

## **SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

**Madison Public Schools  
Board of Education Regular Meeting  
December 01, 2020  
7:30 PM  
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 Katie Stein at 7:32 p.m. Mrs. Stein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Galen Cawley, Greg DeSantis, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Happy Marino, Violet McNERney, Happy Marino, Tom Pellegrino, Emily Rosenthal, Katie Stein

Also present: JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Art Sickle, Director of Administrative Services, Scott Murphy, Madison Board of Selectmen, Zoe Roos, Communications Specialist.

Various members of the public via Zoom.

#### **2. School / Community Session - 7:30 p.m.**

##### **2.1. Public Participation**

None

#### **3. Board of Education Student Representative Report**

Isabelle Vagell and Eric Dillner

Isabelle reported exams begin tomorrow at Hand on a staggered basis and for only 1 hour– periods 1 and 4 are scheduled for tomorrow and periods 2 and 3 and 3 and 6 are scheduled over the following two days. Students are hopeful to return to school in person. Online learning has gotten better – students are adapting and teachers are utilizing new technology.

Eric reported Friday will be the last day of Trimester One, with a third of the year gone. Administration is currently working on a plan regarding the drop off and pick up of instructional materials and books. Sports are on hold until January 19.

Isabelle reported that students are incredibly grateful to Dr. Paddyfote, and are looking forward to welcoming Dr. Cooke. Isabelle pointed out the high school has preserved its community spirit.

#### **4. Interim Superintendent's Report**

JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Ph.D.

##### **4.1. General Update**

Dr. Paddyfote provided a review of accomplishments during her tenure with the district, detailing the following: policy work, facilities projects, administrator negotiations, donations received, and adopted curriculum. Dr. Paddyfote commended the work done over the summer by Gail Dahling-Hench and Heather Dobson, along with the 50-person task force, to reopen schools, as well as the parent mini webinars and the daily review of COVID cases with administrators. Dr. Paddyfote expressed her gratitude to the Board, administrators, teachers and all staff members.

## 5. Board Member Comments

Various board members commended and thanked Dr. Paddyfote for her expertise and patience leading the district during a very challenging time and under extraordinary circumstances.

Chair Stein reported she attended the high school PTO meeting which was well attended by 60+ people. Stephanie Lesnik spoke regarding health & wellness and the Guidance Dept. and administrative team reviewed the Portrait of a Graduate Program.

Chair Stein reported on the dedication of the Polson Gym to Dave D'Alessio which was also well attended by over 100 people and read the Proclamation dated November 23, 2020.

Chair Stein reminded the Board of the upcoming CABE conferences.

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

### 6.1. Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Galen Cawley, Chair; Greg DeSantis, Catherine Miller

Mr. Cawley reported the committee met on November 17. Preparation for the 2021-22 Program of Studies is underway, which is typically available by January so that DHHS students may choose their courses for the following school year. Mr. Salutari noted progress made by the District in complying with the new state-mandated "Portrait of a Graduate" requirement that will take affect for the Class of 2023. Mr. Cawley outlined the credit changes, noting the designations will be marked with icons in the new Program of Studies, as will any courses needed to satisfy NCAA requirements. The committee was informed of the renaming of courses. Students who demonstrate proficiency in a second language will be awarded a Seal of Biliteracy affixed to their diplomas. The exam schedule was made in consultation with teachers with the goal of maximum instructional time and flexibility. Questions regarding protocols for dealing with connectivity issues and problems with remote learning were addressed. There are no recommendations or action items to be brought forth. Next meeting is December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

### 6.2. Communications Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal Chair; Greg DeSantis

No report – the next meeting will be December 8<sup>th</sup>.

### 6.3. Facilities Committee

Members: Tom Pellegrino, Chair; Galen Cawley

Dr. Pellegrino reported the committee met on November 17. Adam Holzschuh of Colliers updated the committee on HVAC System work. Bill McMinn reported on work being done to the HVAC system at Hand & Polson and provided cost estimates. Green Skies has been chosen as the vendor for the solar carport project, with work beginning on November 25, running through July 30 with the majority of construction occurring in the summer. The meeting concluded with Bill McMinn reporting on the recurring power issues at Ryerson and Brown which were due to trees falling on power lines. Mr. McMinn will look into tree cutting and report back to the committee. Next meeting scheduled for January 5, 2021.

#### 6.4. Finance Committee

Members: Happy Marino, Chair; Galen Cawley, Tom Pellegrino

The committee has not met; however, Mrs. Marino noted significant dates. As of last Friday, the district budget should have been entered into the accounting system. Administrative discussions will occur over the next few weeks. Next meeting is scheduled for December 15.

#### 6.5. Personnel Committee

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

No report – the committee has not met.

#### 6.6. Policy Committee

Members: Greg DeSantis Chair; Violet McNerney, Emily Rosenthal

Dr. DeSantis reported there are 11 policies on tonight's agenda, with a third reading scheduled for 2 of those policies: #9410 – Board Organizational Meeting and #9420 – Board Officers, which reflects modifications made during the November 19 Board Workshop. Changes to Policy #9400 – Organization of School Board were rescinded, as the committee recommended to the Board to no longer consider the proposed changes. No comments have been received since the last meeting regarding the policies for a second reading.

#### 6.7. LEARN Liaison

Diane Infantine-Vyce

Dr. Infantine-Vyce reported LEARN met on November 12. Audio recordings of LEARN's monthly virtual meetings can be found at:

[http://www.learn.k12.ct.us/about\\_us/board\\_of\\_directors/board\\_of\\_directors\\_2020-2021\\_meetings](http://www.learn.k12.ct.us/about_us/board_of_directors/board_of_directors_2020-2021_meetings)

- Mrs. Ericson shared a letter from Chairperson Maryann Elahi of the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, presenting LEARN with a grant award of \$12,000 from the Neighbors for Neighbors fund.
- The CT Dept. of Administrative Services agreed to include 80% of the combined 2<sup>nd</sup> floor renovation and roof cost of the Ocean Ave. LEARNing Academy grant application which is to be submitted in December.
- Nat Brown will be leaving as the HR Director effective December 31<sup>st</sup> and a new HR Director has been named.
- The Friendship School Assistant Principal has resigned and an interim is currently filling the position.
- All Hazards School Security & Safety Plan is being compiled and will be ready for submission to the DEMHS on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- RESC Alliance Directors have met with Dr. Miguel Cardona to discuss Early Childhood and Special Education and continue to explore ways the RESC Alliance can support the Department of Education at the State level.
- LEARN has purchased a new software tool, "Thought Exchange" to assist districts with focus group work for engaging communities in shaping programs and learning of their concerns and priorities. LEARN can offer this tool at a reduced cost to our districts. The fee includes trained support staff to assist in creating questions to engage their communities.
- Associate Executive Director Dr. Ryan Donlon reached out to LEARN districts to assess participation interest in the Teacher Residency Program for the region. This new, innovative program focuses on diversifying staff across the region. Superintendents from Groton, Norwich, New London, East Lyme, Guilford, Ledyard and Waterford have expressed interest. LEARN will be investing \$45,000 to bring the program to the region and is asking the Governor to provide funding support to assist with the approximate \$65,000 per candidate cost.
- A roundtable discussion took place regarding the "Thought Exchange" program for which LEARN has purchased an umbrella contract so that districts can purchase the tool per number of questions.

New London has reached out and Region 17 has used the program which is currently running on their website for those who would like to preview it.

- COVID update: The Governor did not recommend closing schools. Staffing continues to be one of the most challenging issues affecting school closings.

**6.8. Board of Selectmen Liaison**  
Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy expressed his appreciation to Dr. Paddyfote for her time in the district. Mr. Murphy reported the Board of Selectmen discussed the affordable housing plan, as well as future work which needs to be done. Mr. Murphy commended the Economic Development Committee, the Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Madison with regard to decorating the downtown area. The WPCA discussed the water pollution issue downtown, as well as the sewer and septic system. Mr. Murphy read the Proclamation for Dave D'Alessio at a recent Board of Selectmen meeting and spoke this evening to the dedication of the Polson Gym and Dave D'Alessio. Welcome to Dr. Cooke!

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

No audience response.

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

**8.1. Line Item Transfers as of November 30, 2020**

**8.2. Budget Expenditure as of November 25, 2020**

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

**9. Action Item: Motion to approve Policy #9410 – Board Organizational Meeting**

MOTION: by Rosenthal to approve Policy #9410 – Board Organizational Meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

**10. Action Item: Motion to approve Policy #9420 – Board Officers**

MOTION: by McNerney to approve Policy #9420 – Board Officers.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

**11. Action Item:** Motion to approve donation of tuxedos, vests & shirts to the theater & music departments at DHHS (approximate value \$2,000)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Rosenthal to approve the donation of tuxedos, vests & shirts to the theater & music departments at DHHS (approximate value \$2,000)  
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Marino, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

**12. Action Item:** Motion to approve disposal of used equipment

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

**13. Action Item:** Motion to approve the Minutes of the November 10, 2020 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Pellegrino to approve the Minutes of the November 10, 2020 Board of Education meeting.  
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Marino, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

**14. Action Item:** Motion to approve the resignation of Katie Stein as Board of Education Chairperson

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by McNerney to approve the Resignation of Katie Stein as Board of Education Chairperson.  
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Marino, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

**15. Old Business**

**16. Future Agenda Items**

Arrival of Dr. Craig Cooke, Superintendent of Madison Public Schools

**17. Meetings/Dates of Importance**

**18. Adjournment**

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Cawley to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

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