

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
September 20, 2016
7:30 PM
Town Campus Hammonasset Room**

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order / Attendance

The public meeting of the Madison Board of Education was called to order by Jessica Bowler at 7:35 p.m. Ms. Bowler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jessica Bowler; Galen Cawley; John Dean; Alison Keating;
Matt Keller; Seth Klaskin; Happy Marino; Katie Stein

Also present: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; students; and community members.

2. School / Community Session - 7:30 p.m.

2.1. Public Participation

**Peggy Lyons
186 Horsepond Road**

Mrs. Lyons spoke to the one elementary school model. She expressed concern with the district losing its small, neighborhood school ambiance and the potential security and traffic issues that a large school environment could create. Mrs. Lyons feels more research needs to be done on this untested model. Long-term flexibility concerns were also raised. What will happen when enrollment goes back up? Mrs. Lyons discussed the relation between school quality and property values and feels the district will be gambling with its reputation. In closing, Mrs. Lyons stated the most cost effective model is not always the best model and feels the one school model will have a negative impact on the quality of our schools in the long term.

3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Aidan Hughes and Emily Baker

Aidan Hughes reported the sr. picnic and the pep rally were very positive – a lot of high energy. Wake up call was awesome. Fall sports are in full swing and the turnout with the “super fans” is super. Aidan reported on the new school lunch program (the food is amazing!) and showed a short video he created.

Emily Baker reported on the grade level assemblies where Mr. Salutari and/or Mr. Semple spoke and told students and athletes what the school year would be like and what is expected of them. Students also attended PAW assemblies (meeting with small groups of peers) and completed paperwork. The fall play this year is The Pink Panther Strikes Back and will be held November 17, 18 and 19.

4. Superintendent's Report

Thomas R. Scarice

After 9/11, international trips were carefully reviewed and most districts did not allow them. Over the past three years, the Madison Board has approved approximately 5 trips. Tonight we will hear from a group of Daniel Hand students who traveled to Costa Rica this summer.

4.1. Lakeside School – Sister School Partnership Update

Kristin Mancini and Josh Hibbard

Daniel Hand students spoke about their experiences during the summer trip to Costa Rica; the friendships they made, the strong relationships formed with fellow Hand students, the appreciation of the culture and how communication became easier as the trip progressed. Students called the trip “life-changing”. Students also commented on their visit to the “Blue Zone”. Following students were in attendance: Ethan McMahan, jr; Chris Hartmann, jr; Lily Arida, jr; Abby Murphy, jr; Kelly Cody, jr; Samantha Dunsmore, jr; Isabel Kelly, sophomore.

4.2. Other Matters - none

5. School Utilization Report Update (Tri-Board)

Superintendent Scarice began his presentation by discussing the purpose of the study and reviewing the primary concerns that emerged as a result of the six Public Forums held over the course of 2 years. Nine options resulted from the study which have now been narrowed down to two. Both options address the sale of Island Avenue, consider renovations to Brown School and modifications/capital improvements to Polson Middle School. Superintendent Scarice reviewed the two options, the positive outcomes and the questions and concerns of each, as well as the estimated cost breakdown for renovating each school. A cost comparison of each option, the possible mill rate impact and “status quo” expenditures were provided in detail.

Questions / Comments

Bettina

155 Boston Post Road

Where are we in paying off DHHS? Superintendent Scarice noted we have 8 years remaining and will see a big drop in the payment amount in 2019/2020.

Jon Dickey

Bartlett Drive

Mr. Dickey spoke to the State deficit and questioned if the District can count on reimbursement from the State. Mr. Dickey asked what the District will do with the 3 closed schools, should we choose Option 1. Superintendent Scarice commented that the District will be committed to either demolishing, selling or repurposing the buildings.

Joan Walker

Madison Board of Selectmen

Ms. Walker questioned the lifespan of the TCLC. Superintendent Scarice commented that a new TCLC is included in new construction, but not renovation. The TCLC portables have outlived their useful life. Ms. Walker also asked if “renovate as new” includes new windows and doors, to which Superintendent Scarice replied that it does.

Mark Casparino
Madison Board of Finance

Mr. Casparino noted one of the benefits of Option 2 is travel time and commented on the \$700,000 operational variance (from Option 1). Mr. Casparino asked if this savings could help purchase additional buses. Superintendent Scarice responded that there are two ways to reduce bus times – one is by adding buses, the other is to change bell times. Mr. Klaskin noted the true issue is the amount of time a student is sitting on the bus. Adding more routes could result in ½ full buses or partial routes, thereby minimizing the amount of time sitting on a bus. The District makes every effort to keep ride times to under 45 minutes.

6. Board Members' Comments

No comments.

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

7.1. Planning Committee

Members: Jessica Bowler, Chair; Galen Cawley, Alison Keating

Planning Committee met this morning. Ms. Bowler reported on the school trip discussion with Martin Glasser, Social Studies teacher at DHHS. The trip to Portugal is proposed for April break, 2017; students would miss one day of school. Students would fly in and out of Portugal, which is considered one of the safest countries to travel to. The goal is 24-26 students, 3 chaperones, with priority being given to seniors and juniors. The purchase of travel insurance is strongly encouraged.

MOTION: to add as Item #12 the approval of the Portugal Field trip during April 2017 school break, 2017. Motion by Jessica Bowler, seconded by Seth Klaskin.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Keating; Keller; Klaskin; Marino; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

7.2. Personnel Committee

Members: John Dean, Chair, Alison Keating, Happy Marino

Nothing to report.

7.3. Policy Committee

Members: Katie Stein Chair; Seth Klaskin, Matt Keller

The Policy Committee met earlier tonight. Ms. Stein reported that policies #1340, Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property; #6088.22, Homebound/Hospital Instruction and #6146.6, Graduation Requirements are presented for a first read. Social Studies and World Languages policies are tabled, pending further revision.

7.4. Finance Committee

Members: Alison Keating, Chair; Alison Keating, Jessica Bowler, Happy Marino

The Finance Committee met earlier tonight. Ms. Keating reported the Administrative Team has begun looking at early retirement / incentive – more to come. The committee also discussed the 2017-2018 budget development calendar and budget assumptions.

7.5. LEARN Liaison

Katie Stein

Ms. Stein reported on the September 8, 2016 meeting. Dr. Eileen Howley presented the news from the Legislature and the potential 7% cut in state funding. Dr. Howley has been asked to sit on the CT School Finance Program to assist with a court-mandated plan to address school funding inequity.

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

No comments were made.

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

9.1. Bills Payable: \$75,754.99 2015-2016 Budget; \$190,837.91 2016-2017 Budget

9.2. Line Transfers: \$145,282.66

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Marino to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Keating; Keller; Klaskin; Marino; Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

10. Action Item: Minutes of the September 6, 2016 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Cawley to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Keating; Keller; Klaskin; Marino; Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

11. Action Item: To adopt the course Communicating for the Here and Now.

MOTION: by Planning to adopt the course
Communicating for the Here and Now
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Keating; Keller;
Klaskin; Marino; Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

12. Action Item: To adopt the Portugal trip during the April, 2017 break.

MOTION: by Planning to approve the Portugal trip
during the April, 2017 break.
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Keating; Keller;
Klaskin; Marino; Stein
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

13. Old Business - none

14. Future Agenda Items - none

15. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)
September and October Calendars

16. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean seconded by Klaskin to adjourn
the meeting at 9:35p.m.
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Keating; Keller;
Klaskin; Marino; Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0