

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
April 27, 2021
7:30 PM
Zoom**

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, Cathy Miller, Violet McNerney, Tom Pellegrino, Emily Rosenthal.

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Heather Dobson, Human Resource Director; Zoe Roos, Communications Specialist; Eric Dillner & Isabelle Vagell (Student Reps), Mike Ginsburg, MEA President; Leslie Lopez, Jeffrey World Language Teacher, Drew Sellitti, Ryerson Grade One Teacher.

2. Action Item: Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss two NAGE Step 3 Grievance Hearings

2.1. Remote Student Days

2.2. Job Abandonment Termination

MOTION: by McNerney, seconded by DeSantis to enter into Executive Session and to invite Dr. Craig Cooke, Superintendent of Schools, Heather Dobson, Human Resource Director, Atty. Gabe Jiran of Shipman & Goodwin and Mr. Ed Kosinski and members of the NAGE Union.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

3. School / Community Session

3.1. Public Participation - None

4. Board of Education Student Representative Report

Isabelle Vagell and Eric Dillner

Isabelle reported the Jr. Prom will be held on May 14 (outside) and tickets are currently on sale in Infinite Campus. The NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) for juniors begins tomorrow and AP tests begin next week in person and on paper. Mr. Bodner and Mrs. Hart are working on a freshman orientation plan. Grades 9, 10 and 11 will have Trimester three exams, just as we did for Trimester two.

This past Friday, the yearly senior meeting took place in the gym, socially distanced and under 15 minutes. Eric reported on the upcoming end of year festivities – May 3 is Future Plans Day where the seniors will take a photo outside dressed in their college swag. Dates were confirmed for spirit days, the picnic, senior awards, year books and Sr. Prom which will be held at Anthony’s Ocean View (not cohorted). Graduation is set for June 11. Spring sports are in full swing and there is not one sport in quarantine. Eric noted the campus is bustling after school, as if nothing has happened. Everyone is excited that Wellness Wednesday will begin again next week.

5. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

5.1. Teacher Appreciation Week

The week of May 3 is Teacher Appreciation week and Dr. Cooke began his report recognizing the teachers in Madison who have risen to the occasion and have exceeded all expectations. Dr. Cooke expressed how impressed he is with the dedication to our students as he has had the opportunity to be present in classrooms. Dr. Cooke spoke to the PTO’s and how impressed he is with their appreciation of our teachers, noting they have many recognitions planned (as well as Central Office). Mike Ginsburg, Instructional Technology Specialist and STEAM Teacher at Brown Intermediate School, as well as MEA President, Leslie Lopez, Jeffrey World Language Teacher and Drew Sellitti, Grade 1 Teacher at Ryerson are present tonight. Chairman Cawley expressed his appreciation, noting our teachers have treated our students with extraordinary care and dedication.

Mr. Ginsburg thanked the board and expressed his appreciation for their support, thanked Gail Dahling-Hench for her support and dedication, as well as Sheila Judge and Qin Qin. Mr. Ginsburg thanked the board for hiring Dr. Cooke, noting he is very supportive of the teachers. Dr. Cooke thanked Drew and Leslie for their attendance tonight and expressed his appreciation for what they do each and every day.

Dr. Cooke reported there have been a limited number of quarantines after returning from spring break and Madison numbers continue to decrease. Food services losses have decreased somewhat with all students in and an update will be given at the May 25 Finance Committee meeting. The May 18 Referendum presents some challenges. The town has asked to use Polson and with Brown also being used, the entire district will need to go fully remote that day, due to the number of adults allowed in the buildings and parking concerns.

Gail Dahling-Hench spoke to the textbook adoption request for the AP textbook, Campbell’s AP Biology, edition #9, a newer version of the current textbook. Periodically, we need to update the text in order to be compliant with AP. Special education and regular education teachers, as well as students reviewed the text and occasionally this goes out for public review, which current conditions do not allow. This text highlights some of the attributes that the students were seeking – additional resources and help preparing for the AP exam. Total cost for this adoption is \$8,062.

5.2. Building Project Update

Dr. Cooke reported we continue to investigate the land purchase and work with Colliers on education specs – more to follow.

6. Board Member Comments - none

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

8. Board of Selectmen Liaison

Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy is not in attendance this evening

9. Consent Agenda (Ref. Bylaw #9540.2 and #9540.8) – None

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

10.1. Curriculum and Student Development

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

Dr. Infantine-Vyce reported the committee met on April 20.

Heather Persson presented on the Go Formative program use at DHHS and Pamela Kendrick presented on its use at Polson. Applications and examples were given and discussed, as well as Pros and Cons. Overall Go Formative is best used in Polson and Hand, with some application at Brown. Go Formative will continue to be used next year at these levels.

Heather Persson reviewed the Math Curriculum timeline starting with Bridges in Mathematics implementation and K-12 Math Curriculum writing (2013/2014) through current spring 2021. A committee was formed to find the best math materials/program and chose Illustrative Math, a problem-based curriculum where students spend more time doing math in class, helping to build a true understanding. This is currently being used by several local districts. Lindsay Ramos from CREC will be providing PD and the curriculum will be implemented for the School Year (SY) 2021-22 in Grade 6 & 7 Math and Grade 8 Pre-Algebra and in SY 2022-23, it will be used in Grade 7 Pre-Algebra and Grade 8 Algebra. Use in the HS is being evaluated.

Principals Frank Henderson and Kathryn Hart presented on Data Teams in Grades 4-8. Data Teams, Student Support Teams and Assessments were reviewed and discussed. Focus Areas and Tiered Intervention were discussed and examples were given. Trends for SY 2020-21 at Brown and Polson were in line with the previous school year with regard to interventions given in Math and LA. Social/Emotional Support needs at Brown were also in line with the previous year, while needs at Polson have increased. Changes and adjustments were made this year to benefit all student groups. Student Performance trends will continue to be monitored and approaches to instruction and assessment will continue to be finetuned.

10.2. Communications Committee

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

The committee has not met; there is no report.

10.3. Facilities Committee

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

Educational specs and the enrollment report have been received and sent to the State for review. We are still awaiting updates on any potential land acquisition. A public forum on the building project will occur during the May 25th public board meeting. Energy efficiencies, including the use of solar panels and geothermal, were discussed. Dr. Cooke and Mr. McMinn met with Mansfield Public Schools - they are building the first net zero school in CT. Dr. Cooke and Mr. McMinn continue to meet regularly with Colliers. We are still on pace for a November 2021 referendum but could do a March 2022 referendum. Either would result in a September 2025 opening. A decision will need to be made in May on when the referendum will be held.

Mr. McMinn gave an update on summer facilities projects and Dr. Cooke noted that Fall 2021 reopening plans related to COVID will not be as extensive and time consuming as last summer. The Governor's May 18th update announced the removal of many restrictions, but schools will continue the mask policy this year, and we will look to CDC guidance for fall re-opening.

Dr. Cooke reported on our plans to apply for CT School Security Grants which are due in June. Mr. Sickle will be working closely with the town for their support and to ensure we have up to date safety plans in place with the state. We also have CIP funding that we plan to use for security measures.

Mr. McMinn presented an update on the Town Facilities Study, indicating Polson as the best choice for a town shelter, with Hand as a secondary/overflow shelter. There are significant costs associated with a town shelter - estimated costs for generators were about \$700,000 at Brown and \$1.5 million at Polson. We are

waiting for the working group to create a plan which would then be presented to the BoE for input. The BoS or BoF would ideally come up with a plan to fund this. Mr. McMinn will keep us posted.

10.4. Finance Committee

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

Tonight's meeting was cancelled; no report. Next meeting is May 25 at 5:30 p.m.

10.5. Personnel Committee

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

Dr. McNerney reported the Personnel Committee will begin negotiations with NAGE (National Association of Government Employees) shortly.

10.6. Policy Committee

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

Emily Rosenthal reported in Mrs. Marino's absence. The Policy Committee met this evening. Two guests from Daniel Hand High School, Kelly Richard and Katie Beiner gave a presentation and recommendation for a no shame dress code, as part of a civics class assignment where they surveyed and shared student voices. They compared Madison's current dress code to a model policy from Alameda California Unified School District's no shame dress code, which is not as rigid and has much less room for any discrimination. The committee will further discuss this in particular, looking at both board policy around dress code and student dress, and how the dress code is described and enforced in the Student Handbook to review this.

The committee reviewed policies that have been recommended for removal by Shipman & Goodwin which will be scheduled for first readings at the next Board meeting, as well as policies for a first reading.

10.7. LEARN Liaison

Katie Stein

Mrs. Stein is not present this evening; no report.

11. Action Item: Motion to approve Policy #5120.4.2.5 – Procedures for Reporting Child Sexual Abuse & Sexual Assault

MOTION: by DeSantis, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve Policy #5120.4.2.5 – Procedures for Reporting Child Sexual Abuse & Sexual Assault

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

12. Action Item: Motion to adopt AP Biology Textbook entitled Campbell Biology in Focus AP

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by DeSantis to adopt the AP Biology Textbook entitled Campbell Biology in Focus AP

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

**13. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2021 Board of Education Meeting
(Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)**

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by DeSantis to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2021 Board of Education meeting.
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

14. Future Agenda Items

15. Meetings/Dates of Importance

16. Adjournment

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by McNerney to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 p.m.
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

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