

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
July 06, 2021
7:30 PM
Remote and Hammonasset Room**

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 Galen Cawley at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Cawley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Galen Cawley, Greg DeSantis, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Happy Marino, Cathy Miller, Tom Pellegrino, Emily Rosenthal, Katie Stein.

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Bill McMinn, Facilities Director; Zoe Roos, Communications Specialist, several members of the public.

2. School / Community Session

2.1. Public Participation – No public comment

3. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

Dr. Cooke reported the district welcomed over 100 students to the extended school year program at Brown Intermediate School. We received notification from CABE that we have won the Bonnie R. Carney Communications Awards for the DHHS Program of Studies and the Madison Website, which will be on display at the CABE convention in November. Gail Dahling-Hench received notification today that our ESSER III Grant has been approved, making the combined amount of the ESSER II and III grants approximately \$1.2M. We are still waiting word on the School Security Grant – thank you to Bill McMinn and Art Sickle for their work on the grant application.

We have received preliminary results on the State assessments and will give a presentation in the fall once the full results are in. Current results are for students who tested in person; additional results are forthcoming for those students who tested outside of the school setting. Dr. Cooke thanked staff for arranging a comfortable environment for those students who were fully remote to come into the district to test. No State or DRG results are available as yet. Grades 7 & 8 show strong results while there are some concerns with our younger students, particularly in grade 3, and are currently planning on how to address those concerns. State science assessment (NGSS), given in grades 5, 8 and 11, show strong results, particularly in grades 8 and 11. Dr. Cooke noted the State is not using the results as part of the accountability index, but we are using it as a baseline for future work.

Dr. Cooke discussed possible referendum dates for the new elementary school project, noting the two dates for consideration are December 7 and February 15, with the February date being favored. The goal is to have the referendum done by March. Both dates would allow for the new building to be open by the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

The floor was open for discussion, full details of which can be found in the recording on the district website.

MOTION: by Marino, seconded by Infantine-Vyce - the Board of Ed recommends a referendum date of February 15, 2022 with a backup date of December 7, 2021

AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, Marino, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal

NAYS: Stein

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-1

4. Board Member Comments

5. Audience Response to Information Presented (Ref. Bylaw #9540.10) - None

6. Board of Selectmen Liaison

Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy not in attendance – no report.

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

7.1. Line Item Transfers as of July 5, 2021

7.2. Budget Expenditures as of July 2, 2021

MOTION: by DeSantis, seconded by Rosenthal to approve the consent agenda.

AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, Marino, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

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

8.1. Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Diane Infantine-Vyce, Chair; Greg DeSantis, Catherine Miller

No report.

8.2. Communications Committee

Members: Tom Pellegrino, Chair; Diane Infantine-Vyce, Greg DeSantis

No report.

8.3. Facilities Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal, Chair, Happy Marino, Katie Stein

Mr. McMinn gave an update on the CIP Plan for 2022/23, focusing on items that could potentially be moved to smooth out spikes in expenses:

- DHHS – stage lighting
- Polson – lockers, bathroom ADA update planning (both expenses have been put off for a significant amount of time)
- Brown – adding planning for parking expansion and window replacement for east wing (to get more natural light, fresh air)
- Athletics -baseball field improvements, baseball lights

The addition of a kindergarten playground at Brown was also discussed, the planning of which will be moved up one year. Total CIP for 22/23 is \$951,832. Approval of the CIP will be placed on the August 17 Board agenda.

Mr. McMinn reported the Facilities Department has selected DRA Architects for architectural services/design for front entries to Polson and Brown. Design will be finalized this fall, construction next summer, ready for September 2023. Mr. McMinn also gave an update on the carports, water damage at Hand, new custodian hire and custodian training in August, exterior door replacement at Polson and Jeffrey and the bike trail access behind Brown Intermediate School.

8.4. Finance Committee

Members: Katie Stein, Chair, Happy Marino, Tom Pellegrino

The Finance Committee has not met; however, Katie Stein provided a brief update. Stacy Nobitz has informed the Board there is an approximate balance of \$200,000 remaining in the budget; however, there could be another line item transfer before the end of July.

8.5. Personnel Committee

Members: Violet McNerney, Chair, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Catherine Miller

Chair Cawley reported in Dr. McNerney's absence. The Personnel Committee met on June 28 – teamster negotiations are ongoing and the next meeting date is to be determined.

8.6. Policy Committee

Members: Happy Marino, Chair; Violet McNerney, Emily Rosenthal

Happy Marino reported the Policy Committee met this evening to discuss a recommended policy to replace three policies in the 3000 series dealing with budgets, line item transfers, and financial records, and repealing two existing policies. The new policy includes a monthly financial update by the superintendent and required some slight adjustment before bringing to the board for a first reading.

8.7. LEARN Liaison

Katie Stein

No report.

9. Action Item: Motion to approve the disposal of used books and equipment

MOTION: by Stein, seconded by DeSantis to approve the disposal of used books.
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, Marino, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

10. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2021 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by DeSantis, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2021 Board of Education Meeting
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, Miller, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Rosenthal, Marino, Pellegrino
MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

11. Future Agenda Items

12. Meetings/Dates of Importance

13. Adjournment

MOTION: by Stein, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, Marino, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

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