

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
November 13, 2018
7:30 PM
Town Campus Hammonasset Room**

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 Chair Katie Stein at 7:32 p.m. Chairman Stein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Galen Cawley; Happy Marino; Violet McNerney; Tom Pellegrino, Emily Rosenthal; Katie Stein

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

Greg DeSantis via phone

Seth Klaskin entered the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

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

2.1. Public Participation

No comments were made.

3. Recognitions:

3.1. Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents Student Leadership Award (CAPSS) Claire Chang and Macken McDonald

Superintendent Scarice stated that the CAPSS award is given to one female and one male student at DHHS. Superintendent Scarice stated that the District is blessed to have these kids of students. The character of these students is really attributed by their parents.

Mr. Salutari introduced Claire Chang and Macken McDonald and made the following comments.

Leadership Service, Academic Prowess, Service to Others in the Community

Claire Chang

It is my pleasure to introduce to you Claire Chang as one of Daniel Hand High School's recipients of the 2018-19 Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents Award.

Claire is an exemplary scholar who is incredibly bright, highly motivated, and immensely dedicated. She has ambitiously tackled the most rigorous program of studies available while mastering the art of time management. Her industrious work ethic and persistent approach to her studies coupled with an enthusiastic attitude and positive tone make her a valued member of any classroom. Claire enjoys most academic disciplines, and she excels in all of them. She has an industrious work ethic and her persistent approach to her studies supports her in conquering what others might find insurmountable. Teachers value Claire in class due to her passionate, enthusiastic attitude and her appreciation for thoughtful debate. Claire leads her peers by example and helps set a positive tone in the classroom. Curious by nature and eager to learn, Claire genuinely enjoys learning for the sake of learning. She has pursued a variety of subjects at Daniel Hand outside of the core requirements in order to explore her diverse interests.

One could expect that a student so dedicated to her studies might not have time to devote to extracurricular activities. Quite the opposite is true with Claire as her commitment to her extracurricular pursuits is authentic. She involves herself with activities that are personally meaningful and she dedicates her efforts to causes about which she is most passionate. Claire co-founded and co-leads a student-run gun control group called Violence to Voices that was instrumental in organizing a school-wide event on the date of the first National School Walkout.

She is also a passionate musician determined to use her talent to benefit others. She and her sister perform annual benefit concerts for the Madison Food Pantry and play for the residents of Watrous Nursing Home.

As a natural leader, Claire is also an essential member of several clubs and organizations. People respect and trust Claire and they look to her for guidance and support. What many people enjoy most about Claire is her cheerful, engaging personality. Claire is eternally positive and upbeat and her exceptionally pleasant, agreeable, and congenial demeanor makes her always enjoyable to be around. Because she is so personable, she develops strong relationships with others and is very well liked by everyone with whom she interacts.

Claire is a young woman of integrity and impeccable character. She is gracious, appreciative, honest, mature, and responsible. With a solid moral compass, Claire consistently strives to do the right thing. She has a strong sense of social justice and is unafraid to speak up or come to the aid of a student being mistreated or to defend against insensitive acts or comments. Despite all of her accomplishments, Claire remains solidly grounded and humble.

She is an outstanding young adult clearly deserving of this special recognition.

Macken McDonald

It is my pleasure to introduce to you Macken McDonald as one of Daniel Hand High School's recipients of the 2018-19 Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents Award.

This academically successful, self-motivated young man is an important and contributing member of the highly competitive, and incredibly successful, Daniel Hand High School Varsity Football Team. As a member of the team, Macken participates in year round physical training and is a leader on and off the field. His leadership off the field is obvious when it comes to community service commitments for his team. One of Macken's favorite volunteer activities includes "Reading for Character." This program allows Macken the opportunity to participate in our elementary school "story time" when he reads books to younger students in our district. He is an excellent role model that many of our young Tigers look up to.

As a student who has a strong desire to help others, Macken leads and organizes Daniel Hands Football Team's "Food Drive for Shoreline Soup Kitchens." Macken's leadership abilities along with his desire to serve as a positive role model for his peers make him an ideal and important contributing member of the Daniel Hand Football Leadership Counsel.

Outside of his academics and in addition to his football commitments, Macken's athletic abilities earned him a two year membership to the DHHS Junior Varsity Lacrosse Team. As a clearly reflective young adult and in order to balance all of his activities Macken decided to discontinue lacrosse to focus on other areas of interest. For example, Macken's musical abilities have been met through his membership in the DHHS Concert Band. Due to strong leadership characteristics, Macken is the section leader of the tubas. Although Macken has minimal time due to his many commitments, he still manages to be an employee at a local grocery store.

Macken is a remarkable, self-motivated young adult who is driven to succeed. High achievement in the school arena is clearly a priority as evidenced by incredible success in many of our most rigorous courses. In the classroom, Macken is known for his excellent quality of work, effort, active participation, and a sense of academic determination and commitment that would be described as impressive. Macken has done a remarkable job competing with his peers at our extraordinarily competitive high school all while mastering the fine balance between his academics and his extra-curricular activities. His incredible achievement in many of our most rigorous courses makes him an exceptional student. Teachers are delighted with Macken's originality and with his insight. Additionally, teachers consistently share that Macken is without question, a pleasure to have in their class.

Macken is a remarkable young man who never seems to, or refuses to, give up. His sense of academic determination, innate intelligence, and willingness to help others are just a few of the wonderful qualities that make Macken the focused and driven young adult who has earned his high degree of success. He is an outstanding student and person clearly deserving of this special recognition.

- 3.2.** American Education Week Mike Ginsburg, MEA President, Mary Ellen Babik, MEA Vice President

Postponed until the December 4, 2018 Board of Education Meeting.

- 3.3.** Madison Association of Educational Supportive Services (MAESS) Susan Evans and Carla Marino - MAESS Co-Presidents

Postponed until the December 4, 2018 Board of Education Meeting.

- 3.4.** Larry Brundrette, from VFW Post #2096 in Madison attended the BOE meeting to discuss the numerous events that have taken place over the past several days in the District in honor of Veterans Day.

Mr. Brundrette noted they have received 2 essays from the District regarding two individuals being nominated for Teacher of the Year. He also noted that the District is allowed three nominations.

- 3.5.** Lauren Preskar attended the BOE meeting to talk t the success of the recent Junior Achievement Day at Island Ave School! This is opportunity for your child to participate in lessons throughout the day that promote community and global citizenship.

Junior Achievement is "the nation's largest organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their futures, and make smart academic and economic choices. Junior Achievement's programs ignite the spark in young people to experience and realize the opportunities and realities of work and life in the 21st century." The program consists of trained community and parent volunteers who talked with students about topics such as work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy.

Ms. Preskar stated that parents keep coming back each year to participate. Ms. Preskar is hoping to continue this program next year at Jeffrey.

4. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Ryan Tomicic and Jacqueline Sandor

Did not attend the BOE meeting.

No report was given

5. Superintendent's Report

Thomas R. Scarice

Superintendent Scarice noted that on behalf of the Connecticut Technology and Engineering Education Association that the Daniel Hand High School Technology and Engineering Education Program has been selected as the 2019 Connecticut CTEEA/ITEEA High School Program of the Year.

5.1. State Testing Results

Superintendent Scarice, Ms. Dahling-Hench, Ms. Michelle Horn and Ms. Michelle Rindfleisch reported on the following:

The annual state testing and college admissions report was presented to the Curriculum and Student Development Committee at their last meeting.

There are four main claims to the Standardized Testing and College Admissions:

- 1) There is no correlation between the SBAC and the SAT or how the students are tested in these two measures.
- 2) The Connecticut SBAC varies from the SBAC Blueprints. The Connecticut SBAC has questionable reliability and validity.
- 3) Misuse of standardized assessments can impact and alter curriculum and instruction as well as lead to false impressions of student achievement.
- 4) Madison Public Schools has a design for curriculum and assessment that holds student achievement to a higher standard than tested in the Connecticut SBAC.

5.2. College admissions report

Superintendent Scarice and Ms. Dahling-Hench presented with the state test, analysis of the actual testing instrument, and the college admissions/college testing report for the past spring.

5.3. 2019-2020 Budget Assumptions

Superintendent Scarice reported on the following:

The 2019-2020 proposed Budget Assumptions of the administration was presented to the full Board at the last meeting. This will be an opportunity to discuss the assumptions, ask questions, and provide full Board feedback prior to the final development of the proposed 2019-2020 Superintendent's recommended budget. It is requested that the Board will take action on the 2019-2020 Budget Assumptions at the December 4 meeting.

5.4. Other Matters

Mr. Anthony Salutari reported on the following:

Recently, the high school administration was presented with a new tool to assist in the detection of the presence of marijuana, particularly with regards to newer devices designed to conceal (i.e. electronic cigarettes and vaporizers).

Detection of the presence of marijuana has been difficult due to the new devices. We have shared this tool with the Madison Police Department and they have confirmed that this tool was successful in detecting the presence of marijuana in an electronic cigarette.

Given the high profile nature of this problem in all high schools, I see this as an opportunity to publicly share our imminent use of this tool in detection, provided a legal search has been conducted by the administration under Board policy and the laws governing search and seizure in schools.

The sharing of this information at this evening's night can be viewed as part of the public campaign to alert students and families of this new tool. The use of this tool can certainly assist the administration in doing its job more effectively, that is, to more reliably identify substances that appear to be marijuana.

6. Board Members' Comments

Ms. Stein noted that this upcoming weekend The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe will be taking place at DHHS.

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

7.1. Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Galen Cawley, Chair; Emily Rosenthal, Kirk Barneby

Mr. Cawley reported on the following:

Counseling Program

Jen Hawley, Eliza Hayes, Rachel Kilian and Thomas Scarice

Social and emotional wellness are necessary conditions for learning. The question is, how does the Madison Public School District take a systems approach in fostering social emotional learning for all students? The earlier these needs can be addressed within a system, the better. At present, we have no elementary school counselors at the K-5 level. Ms. Hawley, Hayes, and Kilian discussed the day to day tasks involved to meet the

needs of Madison students within the recommended American School Counseling Association (ASCA) standards.

Grade 8 writing Unit 2: Narrative to creative
Martha Curran

Ms. Curran's theme was giving 8th grade students more choice in order to find their voice in the 8th grade writing unit. Students are able to choose a genre for their major writing projects, which are compiled in a digital portfolio. Their writing choices include the short story, poetry, vignette, and "Chapter One" forms.

US History
Julie Johnson and Ben Pelletier

Ms. Johnson discussed curriculum revisions to US History Grade 11. These changes included increasing student choice and removing some redundancies between economic and history courses. A separate mini-unit was created to make the research paper more focused and realistic in terms of college expectations. The bottom line is that changes have made it easier for new teachers to understand and teach the curriculum, which translates into a better classroom experience for the students.

Writing for Career and College
Natasha Zanelli and Josh Young

Ms. Zanelli presented major changes to "Writing for Career and College" for Grade 12. The purpose was to enhance curriculum from a level three to a level two course. Students are expected to maintain an electronic portfolio of various types of writing.

Eduplanet 21 case study

Ms. Dahling-Hench discussed the impact of redistricting on Curriculum (cycle adjustments- budget), Intervention, and Materials

Impact of Literacy Coaches
Gail Dahling-Hench

The need for a literacy coach at DHHS was discussed, per the 2019-20 budget assumptions.

7.2. Communications Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal Chair; Greg DeSantis, Kirk Barneby

Ms. Rosenthal reported on the following:

The Communication Committee met on October 30 and November 13. We finalized our first two topics for communications: the work of the Tri-Board School Facilities Working Group, to be posted in November, and highlighting the DHHS program and offerings, to be posted in December.

Our next topic will focus on the budget process and opportunities for public participation, to be posted in January. We have worked with Rita Boland to add a

tab to the BoE website where communications will be posted, and people will have the opportunity to subscribe to this site, so that they will be notified when new communication is added. From there, we can link to BoE and town social media accounts. We are also working on outreach to realtors, the Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Commission, and the Newcomers Club.

7.3. Facilities Committee

Members: Seth Klaskin, Chair, Galen Cawley, Greg DeSantis

Mr. Klaskin reported on the following:

The Facilities Committee met on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. William McMinn delivered a combined report for the Superintendent and the Facilities Director. He noted that we have spent approximately 50% of the Planned & Cycled Maintenance fund allocated for this year. He further noted that this right about where it needs to be and will allow him to do the projects he had planned to accomplish this coming summer. This includes painting and new carpeting for parts of Jeffrey and Ryerson, and continued site work in the area of the future playground at Brown Intermediate School.

Galen then reported on the progress of the Tri-Board Working Group and presented the excellent homework he prepared for that Group.

The Committee then turned to the Brown School OPAL project and Bill McMinn noted that he is working with Julie Phelps and the Playground Committee to determine how best to phase the project.

7.4. Finance Committee

Members: Happy Marino, Galen Cawley, Tom Pellegrino

Ms. Marino resigned as the Chair of the Finance Committee. However, Ms. Marino stated her desire to still remain as a member of the committee.

No report was given. The committee has not met since the last BOE meeting.

A conversation ensued regarding the new configuration of the Finance Committee. Some members voiced their concern regarding the new configuration being presented that there be 4 members on the committee until May 31, 2019. It was decided to take action later in the meeting regarding the changes to be made to the Finance Committee.

Ms. Stein made the following statement:

Happy, I am sorry to see you step down as Finance Committee chair- I have twice, now, appointed you to this committee both at your request and because I see fiscal matters as a strength of yours. As board chair, it is my responsibility to "designate committee members" as well as ensure that the committees run smoothly and cooperatively so that the work of the district can be realized. I have worked hard, in my time as chair, to balance committee designations based on Board member requests, work load and overall responsibilities. Our bylaws state that "no board member may chair more than one standing committee"- the other two members of the Finance Committee are already serving as chairs on other committees which leaves me in a bit of a pickle in terms of what to do. In fact, every other member on the Board is currently serving as chair with

the exception of Kurt and Violet. The work of the Finance committee must continue. I have reached out to Board council to review our bylaws. He stated that there are no stipulations to the number of board members that may serve on a committee. So I am recommending that Kirk Barneby be appointed to the Finance Committee subject to board approval.

The following statement Ms. Stein read was from the read from board council:

In reviewing bylaw 9450, I did not see a limit on the number of Board members who may serve on a committee. Therefore, you may add a Board member to the Committee and designate that new Committee member as the Chair of the Committee (subject to Board approval in accordance with the Bylaw)

7.5. Personnel Committee

Members: Tom Pellegrino, Chair, Violet McNerney, Happy Marino

Mr. Pellegrino reported on the following:

Teacher negotiations met on November 8, 2018 and still waiting on ratification process. The Teamsters meeting is scheduled for November 27th.

7.6. Policy Committee

Members: Greg DeSantis Chair; Violet McNerney, Seth Klaskin

No report was given. Next committee meeting will take place on November 20, 2018.

7.7. LEARN Liaison

Rotating

November 8, 2018 LEARN report will be given at the December 4, 2018 BOE meeting.

7.8. Tri-Board Working Group for Board of Education Facilities

Members: Galen Cawley; Kirk Barneby; Al Goldberg; Jean Ferris; Jude Friedman; Bennett Pudlin

Mr. Cawley reported the committee met last week to discuss the following:

Review of the Presentation to the full Tri-Board
Review of "community" meeting schedule
Review of community data collected previously

There will be a Tri-Board School Facilities Working Group Public Forum being held on November 28, 2018 at Ryerson at 7:pm

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

Liz Plasky noted that there is a conflict of meetings on the evening of November 28th. The Tri-Board School Facilities Working Group Public Forum and Polson PTO was hosting "Smoke Screen"

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

9.1. Bills Payable: \$14,384.93 – 2017/2018 Budget - \$671,147.79 – 2018/2019 Budget

9.2. Line Transfers: \$47,385.25

9.3. Budget Expenditure as of November 8, 2018

MOTION: by Rosenthal seconded by Cawley to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

10. Action Item: Minutes of the October 9, 2018 Board of Education Meeting.

MOTION: by Pellegrino seconded by Klaskin to approve minutes of the October 9, 2018 Board of Education Meeting as amended.

AYES: Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

11. Action Item: Minutes of the October 23, 2018 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Marino seconded by Rosenthal to approve minutes of the October 23, 2018 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Cawley; DeSantis; Marino; McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Klaskin, Stein

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

12. Action Item: To approve the 2019-2020 Program of Studies.

MOTION: by Marino seconded by Rosenthal to approve the 2019-2020 Program of Studies.

AYES: Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Stein

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

13. Action Item: To approve the Superintendent's Professional Goals for the 2018-2019 School Year.

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Cawley to approve the Superintendent's Professional Goals for the 2018-2019 School Year.

AYES: Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Marino

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

14. Action Item: To add an item to the agenda regarding changes to the finance committee including chair and membership.

MOTION: by DeSantis seconded by Pellegrino to add an item to the agenda regarding changes to the finance committee including chair and membership.

AYES: Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

15. Action Item: To change the Finance committee from a 3 person to a 4 person committee and revert back to a 3 person committee on May 31, 2019. Appoint Kirk Barneby as the new Finance Committee Chair.

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Cawley change the Finance committee from a 3 person to a 4 person committee and revert back to a 3 person committee on May 31, 2019. Appoint Kirk Barneby as the new Committee Chair.

AYES: Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

16. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

17. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were discussed.

18. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

19. Action Item: To enter into Executive Session to Discuss District Security

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Rosenthal to enter into Executive Session to Discuss District Security at 10:23 p.m.

AYES: Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Greg DeSantis exited the meeting at 10:23 p.m.

20. Adjournment

MOTION: by McNerney seconded by Klaskin to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 p.m.

AYES: Cawley; Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Approved at the 12/4/18 Board of Education Meeting.

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