

**Madison Public Schools**  
**Conference Room A - Town Side**  
**May 23, 2017**  
**7:30 PM**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order / Attendance**

The public meeting of the Madison Board of Education was called to order by Vice Chair Alison Keating at 7:34 p.m. Chairman Keating led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jessica Bowler; Galen Cawley; Alison Keating; Happy Marino; Katie Stein

Jean Fitzgerald; entered the meeting at 7:37

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. Recognition**

**2.1.1 Kyle Citron, Clay Knibs, and Carter Sobeleski  
Winners of the Operation Prevention Video Challenge**

Superintendent Scarice introduced the winners of the Operation Prevention Video Challenge. There was a surprise celebration at the Daniel Hand High School morning assembly, as students learned that out of 500 videos, three Madison students took first place in the first-ever Operation Prevention Video Challenge put on by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Discovery Education.

The students stated that they were asked to produce a video for a class that could be entered into a contest. Once they started working on it they took their time editing and putting the video together. They began in early February and worked on the video up until the due date. They put in countless hours on and off campus.

Superintendent Scarice introduced Daniel Hand High School teacher Luke Arsenault noting that it is Mr. Arsenault's program that brings out the passion in the District's kids.

Superintendent Scarice noted that the video will be posted on the Madison Public Schools website.

As well as winning first place in the video challenge, they also won the people's choice award. The People's Choice Prize is a trip for the winner(s) to Washington, DC including a day at DEA's Training Academy.

The DEA wants to speak to the students regarding being part of a Board to educate others about the current drug epidemic.

#### **2.1.2. CAFE Student Leadership Award 2016-2017**

Daniel Hand High School – Grace Squitiero and Aidan Hughes

Walter C. Polson Middle School – Maddison Thomas and Erik Bernard

Cynthia Schneider, Assistant Principal at Daniel Hand High School spoke on behalf of Principal Anthony Salutari regarding the following CAFE award recipients.

#### **Grace Squitiero - Daniel Hand High School**

Grace is one of the kindest, most caring, and warm hearted individuals at Daniel Hand High School. Her ability to put others before herself, to work hard, and most of all, her ability to balance everything is what separates her from her classmates. Her leadership skills, work ethic, kindness, and passion for the task at hand will benefit Grace at the next academic level. Grace has always made it a point to challenge herself throughout her high school career; I have the utmost confidence that with Grace's determination and positive attitude, she will experience nothing but great success in the future. Grace has always made it a point to hold a full academic schedule while choosing our most rigorous courses that challenge her and make her think. Her schedule is always filled with these demanding classes and, with her persistence to succeed; she has experienced nothing but success. She has earned academic awards every year from the Daniel Hand High School community in support and recognition of her academic accomplishments. As a result, she has earned the admiration and respect of the Daniel Hand faculty.

Outside of the classroom, Grace is involved in a plethora of activities within the Daniel Hand High School community in addition to involvement outside the school community. She volunteers her time whenever she gets the chance: she is a girl scout, she volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House serving meals to residents, she is involved with "Senior Olympics" where she organizes events at the senior homes, she is on the Madison Chamber of Commerce, and she is a critical member of Reach Out where she works with students entering DHHS. She volunteers as a peer advocate to help incoming freshmen and train those who want to join the Peer Advocate team. Grace clearly takes a lot of pride in helping her community. In addition to volunteering, Grace is the Captain of the tennis team. Her teammates and coaches trust her modeling, work ethic, and impressive sportsmanship. Grace is a peer advocate, the Student Council President, Vice President of the Diversity Club, a member of the band, and is involved with unified sports. Grace has a heart of gold is a one of a kind high school student.

Grace has proven to have desire, initiative, leadership qualities, and an eagerness to be successful in all her future endeavors.

## **Aidan Hughes – Daniel Hand High School**

Aidan has been an incredibly positive presence at Daniel Hand High School. He confidently makes good choices and views failure as an opportunity to learn. This approach is one of many reasons why he has earned the respect of the DHHS faculty and his peers.

Academically, Aidan has always enrolled in competitive courses. His teachers describe him as insightful, attentive, energetic, and very likable. Aidan is a hands-on learner who has developed techniques to enhance his study skills that go beyond simply memorizing facts. He would describe his learning preference as one that requires him to, “use his full brain.” Aidan has shown a real enthusiasm for learning and is ready for the rigors and challenges he will face next year.

Outside of the classroom, Aidan’s resume is complete. He has impressively earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Additionally, he was chosen by the Boy Scout organization to participate in a leadership camp. At the end of that experience, he was asked to stay on and serve in the role of an assistant. Aidan is a true artist and his skills and passions transfer seamlessly to music, photography, and cinematography. As a musician, he is a talented pianist and drummer and has a unique ability to write songs and produce electronic music. Aidan and his friends spend countless hours shooting photographs and videos and his exceptional work has been featured through our school news program, Tiger Talk. Additionally, he produced a program video for the entire school community about our much improved school lunch program. Aidan is close to completing a successful two-year commitment as a student representative for the Madison Board of Education. In this role, he has effectively communicated with the public a wide variety of information that pertains to the high school. He has also offered his input as a student regarding several Board of Education agenda topics. In this important role, his honesty has certainly been valued and appreciated.

Aidan is an open-minded ambitious young man. He is personable, hard-working, and enjoyable to be around. His work ethic combined with a magnetic personality will certainly ensure his future success.

Charlene Doane, Walter C. Polson Middle School Counselor spoke on behalf of Principal Frank Henderson regarding the following CAFE award recipients.

## **Maddison Thomas - Walter C. Polson Middle School**

It’s not easy to balance life as a middle schooler these days, but **Maddison Thomas** does it all with competence and a positive attitude. Whether she is working as a student, an athlete, or a volunteer, Maddie demonstrates commitment and character in everything she does.

In the classroom, Maddie is an exceptional student who has earned high honors throughout middle school. But her excellence in academics goes beyond her grades. She has diligence that transcends all content areas; she participates without making others feel excluded; and she actively seeks feedback in order to improve. In short, teachers describe her as a leader who is respectful, motivating, and compassionate—clearly, a person of outstanding character.

In addition to her exemplary performance academically, Maddie is a multi-sport athlete who gives as much on the playing field as off. This year she was captain of the Polson basketball team, and she has earned an All Star Team selection in basketball and lacrosse, as well. But being an athlete means more than putting up stats, and Maddie proves that by demonstrating the kind of integrity and compassion that has earned multiple sportsmanship awards for Madison Youth Soccer. Outside of school and sports, Maddie is equally committed. On the weekend, when many students are focused on themselves, Maddie volunteers at the Guilford Riding School where she is an assistant instructor during the summer. It seems as though her capacity to give is unending.

Polson Middle School is fortunate to have someone like Maddison Thomas as a member of our community.

### **Erik Bernard - Walter C. Polson Middle School**

“Diligent,” “helpful,” and “compassionate.” These are a few of the comments made by members of the Polson Community when referring to **Erik Bernard**, a young man well respected, not only by other students, but by faculty and staff. As a student, a peer helper, and a Boy Scout, Erik has emerged as a quiet leader in our community.

Erik is a diligent worker in class who sets the standard for conscientious work and honest behavior. Teachers know they can count on him to do his best and do so with a positive attitude. Whether he is working independently or collaboratively, he takes initiative, leads by example, and encourages other students to do their best, as well. Erik’s interaction with his peers is a testament to his character. He is a kind and considerate student who is well liked by everyone. This is evident, not only in class, but in his work in the Peer Helper program, an organization where students support their peers and work to make the climate of the school positive and inclusive. As a final contribution to the school, Erik is a member of the Polson Band where he is an enthusiastic performer!

Erik’s positive qualities extend beyond the school building into the community in several ways. Most significant are his accomplishments as a Boy Scout. He has set a goal to become an Eagle Scout and is well on his way, having already earned six of the required 13 merit badges. In addition to Boy Scouts, he is an active member in Praise Band at his church where he serves as a crucifier, torch bearer and usher as well. It seems that in anything he does, Erik gives it his all—and others benefit.

Middle school can be a tumultuous time, but Erik’s integrity, concern for others, and commitment set him apart as a role model for all.

### **2.1.3. Grace Hartmann 2017 Inclusion Specialist Award**

Superintendent Scarice introduced Grace Hartmann as the 2017 Inclusion Specialist Award. Unified Theater has been active in Polson for 3 years. Unified Theater has programs across Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York and California. Out of hundreds of student leaders (middle school and high school) Grace Hartmann was awarded the Inclusion Specialist award at the annual banquet on May 12th. Grace was recognized because of her ability to treat all kids equally and respectfully. Grace is a unique individual who doesn't see a "disability". She just sees the strengths in everyone. Aside

from UT, Grace is active in school sports, peer helpers, chorus, and has helped with social skills lunch groups. Outside of school, Grace participates in Special Olympics and was a coach this year.

## 2.2. Public Participation

No comments were made.

## 3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Aidan Hughes and Emily Baker

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

On Monday the STAR Performance a student run play was held yesterday at DHHS. The theme of the performance was Suicide. The freshman and sophomore students attended the play during the day and an evening performance was also held and open to the public. There was a great turnout for the performance.

The Orchestra performance will be held tomorrow evening.

SCC sports are underway.

Pre prom and junior meetings have taken place.

An opioid presentation was held at DHHS.

## 4. Superintendent's Report

Thomas R. Scarice

- 4.1. Superintendent Scarice stated that the projected enrolment numbers from kindergarten were 132 and the District currently has 148 kindergarten students enrolled for the 2017-2017 school year. Superintendent Scarice stated that the District will be keeping an eye on the numbers. Currently Island Avenue's kindergarten classes have 25 and 26 students enrolled in each class. Jeffrey has 2 classes of 20 and 1 class of 21 kindergarten student enrolled. Superintendent Scarice stated that Island Avenue tends to have more of the late registrations. Superintendent Scarice also stated that he met with the principals and they are keeping a close watch on the enrollment numbers.

## 4.2. Tri-State Visit

Ms. Dahling-Hench stated that this will be the first time the District has conducted their own visit. The following Districts will be attending: Herricks, NY; Redding, CT; Ridgefield, CT; Weston, CT; Wilton, CT; New Canaan, CT; Darien, CT; Hewlett-Woodmere, NY and Scarsdale, NY.

Ms. Dahling-Hench thanked the Board for moving the meeting tonight so the Hammo room could be set up in advance of tomorrow's Tri-State visit.

At 8:11 PM the Board took a brief break to tour the Hammonasset Room to see the set-up for the Tri-State visit which will begin tomorrow morning.

The meeting reconvened at 8:27 PM.

### 4.3. Math Forums (on file)

Stacey Daly and Jen Maxwell

Ms. Daly and Ms. Maxwell presented the following:

What is a Math Forum:

Instructional strategy developed by Cathy Fosnot and Martin Dolk

A whole-class discussion focused on two or three strategically selected student solutions in order to develop every student's mathematical learning

Supports the development of the mathematician rather than fixing mistakes or getting agreement on answers.

Challenges students to think and reflect on alternative ways or strategies to solve a problem.

Teacher serves as the facilitator.

The Structure of a Math Forum:

#### **Prior to Math Forum:**

Students complete a math task.

The teacher analyzes strategies used by students to complete the task.

The teacher selects and orders student samples taking into consideration how the conversation will be structured in order to scaffold student learning.

#### **During Math Forum:**

Selected students share their solutions.

Classroom conversation revolves around questions and suggestions regarding the shared solutions.

#### **Using Forums to Reflect on 21st Century Learning**

Analyzed our practice regarding feedback to students' performance on PBAs

Modeled forums around PBA results

Next Steps

Ms. Daly and Ms. Maxwell both stated how exciting it is to see 8, 9 and 10 year old students leading discussion in class as well as push their mathematical thinking. Stating that it is very exciting watching the students compare their work and being able to see how other students came up with the same answer.

Ms. Daly stated how this same technique of learning will be able to be used in several aspect of language arts.

#### 4.4. World Language Lab Use (on file)

Jen Aguzzi and Kristin Mancini

Ms. Mancini and Ms. Aguzzi presented the following:

K-12 World Language Curriculum Updates:

- Installation Summer 2015
- Expansion June 2016
- Reliability
- Student Engagement
- Reduction of Transitions
- Increased Variety of Activities

Ms. Mancini and Ms. Aguzzi stated that they attended the ACTFL conference which was held in Boston.

Ms. Mancini and Ms. Aguzzi showed how the students learn to text chats in Spanish, written work in Mandarin etc.

Superintendent Scarice stated how in 2014 stringing language lab was a hot topic. Superintendent Scarice stated that he was happy to see that it was all worth it. Ms. Aguzzi stated it was well worth it. Prior to this it would take 20 minutes per student to burn discs. Now the teachers are able to do this in 20 minutes for 40 students.

Language lab training with Sandy Hayward was very useful. Now that she is moving local they are hoping to have her back year for a refresher.

Lab experiences in our new curriculum - Stage 2

Spanish 3 – Prepare interview questions at home the night before, including possible follow-up questions.

Spanish 4 Honors – Students will listen to music to authentic audios and participate in conversation about the visual and theatrical arts.

Spinach 5 – You're on the airplane flying to Spain. The person sitting next to you strikes up a conversation about different regions of Spain and where to go. What has been recommended to you?

Superintendent Scarice stated what a great job Jen Aguzzi has done with a variety of different languages.

Ms. Mancini and Ms. Aguzzi thanked the Board for the opportunity of lab. They stated there is more to do and the teachers are interested in further training. They stated they are very appreciative of the lab.

Superintendent Scarice and Ms. Fitzgerald thanked them for coming back so the Board could see the progress that has been made.

#### 4.5. Other Matters

No other matters were discussed.

#### 5. Board Members' Comments

No comments were made.

#### 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:

**Coding – Dan Grenier** – CTE Curriculum Lead came to talk to us about where he is in the process.

- He is working on curriculum for K-12 for Computer Science/Coding.
- He has developed a Computer Science Framework and now is working on how to deliver for K-12.
- He has formed a team.
- He has created a philosophy.
- The curriculum will have a focus on Computational Thinking.
- Next step is to develop the Scope and Sequence.
- There will be piloting of new units and materials in the 2017-2018 school year.

**Science – Sarah Sandora** – Science Curriculum Lead came to introduce herself to us and talk about her first weeks on the job.

- She is the new Science Curriculum Lead.
- She started about a week ago.
- She is working on getting a sense of the current K-12 science curriculum and sequencing
- Meeting the Science Teachers
- Observing Science classrooms and teachers at all schools
- Plans to send the 5<sup>th</sup> grade science units to CRC shortly.
- She is also working on the Science Summer Training for grades 5-12.

##### **Funding Requirements for MITT Plan –**

- This is the final piece of the information we requested in order to further review the MITT plan and bring it to a final vote.
- Please review the spreadsheet with the monetary breakdown and let me know if you have any questions BEFORE 6/20.
- We will review the MITT one last time at planning on 6/20 and ask Art any final questions and then bring it to the Full Board for a vote on 6/20.

### **Final Site –**

- After trying the Google Classroom as a pilot we have decided to stay with Final Site for two more years.
- The Google Classroom at this time does not meet all of our needs – the Parent Perspective and Communication is just not there yet.
- Art will continue to monitor the Google Classroom suite as it evolves and we will re-evaluate in two years.

### **Brown Middle School POND Program –**

- Pam Meier came to talk to us about the Brown School Pond.
- The pond is used as a huge educational resource for our schools and town.
- It has many species of animals and flowers growing in and/or around it.
- It was designated an official wildlife habitat.
- The pond is now in need of dredging.
- The proposal will be taken to the Wetlands Commission on June 5<sup>th</sup> and they will come back to us with a plan and a cost proposal.
- The current thinking is it would take 2-3 weeks to complete this work and we would try to complete it over the summer.
- Moving forward a management program for the pond is going to be put in place.

### **RFP for Copiers –**

- There is an RFP out.
- We conduct this every 3 years.
- We do this in conjunction with the town.
- Art is looking at declining enrollment and our needs moving forward.

### **School Utilization facilities Study –**

- The BoS and BoF will review and vote at their meetings in early June.
- We are on track and on schedule to file our paperwork with the State on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Just a reminder for everyone about what we are moving forward with – We started this project 2 ½ years ago to address:
  - o Declining Enrollment
  - o The Age of our School Buildings
  - o Our District's Instructional Vision
- In the end the Board voted to approve Option 3 – as a reminder Option 3 is to Build a new Ryerson and Renovate Jeffrey 2-3 years later and perform Minor Capital Improvements to Polson under a 10-year Master Plan and to close Island Avenue School once Ryerson and Jeffrey are completed.
- This plan allows us to address Ryerson first which we know from our consultants has the biggest need at this time.
- This plan also allows us to complete Jeffrey before we move the Island students allowing them to move into a new school when their school ultimately closes.

- If in the end this plan is not approved either by the Town Boards or the Referendum, the Board would still look at consolidating our students into the current Jeffrey and Ryerson Schools and close Island Avenue to still address the declining enrollment.
- First and foremost, the responsibility of the Board of Education is to help provide a safe environment where the Superintendent and his team can prepare all learners, both emotionally and academically, to successfully navigate the world they live in, both now and in the future. In conjunction with this, we must also create and maintain the brick and mortar structures that house this kind of learning. But, at no time does the BOE want to sacrifice any future operational budget by adding too much burden on the tax payers all at once. The proposed plan takes into account the entire town's debt service and creates the ability to smooth out the spikes in taxes for our citizens.
- In addition, at this moment, I think people look at our buildings and say they are in good shape. But, as in the natural course of any district, things like our brick and mortar, mechanicals and in Madison's case our portables, are in need. We have extensive MEP and ADA reports from our consultants, on all of our buildings which outlines, prioritizes and provides cost estimates for these needs. It is important to highlight that our professional consultants have studied our facilities for over two years. We have taken our time and exhausted many options, before deciding on the BOE adopted plan.

#### **Solar Polson/Roof –**

- We are looking to put solar panels on the new part of the Polson roof over the gym.
- Bill McMinn is working with the vendor with regard to making sure we do everything to protect our new roof before these get placed.
- This work will be done over the summer but will not require the school to be closed.
- This is part of the larger town solar projects.

#### **6.2. Personnel Committee**

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

Ms. Marino stated the following:

NAGE approved the three year labor contract. The contract will be voted on at the June 20, 2017 Board of Education meeting.

#### **6.3. Policy Committee**

Members: Katie Stein Chair; Seth Klaskin, Matt Keller

The Policy Committee has not met since the last Board of Education meeting.

#### **6.4. Finance Committee**

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

Ms. Keating made the following comments:

The Finance Committee would like to remind everyone of the current proposal for the school's study. It will be voted on by the BOS on June 7, 2017.

The BOE approved a total project cost of 65.8 million dollars. It will be done in 2 referendums. The first referendum will be this fall for 33.2 million dollars. The second will be in 2019 for 32.5 million dollars.

The BOE recognizes that many parents want to keep Island open. If the referendum goes down, we still need to address the declining enrollment and aging buildings. In order to address them the BOE would have to seriously consider closing Island and with basic redistricting Island students can be moved into an as is Ryerson and as is Jeffrey. Which to say the least would not be ideal as we would rather move all elementary kids into new buildings.

To run Island it is roughly \$1 million in operation a year. At some point, enrollment might drop to 150ish students in that school and would fiscally irresponsible to keep all three schools open with such declining enrollment and aging buildings.

There is also the issue of revenue for the town if the Island property is sold. It could potentially be around \$3 million in revenue to the town plus \$900,000 in potential annual tax revenue. The town is interested in this property and likely that there would be a push to close Island and return it to the town.

In closing I would like to remind everyone that the most up to date presentation of this project is on MPS website. I encourage everyone to check the website and familiarize themselves with the plan. This is a plan that will address many concerns for the schools and help support our mission to ensure the best educations for our students. There has been a lot of misinformation about this project out in the public. Again, I encourage everyone to visit the MPS website and read the presentation.

#### **6.5. LEARN Liaison**

Katie Stein

Ms. Stein stated the following:

Dr. Tina Mannarino, LEARN Director of Young Children and Families Department(YCF), discussed the importance of the services provided to children from birth to age eight in providing solid foundation for their future growth.

Dr. Howley stated that due to the loss of funding as grant opportunities continue to diminish, layoff notices will be distributed next month effecting the Professional Department staff as well as YCF.

The next executive board meeting on June 8, 2017 is our annual board breakfast. An invitation is extended to our Superintendent and any board member that would like to attend.

#### **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: \$7,557.37 2015-2016 Budget and \$480,530.69 2016-2017 Budget**

**8.2. Line Transfers: \$35,401.58**

MOTION: by Bowler seconded by Marino to approve the Consent Agenda.  
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Fitzgerald; Keating; Marino; Stein  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN:  
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

**9. Action Item: Minutes of the April 18, 2017 Board of Education Meeting.**

MOTION: by Keating seconded by Bowler to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2017 Board of Education Meeting.  
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Fitzgerald; Keating; Klaskin; Marino; Stein  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN:  
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

**10. Action Item: Minutes of the May 9, 2017 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)**

MOTION: by Keating seconded by Marino to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2017 Board of Education Meeting.  
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Fitzgerald; Keating;; Marino; Stein  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN:  
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

**11. Textbook Adoption: A Brief History of American Sports**

MOTION: by Planning to adopt textbook A Brief History of American Sports Education Meeting.  
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Fitzgerald; Keating; Marino; Stein  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN:  
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

**12. Textbook Adoption: Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East**

MOTION: by Planning to adopt textbook A Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

**13. Old Business**

No old business was discussed

**14. Future Agenda Items**

No future agenda items were discussed.

**15. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)  
May/June 2017 Calendars**

**16. Adjournment**

MOTION: by Bowler seconded by Keating to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Approved at the June 6, 2017 Board of Education Meeting  
LF