

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
June 22, 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 7:35 p.m. Mr. Cawley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Galen Cawley, Greg DeSantis, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Cathy Miller, Violet McNerney, Katie Stein

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Bill McMinn, Facilities Director; Stacy Nobitz, Finance Director; Zoe Roos, Communication Specialist.

2. School / Community Session

2.1. Public Participation

Comments were received from various members of the public and can be heard via the meeting recording on the district website:

Gina Consiglio
Natasha Mills
Mari Guest
Kayla Rozea
Ashley Mattioda

3. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

Dr. Cooke reported on end-of-year celebrations including graduation and the Polson Promotion Ceremony. Summer work is already in full swing— teachers and coaches have been in Central Office all week working on curriculum and building teams are hard at work on their school development plans.

3.1. Extension of Policy C-19.1 – Temporary Policies and Regulations Related to COVID-19 Pandemic

3.2. Extension of Policy C-19.4 – Mask/Face Coverings

The district continues to wait for mask guidance from the State, noting superintendents across the region are pushing the State DPH and CSDE; unfortunately, it is possible information will not be available until mid-August. In order to comply with the current mask guidance, the board is being asked to extend these two policies that were due to sunset on June 30, 2021. These policies need to be in place for ESY which begins July 6, 2021.

Language surrounding masks in the reopening plan is very fluid and the district will review and revise mask wearing policies as new guidance is made public. Dr. Cooke said he anticipates the State will offer one of three edicts: mask mandatory, mask recommended, or masks optional. While some towns in the State may have shared different language regarding masks in their individual reopening plans, all towns will have to comply with whatever mandate the State hands down.

3.3. New Logo

Dr. Cooke shared with the full board the new logo currently being considered for the District, thanking Communication Specialist Zoe Roos and Webmaster Rita Boland for their work on the logo. The logo incorporates the colors of MPS and some themes from the town. The new logo can be implemented at very little cost and will help with consistent branding across the District.

3.4. Polson / Town Shelter

Dr. Cooke reported the Madison Facilities Working Group, which is considering facilities throughout the town, approached the District and asked us to consider Polson as a location for a town shelter. A generator will be required which would power the entire building. Dr. Cooke noted this will also benefit the school and help us avoid early dismissals or closures due to power loss. Polson is ideal for a town shelter because the building is a former high school and is equipped with two gyms, shower facilities, a kitchen, and is centrally located in town. Dr. Cooke stated the administration supports this proposal.

3.5. Update on Reopening

The reopening plan has been posted on the district website and submitted to the State. Dr. Cooke said the plan is very likely to change once the District receives State guidance. He encouraged members of the community who have questions about the plan to email MPSreopening@madison.k12.ct.us

4. Board Member Comments

Diane Infantine-Vyce asked if the proposed extension of Policy C-19.4 – Mask/Face Coverings was intended just to cover summer school and if there would be an end date for the policy, stressing her desire to place an end date on the extension. A discussion ensued and Chairman Cawley said the motion to extend this policy could be amended to include an end date later on in the meeting.

Cathy Miller asked (regarding the same policy) if any language should be included about staff members working together unmasked if they are vaccinated and no students are present. A short discussion occurred regarding adding language for vaccinated staff in the policy. Chairman Cawley, after discussions with Mr. DeSantis, said the motion to extend this policy could be amended to include an end date later on in the meeting.

Gregory DeSantis said he thinks the new logo is amazing and clarified that the logo is meant to be complimentary to the athletic or paw print logo which is used for this like sports, band, etc. Dr. Cooke confirmed and shared that schools will keep their individual logos for now as well but that there would likely be changes made after a successful referendum.

Katie Stein thanked everyone who worked to make the Polson Promotion Ceremony, Graduation and Nite at Hand happen this year. She said all of the events were wonderful and enjoyed by students and families.

Diane Infantine-Vyce gave a statement regarding mask mandates: *I did want to let the public know that we hear you. We know what you're saying, we get your emails and we are listening, and on a personal level I am a big supporter of the no mask policy. So I'm just putting that out there, but I also want it to be understood that you know when this comes from the governor's office and his mandates are what we have to follow and we can disagree with it but we still have to do it. So, when we say we're waiting for guidance from the state we are literally waiting for guidance from the state, and I strongly suggest, and recommend and ask you to call and email the State Department of Education to let them know what you're thinking. And Governor Lamont office and let him know what you want, because I think that you know the more pressure you can put on the governor's office the better because that's where the mandates are coming from that we have to follow. And so I would just urge you to do that. Thank you.*

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

Additional comments were received from Natasha Mills and Cathy Agemy which can be heard via the meeting recording on the district website

6. Board of Selectmen Liaison

Scott Murphy

No report.

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

7.1. Line Item Transfers as of June 18, 2021

MOTION: by DeSantis, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the consent agenda
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, Mc Nerney, Miller, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

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

8.1. Curriculum and Student Development

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

The Committee has not met. Diane Infantine-Vyce said she expects the whole board will receive a report on test scores soon.

8.2. Communications Committee

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

No report – the committee has not met.

8.3. Facilities Committee

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

The Facilities Committee met on June 14. Bill McMinn presented the CIP draft plan for 22-23, assuming a successful referendum. The CIP is due by the end of July. The committee reviewed the projects on the CIP this year, many of which have been pushed back due to COVID. As per usual, \$75,000 is budgeted for security across all schools. Daniel Hand High School is budgeted for \$344,156 for stage lighting replacement. Polson has approximately \$227,000 for locker replacement and \$96,000 for planning for ADA updates to all Polson bathrooms. There is nothing proposed in the CIP for Brown school as of right now for 22-23. Athletics projects include design and planning work for the Polson baseball fields improvement update for \$94,000.

The proposed sum for this year's CIP budget is \$892,332, which is higher than years past due to deferred projects. Next year's CIP budget is over \$4M. The committee spent much time discussing how to better smooth out those costs and spikes over the years. There are some projects we can pull forward from future years to balance out the spikes and meet urgent needs i.e., advanced planning for the high school's HVAC design. Polson is the largest and oldest building and one item to consider is the transformation of the auxiliary gym to learning space. Brown School will also need parking expansion, due to the increase student population that will hopefully be attending there.

Mr. McMinn will look again at Brown and Polson to see what could be moved around to smooth out the budgets and will report back to the committee. Mr. McMinn also reported that work on the car ports will begin this summer. Communication with townspeople about increasing bike and pedestrian access to Brown has taken place. The Facilities Committee continues to meet and may reach out to the Board of Education to request formal representation on the committee of the Board of Ed. The Facilities Committee will meet next on July 6.

8.4. Finance Committee

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

No report – the committee meeting scheduled for 5:30 on June 22 was canceled.

8.5. Personnel Committee

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

No report – the committee has not met.

8.6. Policy Committee

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

No report – the committee has not met.

8.7. LEARN Liaison

Katie Stein

No report

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

MOTION: by Stein, seconded by Miller to approve the disposal of used books and equipment

The floor was open for discussion. Mrs. Infantine-Vyce voiced concern over voting on the disposal of equipment without first seeing an itemized list. *The motion was withdrawn by Stein. No action was taken.*

10. Action Item: Motion to amend Policy C-19.1 – Temporary Policies and Regulations Related to COVID-19 Pandemic to extend through August 20, 2021 and clarify that vaccinated adults gathering without children may be an exception to the policy.

MOTION: by DeSantis to amend Policy C-19.1 – Temporary Policies and Regulations Related to COVID-19 Pandemic to extend through August 20, 2021 and clarify that vaccinated adults gathering without children may be an exception to the policy.
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Miller, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

11. Action Item: Motion to amend Policy C-19.4 Mask / Face Coverings to extend through August 20, 2021 and clarify that vaccinated adults gathering without children may be an exception to the policy.

MOTION: by DeSantis to amend Policy C-19.4 Mask / Face Coverings to extend through August 20, 2021 and clarify that vaccinated adults gathering without children may be an exception to the policy.
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Miller, Stein
NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

12. Action Item: Motion to approve Polson Middle School as Town Shelter

MOTION: by DeSantis, second by Stein to approve the designation of Polson Middle School as a Town Shelter in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen.
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, Mc Nerney, Miller, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

13. Action Item: Motion to approve the Finance Committee Chair to authorize the closeout of the 2020-2021 school year directly with the Finance Director

MOTION: by Mc Nerney, second by Infantine-Vyce to approve the closeout of the 2020-2021 school year directly with the Finance Director
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, Mc Nerney, Miller, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

14. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2021 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Stein, second by Miller to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2021 Board of Education meeting
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, Mc Nerney, Miller, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

15. Future Agenda Items

16. Meetings/Dates of Importance

17. Action Item: Motion to enter into Executive session to discuss Superintendent's Contract and Assistant Superintendent's Contract Addendum

MOTION: by Stein, second by Mc Nerney to enter into Executive Session to discuss the

Superintendent's Contract and the Assistant Superintendent's Contract Addendum.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Return to Public Session

18. Discussion and Possible Action: Superintendent's Contract

MOTION: by Stein, second by Infantine-Vyce to extend the Superintendent's contract to July 1, 2021 through June 20, 2024

AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, Miller, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

19. Discussion and Possible Action: Assistant Superintendent's Contract Addendum

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, second by Miller to approve the payout of 10 vacation days to the Assistant Superintendent

AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, Miller, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

20. Adjournment

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Stein to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, Miller, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

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