

## **SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

Madison Public Schools  
Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, June 21, 2022 7:30 PM

Hammonasset Room / Zoom  
10 Campus Drive  
Madison, CT 06443

### **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 Vice-Chair Galen Cawley. Mr. Cawley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

#### **2. School / Community Session**

No public comment.

#### **3. Superintendent's Report**

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

Dr. Cooke provided the following. Construction began on Friday afternoon and we are well underway at Brown & Polson. Administrative and secretarial staff are available at both schools over the summer and can be reached by phone or email. Central Office staff is also available and can assist in reaching the schools. A large number of teachers and administrative staff have remained in district to work on curriculum writing. The building application has been submitted to the State of CT, well in advance of the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline, for the grant funding of the new school building. We are in the process of expanding our security staff with armed guards at our schools; an expansion of our SRO program. We currently have 2 school resource officers who go between our buildings. These staff members would most likely be retired and our preference would be Madison police officers. More to come.

#### **4. Board Members' Comments**

Mary Ann Connelly asked if there will be an SRO hired for each building. Dr. Cooke noted because the budget has already been set, a special appropriation would be required to fund the positions, which would be something between a security officer and a school resource officer, with an approximate hourly wage of \$30. This type of position allows a retired Madison police officer to work 35/40 hours a week, whereas currently they are restricted to 19 hours. It is anticipated there would be 4 security/school resource officers shared among the schools. Dr.

Cooke, in answer to Mr. Pynn's question regarding training, stated these officers would receive training.

Dr. Infantine-Vyce asked for clarification regarding the availability of books for the AP Literature courses for Grades 11 and 12 and how this would be communicated to the students. The original communication to these students stated there was only a limited number of hard copy books available; however, end of year funding was used to purchase additional books. It was suggested that an additional email be sent to let students know of this.

Vice Chair Cawley commented on the wonderful graduation ceremony – it ran flawlessly!

5. Audience Response to Information Presented (Ref. Bylaw #9540.10) – None.

6. Board of Selectmen Liaison  
Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy provided the following. The Board of Selectmen held a special meeting this week and hired an Assistant Tax Collector. There is a potential \$4M grant available for which an application was submitted for the Academy building. There is also another \$200,000 DECD grant through the State. Thank you to Heather Dobson for assisting with a hire plan for a human resource manager, which has been approved. Lengthy conversations have occurred regarding the Town Charter, which is currently under review. Met on June 14 regarding short term rentals. The firehouse will be expanding and is currently looking at property next to its current location. Conversations have taken place with the newly-formed Ethics Committee.

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

7.1. Curriculum and Student Development Committee  
Members: Steve Pynn, Chair; Catherine Miller, Jen Gordon

No report. Next meeting is scheduled for September 6.

7.2. Facilities Committee  
Members: Emily Rosenthal, Chair, Steven Pynn, Galen Cawley

Emily Rosenthal reported the Facilities Committee held a special meeting on June 13 for the purpose of reviewing the 2023/2024 CIP. Mrs. Rosenthal walked the Board through the changes, which resulted in a reduction of \$1.2M, and requested the Board take action on the CIP tonight.

Action Item: Motion to add an agenda item to approve the amended CIP proposal for the 2023/2024 school year in the amount of \$4,846,877

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to add an agenda item to approve the amended CIP proposal for the 2023/2024 school year in the amount of \$4,846,877.

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

NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

### 7.3. Finance Committee

Members: Galen Cawley, Chair, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Emily Rosenthal

Mr. Cawley reported the committee met this evening and was given an update regarding the 2021/2022 school year budget. There are 9 days remaining in the fiscal year and there is a balance of plus \$14,630. Mrs. Nobitz cautioned the numbers are moving and are yet to be finalized. Projected available funds are \$186,364. The committee passed a motion to request a line item transfer of approximately \$171,734 for approval at the July 12, 2022 Board of Education meeting. Bill McMinn explained the cost and scope of the hallway work at Polson occurring over the summer. The committee discussed drawing upon other funds in the event the balance becomes negative and reprioritized requests supplied by Mrs. Nobitz, as follows: Chromebook Replacement, grades 4-6 and 9; Security Perimeter Access; Musical Instruments; Technology Improvements in the Hammonasset Room; Polson signs on Greenhill Road.

### 7.4. Personnel Committee

Members: Maureen Lewis, Chair; Catherine Miller, Mary Ann Connelly

The committee has not met. Maureen Lewis reported MAESS negotiations are ongoing.

### 7.5. Policy Committee

Members: Diane Infantine-Vyce, Chair; Maureen Lewis, Jen Gordon

Dr. Infantine-Vyce reported the committee met tonight and discussed the School Calendar policy and issue of naming holidays, number of school days and when the calendar should be presented to the Board. The Nepotism policy was reviewed and a discussion ensued regarding the rigidity of the policy. Administration of Student Medications was discussed and of particular note is the definition of an “authorized prescriber”. These policies will go back to Shipman for further review and comment. Naming/Renaming of School Buildings was discussed; we will ask Shipman to review Policy 9460, which is cross-referenced. Due to time constraints, the Prohibition Against Nicotine and Cannabis Use policy was tabled to the next meeting (a special meeting tentatively scheduled for August 23).

The following policies are presented this evening for a second reading and adoption:

- #3260 - Disposal of Obsolete or Surplus Equipment/Materials  
(formerly Sale & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies)
- #3453 - School Activity Funds
- #4010 - Prohibition on Recommendations for Psychotropic Drugs (formerly Prohibition on Recommended Psychotropic Drugs)
- #4040 - Plan for Minority Educator Recruitment  
(formerly Minority Recruitment Plan)

- #4112 - Hiring of Personnel
- #4217 - Evaluation, Termination and Non-Renewal of Athletic Coaches (formerly Athletic Coaches)
- #5090.9 - Use of Private Technology Devices by Students (formerly Electronic Communication Devices)
- #5120.2.1. - Head Injuries (for rescission)

#### 7.6. LEARN Liaison

Mary Ann Connelly

Mrs. Connelly was unable to attend recent meeting and will provide updates at a later date.

#### 7.7. Town American Rescue Plan Funding Committee

Emily Rosenthal

Mrs. Rosenthal reported the committee held a public forum on June 8, followed by a committee meeting. Members of the public attended who had questions regarding the funding and how to apply. Info is available on the Town website. Applications are now being accepted to “Invest in Madison” (IMAD). \$5.2M in funding was received, with approximately \$3.5M awarded. The advisory committee will be sorting out how best to spend the remaining funds which will aid Madison small businesses, local non-profit organizations and town service departments with recovery efforts in the wake of the COVID-19 emergency. Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis until all available funds are exhausted.

#### 7.8. Town Marijuana Advisory Committee

Mary Ann Connelly

The committee has not met.

#### 8. Action Item: Motion to approve English Language Arts Curriculum, K-3; Grades 6 & 8 Journalism and Combat Literature Curriculum

MOTION: by Miller, seconded by Infantine-Vyce, to approve the English Language Arts Curriculum, K-3; Grades 6 & 8 Journalism and Combat Literature Curriculum

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

#### 9. Action Item: Motion to approve the Finance Committee Chair to authorize the close out of the 2021-2022 school year directly with the Finance Director

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Gordon to approve the Finance Committee Chair to authorize the close out of the 2021-2022 school year directly with the Finance Director.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

10. Action Item: Motion to approve the amended 2023/2024 CIP proposal of \$4,846,877

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the amended 2023/2023 CIP proposal of \$4,846,877.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

11. Action Item: Motion to approve disposal of used equipment

MOTION: by Lewis, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the disposal of used equipment.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

12. Action Item: Motion to approve the \$11,200.00 donation from the Ryerson PTO to Ryerson Elementary School to purchase picnic tables, recess equipment and field trips

MOTION: by Connelly, seconded by Lewis to approve the \$11,200.00 donation from the Ryerson PTO to Ryerson Elementary School to purchase picnic tables, recess equipment and field trips.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

13. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2022 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2022 Board of Education meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

14. Action Item: Motion to approve the following policies:

- #3260 - Disposal of Obsolete or Surplus Equipment/Materials
- #3453 - School Activity Funds
- #4010 - Prohibition on Recommendations for Psychotropic Drugs
- #4040 - Plan for Minority Educator Recruitment
- #4112 - Hiring of Personnel
- #4217 - Evaluation, Termination and Non-Renewal of Athletic Coaches
- #5090.9 - Use of Private Technology Devices by Students
- #5120.2.1. Head Injuries (for rescission)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Gordon to approve the following policies:

- #3260 - Disposal of Obsolete or Surplus Equipment/Materials
- #3453 - School Activity Funds
- #4010 - Prohibition on Recommendations for Psychotropic Drugs
- #4040 - Plan for Minority Educator Recruitment
- #4112 - Hiring of Personnel
- #4217 - Evaluation, Termination and Non-Renewal of Athletic Coaches
- #5090.9 - Use of Private Technology Devices by Students
- #5120.2.1. Head Injuries (for rescission)

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

15. Old Business

16. Future Agenda Items

17. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

18. Review and possible action on Assistant Superintendent contract (discussion proposed for Executive Session)

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Assistant Superintendent's contract and to invite Dr. Craig Cooke into Executive Session.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

## Return to Regular Session

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Gordon to exit Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

19. Action Item: Motion to add the following: Approve the Assistant Superintendent's contract and to authorize the Board Chair to finalize terms in accordance with discussions in Executive Session.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Miller to add a motion to approve the Assistant Superintendent's contract and to authorize the Board Chair to finalize terms in accordance with discussions in Executive Session.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Connelly to approve the Assistant Superintendent's contract and to authorize the Board Chair to finalize terms in accordance with discussions in Executive Session.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

## 20. Adjournment

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Pynn to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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

NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

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 Human Resources at 203-245-6310 at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.