9600.1 Policy and Bylaw Development, Revision, Discussion, Adoption and Review
- Bylaw #9640 - Formulation, Adoption, Amendment or Deletion of Administrative Regulations
- Bylaw #9660 - Suspension of Policies, Bylaws or Administrative Regulations

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 the following policies:

- #5113 - Student Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism
- #5121 - Chemical Health for Student Athletes
- #5131.911 - Bullying Prevention and Intervention
- #5131.914 - Safe School Climate

MOTION: By Gordon, seconded by Miller to approve the following policies:

- #5113 - Student Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism
- #5121 - Chemical Health for Student Athletes
- #5131.911 - Bullying Prevention and Intervention
- #5131.914 - Safe School Climate

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

13. Action Item: Motion to waive the second reading of the following policies proposed for rescission:

- #4118.5 - Freedom of Speech/Expression
- #4121 - Substitute Teachers
- #4122 - Student Teachers/Internship
- #4126 – Consultant
- #4135 - Organizational Development/Employee Communications
- #4140 - Computers: Websites/Pages

- #4211.1 - Affirmative Action
- #4212.42 - Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers

MOTION: By Lewis, seconded by Rosenthal to waive the second reading of the following policies proposed for rescission:

- #4118.5 - Freedom of Speech/Expression
- #4121 - Substitute Teachers
- #4122 - Student Teachers/Internship
- #4126 – Consultant
- #4135 - Organizational Development/Employee Communications
- #4140 - Computers: Websites/Pages
- #4211.1 - Affirmative Action
- #4212.42 - Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers

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 rescission of the following policies:

- #4118.5 - Freedom of Speech/Expression
- #4121 - Substitute Teachers
- #4122 - Student Teachers/Internship
- #4126 – Consultant
- #4135 - Organizational Development/Employee Communications
- #4140 - Computers: Websites/Page
- #4211.1 - Affirmative Action
- #4212.42 - Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers

MOTION: By Connelly, seconded by Cawley to approve rescission of the following policies:

- #4118.5 - Freedom of Speech/Expression
- #4121 - Substitute Teachers
- #4122 - Student Teachers/Internship
- #4126 – Consultant
- #4135 - Organizational Development/Employee Communications
- #4140 - Computers: Websites/Page
- #4211.1 - Affirmative Action
- #4212.42 - Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

15. Action Item: Motion to approve the donation of \$2,000 from the Jeffrey PTO to Jeffrey Elementary School. Each grade level to receive \$500 for wish list items.

MOTION: By Miller, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the donation of \$2,000 from the Jeffrey PTO to Jeffrey Elementary School. Each grade level to receive \$500 for wish list items.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

16. Action Item: Motion to appoint Diane Infantine-Vyce as Board Parliamentarian

MOTION: By Gordon, seconded by Miller to appoint Diane Infantine-Vyce as Board Parliamentarian.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

17. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2022 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: By Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Gordon to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2022 Board of Education meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

18. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2022 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: By Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Gordon to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2022 Board of Education meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Cawley, Connelly

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0-2

19. Old Business

20. Future Agenda Items

21. Meetings/Dates of Importance – April 26, 2022 has changed from a workshop to a regular board meeting.

22. Adjournment

MOTION: By Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 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.