

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
March 1, 2022
7:30 PM
Polson Library & Remote**

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order / Attendance

The public meeting of the Madison Board of Education was called to order by Chair Seth Klaskin at 7:32 p.m. Mr. Klaskin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Seth Klaskin, Galen Cawley, Emily Rosenthal, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Steve Pynn, Maureen Lewis, Mary Ann Connelly, Jen Gordon, Cathy Miller.

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent, Bill McMinn, Facilities Director.

2. School / Community Session

No members of the public were physically present or online.

3. Board of Education Student Representative Report
Isabelle Vagell and Lucy Fritzinger

Lucy reported tonight. The mask mandate was lifted yesterday and it feels like student and staff energy level has increased. Students have been respectful of one another's mask wearing choices. Winter sports are now in post-season - Congratulations to the Gymnastics Team and Coach Kelly Smith for the Class S Championship! Trimester 2 is coming to a close. Students have been appreciative of the ½ hour timeslot between a.m. and p.m. exams. Seniors just received year end event notifications. Both the jr. and sr. proms will be held with no restrictions. Night in Hand will be sponsoring a prom dress fundraiser on March 25. Homecoming and pep rally info will be forthcoming.

4. Superintendent's Report
Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

March is Board Member Appreciation month. Dr. Cooke thanked the Board for their service to the community, noting that what is seen at the table during monthly meetings is just a fraction of what the job entails.

COVID update – received an announcement late on Friday from the CDC, masks made optional effective February 28 and then on Sunday, February 27 received word that would apply to public transportation as well. The exception will be away sporting events. We will follow the procedures of the home team or in the case of a high transmission rate. The CT Department of Health will be adopting new CDC indicators.

The Board of Selectmen have approved a draft charge for the Building Committee which we anticipate will have final approval March 8. An application process is expected for citizens to join the committee. The RFP has been posted for owner's representation, a professional firm to guide the district with the process. Expect to be done by end of the month. Working on the RFP for Brown school for architectural services to be overseen by Facilities Committee, with work to begin summer of 2023. Preliminary design work has occurred. Polson is a big project, with major work needing to be done with HVAC duct work and the auditorium. Reviewing professional services and waiting for owner's rep to assist us. Additionally, Polson has been designated a town shelter. We are looking at grant opportunities for the 3 projects, but in particular one new grant opportunity just released today by the governor.

The screening interview and full Rounds 1 and 2 interviews will take place this month for the new Athletic Director. We would ask for a board member(s) to participate in Rounds 1 and 2 (1 for each). Final candidate will be brought before the Board.

Public Hearing takes place tomorrow evening at Polson and by Zoom.

Board member comments: Chair Klaskin thanked the community for supporting the Schools Renewal Plan. The Board looks forward to bringing forth an amazing project that will positively benefit Madison students for generations to come. Cathy Miller recognized Lucy's comments with regard to students respecting each other for their choices with wearing masks.

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

No comments.

6. Board of Selectmen Liaison
Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy not in attendance this evening.

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

7.1. Line Item Transfers as of March 1, 2022

7.2. Budget Expenditures as of March 1, 2022

8. Action Item: Motion to approve Consent Agenda

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

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Infantine-Vyce, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

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

9.1. Curriculum and Student Development

Mr. Pynn reported the committee met this evening, the focus of which was to obtain Board approval for the adoption of Art Curriculum for grades 6-12. Assistant Superintendent Gail Dahling-Hench

spoke to obstacles faced during the curriculum writing process due to staff changes and COVID. Bill Sommer presented for the department, detailing the curriculum development process, as well as the creative cycle that would apply to most courses. A discussion ensued regarding the qualitative nature of art in the learning experience beyond the important skill development. The art department is being encouraged to write more of these qualitative standards and goals into their curriculum documents as board members were confident based on the presentation that it is embedded in the instruction but not adequately articulated in the curriculum.

The committee is recommending that the Board adopt and approve the curriculum as it's written, with the proviso that we understand it is a continuing process encouraging them to go and do further work in terms of writing into the curriculum what they clearly valued.

9.2. Facilities Committee

Mrs. Rosenthal reported the committee met this evening. Mr. McMinn provided updates on the Brown K-5 Project and the Polson Improvement Project as well as a General Facilities Update. Work continues on the final layout for Brown and an RFP will go out quickly, with a selection made by the end of March. Work will begin by the summer of 2022 as opposed to 2023, saving the district \$500K. The Polson project involves heating, ventilation and electrical work and is energy and mechanically focused. It is likely the district will need to hire a professional engineering firm with expertise in renewable energy. The RFP is out for owner's representation for the new school. Materials for the Polson entry way work will be purchased ahead of time to be on schedule for the summer. Brown entry work is scheduled for the summer. The leak in the Jeffrey school roof has been addressed. We are dealing with issues with the rooftop units at the TCLC and Jeffrey, as well as the DHHS rooftop HVAC units. Feminine hygiene products are now available at no cost to Polson and Hand students. Asbestos work taking place this summer at Brown and Polson; both schools will be completely offline. Radon study complete with no issues.

9.3. Finance Committee

Mr. Cawley reported the Finance Committee met February 23. Stacy Nobitz discussed end of year funds, estimating there is approximately \$700,000 available, the majority of which is from salary accounts and savings. Dr. Cooke proposed a line item transfer of those funds to cover the costs of renovating Polson's front entrance (\$455k), removing asbestos (\$116k), and furniture replacement for Jeffrey and Ryerson (\$104k). The committee voted and unanimously approved a motion for consideration to the full Board of Education that the line item transfer be included in the March 2, 2022 Consent Agenda. Discussed implications for the referendum. Mr. Cawley reviewed the budget calendar – tomorrow evening the Board of Education presents to the Board of Finance and workshops are scheduled for March 16 and 23. A second public hearing is scheduled for April 25, followed by a Board of Finance meeting. Budget referendum is May 16.

9.4. Personnel Committee

Maureen Lewis reported the committee has not met.

9.5. Policy Committee

The Policy Committee met on February 15. Dr. Infantine-Vyce reviewed the policies on the agenda for a second reading, which will go on the next regular Board meeting agenda for a third reading and adoption:

- Bylaw #9600: Formation, Adoption, Amendment or Deletion of Bylaws and Policies,
- Bylaw #9640 - Formulation, Adoption, Amendment or Deletion of Administrative Regulations
- Bylaw #9660 - Suspension of Policies, Bylaws or Administrative Regulations

And those for a first reading:

- #5113 - Student Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism and Regulation
Changes made to legal references. Changes to the corresponding regulation involve compliance with public acts.
- #5121 - Chemical Health for Student Athletes
The first read for a new required policy. We revised the policy slightly to include tobacco products. We also wanted to ensure the professional employee definition included social workers, psychologists, and we added athletic trainers.

At the next regular Board meeting, the Bylaws will be voted on first, and if passed, the policies on tonight's agenda for a first read will move to a second read and action at the same meeting.

Policies #5131.911, Bullying Prevention and Intervention and #5131.914, Safe School Climate Policy, both of which were recently revised. These policies require revision again to conform with Connecticut State laws and acts.

A new mandatory regulation - #5125, Immunizations, included for information.

Several policies have been discussed which include language regarding the use of tobacco. These policies will be brought forth to the next meeting.

9.6. LEARN Liaison

Mary Ann Connelly reported LEARN met on February 10. The Groton Superintendent of Schools presented. Discussions revolved around budgets and magnet schools. There will be an opportunity to visit their schools during open house events. School policies regarding masking/unmasking were also discussed. Will be meeting again in 2 weeks.

Mrs. Connelly also reported the Town Marijuana Committee met this week with the Board of Selectmen and the member group of citizens. Mrs. Connelly was unable to attend, but did receive the "Act Concerning Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult Use Cannabis" which she distributed tonight. Also met with Bruce Wilson today who provided that same information.

Chair Klaskin noted that going forward, the two ad hoc Town Committees – Town Marijuana and Town Facilities Committees will be added to our Board agenda for our liaisons (Mary Ann Connelly and Emily Rosenthal) to report on.

10. Action Item: Motion to adopt Art Curriculum for Grades 6, 7 and 8, Sculpture, Drawing I, Drawing II Studio, Painting Studio, Short Film and Commercial Photography.

MOTION: By Miller, seconded by Connelly to adopt Art Curriculum for Grades 6, 7 and 8, Sculpture, Drawing I, Drawing II Studio, Painting Studio, Short Film and Commercial Photography.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Infantine-Vyce, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Prior to the vote, a suggestion was made that future curriculum adoption not be placed on the Board agenda the same night as it is presented in Curriculum Committee; that the Board be given more time to review and formulate questions.

11. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: By Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Lewis to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022 Board of Education meeting as amended.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Infantine-Vyce, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

12. Future Agenda Items

13. Meetings/Dates of Importance

14. Adjournment

MOTION: By Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Infantine-Vyce, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

The Town of Madison does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and the meeting facilities are ADA accessible. Individuals who need assistance are invited to make their needs known by contacting Paula Carabetta at 203-245-5644 or by email at carabettap@madisonct.org at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.