

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 21, 2024 7:30 PM

Town Campus Hammonasset Room/Zoom
10 Campus Drive
Madison, CT 06443

Subject to Approval

Meeting Minutes

Video documentation of these proceedings can be found in the Meetings/Minutes section of the website

I. Call to Order / Attendance

The regular meeting of the Madison Board of Education was called to order by Secretary Emily Rosenthal at 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Rosenthal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Galen Cawley (Zoom), Mary Ann Connelly, Diane Infantine-Vyce (Zoom), Maureen Lewis, Christine Maisano (Zoom), Steven Pynn, Emily Rosenthal

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

II. School / Community Session

No members of the public spoke.

III. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Eli Ackerman and Brooke Anderson

Brooke reported on the art show and Band concert, Junior Prom, the pre-prom assembly, and the National Honors Society Induction which took place earlier in the evening. She shared that the Orchestra Concert will take place on May 22 and May 22 is also the last Advisory of the year. Eli shared that Spring sports are now in play offs, Senior Announcement Day is May 22 and May 23 is Bus Driver Appreciation Day. Other upcoming events include a visit from EMS staff on May 24 and the Senior Prom.

IV. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

- 2024-2025 Budget Reduction of \$240,000 – Dr. Cooke shared that everyone is very pleased the budget has passed. The timely passage will allow the District to start hiring, guarantee employment, and get to work over the summer. The approved budget includes the \$240,000 in cuts required by the Board of Finance. Dr. Cooke said he recommends the board cut roughly \$82,000 of the right to read mandate money, band uniforms for \$90,000 for DHHS Band Uniform replacement since the town has potentially identified other funding sources to purchase this item, \$40,000 allocated to purchase the remaining DHHS bridge furniture, and \$27,000 allocated for Jeffrey and Ryerson furniture since other funding has been identified to pay for these items.
- Teacher Evaluation Plan – Dr. Cooke said the plan meets all the State requirements and has the signoff of PEDC. He thanked Mrs. Dahling-Hench for all her work getting the plan

completed on such a tight deadline and all of the teachers and administrators for their input. He said the District hopes the State approves the plan by the early Fall.

- Choice Program Update – Dr. Cooke shared that in order to start the program in town, Madison needs state legislative action to move its membership from the LEARN New London region to the ACES New Haven region. The legislature was poised to approve that action this session, but the required language was stripped out of the bill (along with any other requests related to the Choice Program) by the appropriations committee late in the process because of budget implications. Legislators have assured the District that the language will be approved in the next legislative session. This will push back the start of the Choice program in the District to Fall 2026 at the earliest.

V. Board Members' Comments

No Board Member comments.

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

No members of the public spoke.

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

Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Steve Pynn, Chair; Catherine Miller, Mary Ann Connelly

No report.

Facilities Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal, Chair, Steven Pynn, Diane Infantine-Vyce

No report.

Finance Committee

Members: Galen Cawley, Chair, Christine Maisano, Emily Rosenthal

Mr. Cawley gave a report on the May 20 committee meeting. The committee discussed the \$240,000 budget reduction, line item transfers and expenditures to close out this current budget, and recommended to the full Board that the Finance Committee Chair be authorized to close out the 2023-2024 fiscal year directly with the Finance Director.

Personnel Committee

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

No report.

Policy Committee

Members: Diane Infantine-Vyce, Chair; Maureen Lewis, Galen Cawley

Dr. Infantine-Vyce said the committee has not met but reviewed the following policies on the agenda for action later in the meeting:

Policy for Review, Second Reading:

- 9300 Ethical Standards for Board Members
- 9310 Board Member Conflict of Interest

- 9490/8201 Student Representatives
- 4400 Gifts to Employees – NEW
- 5120.3.3.2 Pediculosis
- 5090.3.3.1 Electronic Surveillance

LEARN Liaison

Mary Ann Connelly

Mrs. Connelly shared that the June 13 meeting will be the last meeting of the year.

VIII. Action Item: Motion to approve a \$240,000 reduction to the 2024-2025 Board of Education budget as specified by the Superintendent.

MOTION: by Lewis, seconded by Pynn to approve a \$240,000 reduction to the 2024-2025 Board of Education budget as specified by the Superintendent.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Lewis, Maisano, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

IX. Action Item: Motion to approve the MPS Teacher Evaluation Plan.

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Connelly to approve the MPS Teacher Evaluation Plan.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Lewis, Maisano, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

X. Action Item: Motion to approve the Wellness Curriculum units.

MOTION: by Connelly, seconded by Lewis to approve the Wellness Curriculum units.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Lewis, Maisano, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

XI. Action Item: Motion to approve the following policies: 9300 Ethical Standards for Board Members, 9310 Board Member Conflict of Interest, 9490/8201 Student Representatives, 4400 Gifts to Employees, 5120.3.3.2 Pediculosis (Head Lice), 5090.3.3.1 Electronic Surveillance

MOTION: by Lewis, seconded by Pynn to approve the following policies: 9300 Ethical Standards for Board Members, 9310 Board Member Conflict of Interest, 9490/8201 Student Representatives, 4400 Gifts to Employees, 5120.3.3.2 Pediculosis, 5090.3.3.1 Electronic Surveillance.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Lewis, Maisano, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

XII. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2024 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Lewis to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2024 Board of Education meeting.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Lewis, Maisano, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

XIII. Future Agenda Items

Dr. Infantine-Vyce requested an update on the AP Test Prep program be placed on a future agenda.

XIV. Adjournment

MOTION: by Connelly, seconded by Lewis to adjourn at 8:06 p.m.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Lewis, Maisano, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

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