

## **SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

**Madison Public Schools  
Board of Education Regular Meeting  
January 05, 2021  
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 Galen Cawley at 7:32 p.m. Mr. Cawley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Art Sickle, Director of Administrative Services, Liz Battaglia, Sped Director, Heather Dobson, Director of Human Resources, Bill McMinn, Facilities Director, Stacy Nobitz, Finance Director, Zoe Roos, Communications Specialist.

T. J. Salutari, DHHS Principal, Brian Bodner, DHHS Assistant Principal, Melanie Whitcher, DHHS Assistant Principal, Craig Semple, DHHS Athletic Director, Kathryn Hart, Polson Principal, Martha Curran, Polson Assistant Principal, Frank Henderson, Brown Principal, Kelly Spooner, Ryerson Principal, Julie Phelps, Jeffrey Interim Principal.

Various members of the public via Zoom.

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

##### **2.1. Recognition: DHHS Senior Scott Testori**

Dr. Cooke and the Board of Education recognized and congratulated DHHS Senior Scott Testori, recipient of the National Soccer Player of the Year Award. Scott has signed to attend and play soccer at UCONN.

##### **2.2. Public Participation - none**

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

Isabelle Vagell and Eric Dillner

Isabelle Vagell was not in attendance this evening.

Eric Dillner reported sports are expected to begin on January 19; an announcement will be made January 14 confirming that date. The fall play is currently in edit mode and a link will be sent for viewing. The chorus concert performance has been postponed and will be rescheduled sometime in January. VIBE will perform onstage and utilize the entire café. A new presenter will talk about perseverance and resilience during Wellness Wednesdays, with some sessions targeting juniors and seniors and occasionally increasing to 1 hour. The 2021-2022 school year schedule will be passed out next Monday.

Eric also spoke to the process of being chosen as a student representative to the Board of Education.

#### 4. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

Dr. Cooke reported the district has returned to in-person learning. Information was closely monitored over the break and will continue to be monitored via frequent conversations with the Town Health Department, as well as neighboring superintendents. District-wide, 18% of students have opted out of in person learning. We are working on a plan with the Town of Madison to vaccinate staff. Vaccine availability is currently delayed until sometime later in January.

##### 4.1. 2021-2022 School Year Calendar

Dr. Cooke reviewed the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar, which follows the Regional calendar.

Questions and a discussion ensued with regard to moving the April break to March with a long weekend at Easter (Good Friday, and "Easter Monday"), and a half PD day prior to that weekend. Dr. Cooke noted in his experience most public schools follow their RESC calendar and mentioned he shared the calendar with the MEA who are supportive of the April break. A suggestion was made to survey Madison parents (time allowing) and to bring the calendar back to the Policy Committee for discussion prior to the January 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

MOTION: by DeSantis, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to table the vote to approve the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

##### 4.2. DHHS Commencement Date

Dr. Cooke announced the DHHS Commencement date will be Friday, June 11, 2021. The date will be adjusted accordingly, if necessary.

##### 4.3. Water Fountains

Dr. Cooke noted the Facilities Committee received a report this evening regarding the opportunity to apply for a small grant to purchase 5 water filling stations, 2 which would be placed in Town facilities and 3 within the schools. Notification of this grant was received just prior to the Christmas break and the grant must be submitted by early next week.

##### 4.4. 2021-2022 Budget Discussion

Dr. Cooke noted the hard work that was done prior to his arrival and commended the administrative team. Dr. Cooke spoke to the budget process and referenced the areas which will be reviewed tonight, noting the overall budget increase is 1.94% over last year. Heather Dobson reviewed details of the 1.13% increase in the Personnel & Benefits operating budget. Mrs. Dahling-Hench provided information related to the request of a Math Interventionist at DHHS and Mr. Sickle provided information related to the request of a Technology Support Specialist. Stacy Nobitz noted the .38% decrease in Health Insurance and Mrs. Dahling-Hench provided supporting information relative to the .09% increase in Curriculum & Instruction. Mr. Sickle also spoke to the .39% increase in the Technology Budget and Dr. Battaglia addressed the .80% increase in Special Education. Dr. Cooke then reviewed the items that the administrative team agreed to defer.

**5. Board Member Comments - None**

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

**6.1. Curriculum and Student Development**

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

No report – the committee has not met.

**6.2. Communications Committee**

Members: Emily Rosenthal Chair; Greg DeSantis

No report – the committee has not met.

**6.3. Facilities Committee**

Members: Tom Pellegrino, Chair, Galen Cawley

Dr. Pellegrino provided a report from this evening's meeting. Mr. McMinn updated the committee on the HVAC work, school by school that has occurred over the past calendar year and is now final. Work will take place on exterior units over the summer for 2-3 weeks, with an approximate cost of \$20-\$30K. Mr. McMinn also reported on tree work planned for the right of way from Route 79 through to Brown due to the multiple power outages at Brown & Ryerson. Trees are scheduled to be removed January 11<sup>th</sup> with any disruptive work being done January 16/17. An update on the solar carport project was provided. Mr. McMinn and Dr. Cooke reported on a grant opportunity for touchless water fountain installations for the Town and the schools which, if awarded, would bring the total count in our schools to 18. The committee concluded with a CIP update. Peggy Lyons has requested that Mr. McMinn look review the prior town facilities planning document to identify a potential shelter within a school facility.

**6.4. Finance Committee**

Members: Happy Marino, Chair Galen Cawley, Tom Pellegrino

No report – the committee has not met.

**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

No report – the committee has not met.

**6.7. LEARN Liaison**

Diane Infantine-Vyce

No report.

**6.8. Board of Selectmen Liaison**

Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy is not in attendance this evening.

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

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

**8.1. Line Item Transfers - none**

**8.2. Budget Expenditure as of January 5, 2021**

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

**9. Action Item: Motion to approve the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar (*MOTION TABLED*)**

MOTION: by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to approve the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED:

**10. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2020 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)**

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Pellegrino to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2020 Board of Education meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

**11. Action Item: Designation of Standing Committee Membership (Ref. Bylaw #9450)**

**11.1. Curriculum & Student Development Committee:** Diane Infantine-Vyce, Chair, Cathy Miller, Greg DeSantis

**11.2. Communications Committee:** Tom Pellegrino, Chair, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Greg DeSantis

**11.3. Facilities Committee:** Emily Rosenthal, Chair, Happy Marino, Katie Stein

**11.4. Finance Committee:** Katie Stein, Chair, Happy Marino, Tom Pellegrino

**11.5. Personnel Committee:** Violet Mc Nerney, Chair, Cathy Miller, Diane Infantine-Vyce

**11.6. Policy Committee:** Happy Marino, Chair, Emily Rosenthal, Violet Mc Nerney

Katie Stein volunteered to be the LEARN liaison.

MOTION: by DeSantis, seconded by Stein to approve the Designation of Standing Committee members.  
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Marino, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

**12. Old Business**

**13. Future Agenda Items**

**14. Meetings/Dates of Importance**

**15. Adjourn**

MOTION: by Stein, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m.  
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Marino, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

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