

**Special Meeting  
Madison Public Schools  
Board of Education  
April 7, 2020  
7:00 PM  
Hammonasset Room**

**MEETING AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order / Attendance**

Chair Katie Stein called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

In attendance: (in person): Katie Stein, Kirk Barneby

Violet McNeerney, Galen Cawley, Katie Stein, Frank Henderson, Kirk Barneby, Gail Dahling-Hench, Emily Rosenthal, Greg DeSantis, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Bill McMinn, Zoe Roos, Kathryn Hart, T. J. Salutari, Kelly Spooner, Melanie Witcher, Elizabeth Battaglia, Becky Frost, Tom Pellegrino, Catherine Miller, Thomas Scarice

Also present: Happy Marino, Shawn Parkhurst

**2. Approve the Resignation of Thomas Scarice effective July 1, 2020**

MOTION: by Barneby, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the resignation of Thomas Scarice, effective July 1, 2020.

AYES: Barneby, Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNeerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Chair Stein asked for discussion.

Mr. Pellegrino thanked Superintendent Scarice. On a personal note, I would like to share two recollections. When I began serving on the board, I was working at the university level. A few of my colleagues were also colleagues of Tom's at Fairfield University. Bob Hannifin, the Dean of the School of Graduate Continuing Education told me Madison has a special superintendent and he was correct. Since that time, I've moved to private high school education and serve a similar role to Tom's, but on a smaller scale. Much of the things I've gathered from our work here I've learned from Tom, both as a parent and as a president. I appreciate the work you have done – you are a talented person, and Westport is very lucky. Thank you!

Mr. Cawley: I came to praise Tom, not bury him. The good work he has done in our district will live on for a long time and for that I am profoundly grateful. Tom is an educational leader in the true sense of the word. He's a thinker and a doer whose moral courage has always enabled him to exercise foresight and implement long term plans. You could lay out a long list of accomplishments – he's achieved great teamwork with the admin team, curriculum reform, student wellness, student safety, coordination with the police. At the same time, Tom has always been able to turn on a dime and focus his energy and attention on critical day to day tasks – he's an adroit crisis manager. It's our loss and Westport's gain and I wish him all the best.

Mrs. Rosenthal: I am sad to see you go and I wish and your family all the best. I've loved working with you these past few years and knowing of you many years before that. One of the things I'd like to highlight – in addition to your excellent communication, is that the kids know you. Children know you in the school buildings and I don't know if that can be said for a lot of superintendents. You have a presence and in addition to the work at the top this is a real testament to your leadership and your role as an educator. Thank you.

Mrs. Stein: Tom was appointed as superintendent in May of 2012. Since that time, he has been demonstrably committed to the success of our district and I am grateful for his many contributions. By defining our mission to prepare all learners to make a unique, positive contribution in a complex global society, he developed model programs for our students and aligned systems and partnerships around our students needs. By creating and focusing on strategic objectives and developing the balanced scorecard, Mr. Scarice has worked to create a 21<sup>st</sup> century plan for our students. There have been many highs over your tenure here, but there have been some major challenges as well. From the unspeakable tragedy at Sandy Hook, Super Storm Sandy, the Blizzard of 2018 and now a global pandemic, COVID-19. Your compassionate leadership has set the tone of reassurance and strength that was invaluable to the community. We congratulate Tom on his new position; I am grateful you will be remaining in town and I look forward to seeing you at Board meetings in the future.

### 3. Approve Appointment of Members of the Superintendent Search Committee

MOTION: by Barneby, seconded by Rosenthal to approve the appointment of members of the Board to serve as members of the Superintendent Search Committee, a personnel search committee, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, for the purposes of conducting a search for a successor superintendent of schools.

AYES: Barneby, Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

### 4. Adjournment

MOTION: by Barneby, seconded by Rosenthal to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

AYES: Barneby, Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

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