

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
January 10, 2017
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 Chair Jean Fitzgerald at 7:35 p.m. Chairman Fitzgerald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jessica Bowler; Galen Cawley; John Dean; Jean Fitzgerald; Alison Keating; 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

No comments were made.

**3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report
Aidan Hughes and Emily Baker**

Mr. Hughes and Ms. Baker reported on the following:

There was a great turn out for the Orchestra Concert.

UConn exams started today,

The students are excited about the upcoming three day weekend.

January 19-24 the guidance counselors will be going over the Program of Studies with the students for the 2017-2018 school year.

The middle school students will be having an upcoming tour of Daniel Hand High School.

The Honors breakfast will be held on January 20th. This year the entire high school will attend not just those being honored. Superintendent Scarice stated that the Honors recognition is a big deal for the students being able to be recognized in front of the entire school.

Dance rehearsal started yesterday for the next show which will be a medley of four musicals. There will be four songs performed from each musical. Having the four musicals rolled into one will provide more lead roles for the students to try out for.

The pep rally was held before winter break and it was a lot of fun. This was the first winter pep rally held.

Ms. Dahling-Hench stated that she attended the lab classrooms setting last week and that there were 10 adults in each room. Ms. Dahling-Hench asked Emily if she received any feedback from other students. Emily said she had not, but she did find that organizing notes was helpful.

Ms. Dahling-Hench stated that it is helping students become more engaged as well as determining if students are having a hard time reading or are just disinterested.

Show Board which is a Town show will be taking place.

4. Superintendent's Report

Thomas R. Scarice

4.1. STEAM/Learning Enhancement (On File)

Michael Ginsburg

Mr. Ginsburg reported on the following:

Mr. Ginsberg discussed Ozobots and the beginning of coding. Mr. Ginsberg stated the importance of building a foundation. He stated that the teachers are very involved and engaged and the students were able to figure out how Ozobots worked and the color codes and what they did. Mr. Ginsberg brought Ozobots to the Planning Committee and they were able to see first-hand how they were used.

Superintendent Scarice noted that it is very exciting to be able to extend the curriculum, students thinking skills as well as the students problem solving.

Mr. Ginsberg stated that it doesn't matter how you get from A to B as long as you get to B. The students really wanted to be able to figure it out on their own.

Mr. Bob Hale asked how many students were involved. Superintendent Scarice stated that there were approximately 500 students involved.

4.2. Reading Coach (On File)

Erin Chester and Alicia Dunbar

Ms. Chester and Ms. Dunbar reported on the following:

The coaching model is designed to create opportunities for continuous growth in a focus area. The focus will be teaching first graders how to stretch small moment across three or more pages while building their confidence and independence as writers.

There are three components to Madison's core coaching model:

- Assessing needs and planning instruction
- In-Class Coach
- Reflection and revision based on evidence

There are three areas in assessing needs and planning instruction:

- Choosing a focus area
- Looking at what has worked and what has been challenging
- Making decisions moving forward based on student work and best practices

In-Class Coaching consists of:

- Modeling planned lessons, debriefing on the effectiveness of the lessons
- Focusing on an area of growth for students, assessing students as they work, pulling strategy groups to differentiate as needed
- Adjusting lessons based on student response
- Consistent follow-through

Reflection and revision based on evidence:

- Debriefing on lessons
- Meeting weekly and talking/emailing regularly about student progress
- Using student work to decide on next steps
- Designing and planning lessons together with the students in mind

We are modeling the 21st century skills we are teaching our children every day in school. A coaching relationship is built on trust, collaborating positively and productively, and it fosters smart decision making to meet goals. This is what we want our children doing in order to succeed in and out of the classroom.

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much” – Helen Keller

Mr. Galen Cawley asked what kind of feedback they were receiving from the parents. Both Ms. Chester and Ms. Dunbar stated that they have been receiving positive feedback.

Ms. Keating thanked them for having this unique experience at Ryerson.

4.3. Proposed 3-year Technology Plan: Request for Board Input

Superintendent Scarice stated that every three years there is a 3 year tech plan. The tech plan was discussed at the 12/20/16 BOE meeting. The tech plan will go back to the Planning Committee again and then to the full Board.

4.4. Other Matters

Superintendent Scarice stated a meeting was held today with the Collier group along with Jean Fitzgerald, Bill McMinn, Stacy Nobitz, Jim Barrett (DRA) and Chuck Warrington (Collier Group).

Superintendent Scarice stated that there will be a meeting every 2 weeks with Collier.

Superintendent Scarice stated that he would send an updated agenda to the full Board.

5. Board Members' Comments: 2017-2018 Budget Discussion

Ms. Stein made the following statement:

I would like to express my concerns regarding the amount of funding that is tied into our catering budget. I recognize that the line item itself is not a large dollar figure when you look at the budget as a whole. I am in no way suggesting that we take monies away from student focused events. But, when you consider the state education budget cuts it seems clear to me that providing food and refreshments on PD days and at Board Meetings is a “like to have” and not a “need to have” item.

Furthermore it will provide a cost savings to the town while not impacting students at all. It is a logical reduction that would be appreciated by the community at this time of challenging funding and cuts from the state.

I believe it will be hard justify to our constituents that we are keeping refreshments at our meetings and providing lunches to teachers on professional development days, while cutting technology – an essential tool for learning.

Ms. Marino asked if there was a way to record the spending on food.

Mr. Dean asked about the technology budget being split over two years. Ms. Keating stated that there was a \$50k reduction in technology. Ms. Keating noted that she hope for the Board to take action at the January 24th Board of Education meeting to approve the 2017-2018 budget.

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

6.1. Planning Committee

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

Ms. Bowler reported on the following:

The committee reviewed the Polson new offerings for the 2017-2018 school year. Frank Henderson presented to the Planning Committee the following:

- A new 20 minute Pride period has been attached to lunch
- No more study halls
- New elective choices have been added in addition to the past performing arts electives in STEAM, Health and Art
 - Everyone chooses 2 electives unless they have a 6 day program
 - Students can also chose PE daily or orchestra daily

School Utilization Facilities Study:

Colliers meeting took place today and the agenda was reviewed. Meetings will continue to take place every two weeks and reports will be given at the Planning Committee Meetings.

The bulk of the meeting was reviewing the milestone schedule, the educational specs and discussed refreshing the enrollment numbers.

Reading Coach: (Presentation was given earlier in the Board Meeting)

Erin Chester and Alicia Dunbar (1st grade teacher at Ryerson) discussed heir coaching partnership for Alicia's coaching cycle. The focus was on writing "small moments".

STEAM/Learning Enhancement: (Presentation was given earlier in the Board Meeting)

Michel Ginsberg discussed and showed us what he is doing with grade 3-6. The main focus was on Ozobots and beginning coding.

6.2. Personnel Committee

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

No report was given.

6.3. Policy Committee

Members: Katie Stein, Chair, Seth Klaskin, Matt Keller

Ms. Stein reported that the following Policies pending no change will go for third reading at the January 24, 2017 Board of Education Meeting.

6.3.1. Policy #4112.1 - Certification (Second Reading)

6.3.2. Policy #5090.3.3 - Student Conduct on School Buses (Second Reading)

6.3.3. Policy #5090.3.6.1 - Hazing (Second Reading)

6.3.4. Policy #5090.3.1 - Student Dress (Second Reading)

6.3.5. Policy #5120.9 - Homeless Students (Second Reading)

6.4. Finance Committee

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

Ms. Keating reported on the following:

Art Sickle was able to lock in the price of diesel for next year in a new contract at a stable price.

An RFP is being worked on for copiers for both the Town and the School. It should be ready to go out at the end of the months.

The Finance Committee discussed two cost centers in particular Tech and PD as an area of further focus.

6.5. LEARN Liaison

Katie Stein

No report was given. Next meeting will be held this Thursday.

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

No comments were made.

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

- 8.1.** Bills Payable: \$10,367.02 2015-2016 budget and \$734,157.24 2016-2017 budget.
- 8.2.** Line Transfers: \$31,128.31
- 8.3.** Budget Expenditure as of January 4, 2017
- 8.4.** Donation: \$7,000.00 from Walter C. Polson Middle School PTO to Walter C Polson to purchase furniture for the library and pay for author Jordan Sonnenblick's visit in April 2017.
- 8.5.** Donation: \$3,872.00 from Daniel Hand High School PTO to purchase two 3-D printers to make interdisciplinary connections between the CTE, Art and Science Departments.

MOTION: by Keating seconded Dean by
to approve the Consent Agenda.
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald;
Keating;; Marino; Stein
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Ms. Keating thanked both Walter C. Polson School PTO and Daniel Hand High School PTO for their generous donations.

9. Action Item: Minutes of the December 20, 2016 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Keating seconded by
Bowler to approve the minutes of the
December 20, 2016 Board of Education
Meeting.
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald;
Keating; Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Marino
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

10. Action Item: To approve the removal of used books and equipment (Ref. Policy #3260)

MOTION: by Marino seconded by Keating to approve the removal of used books and equipment.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Marino; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

11. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

12. Future Agenda Items

No future items were discussed.

13. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)
January/February

14. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean seconded by Keating to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Marino; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Approved at the 1/24/17 BOE Meeting
LF