

**Madison Public Schools  
Board of Education Regular Meeting  
March 20, 2018  
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 Katie Stein at 7:34 p.m. Chairman Stein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jessica Bowler; Greg DeSantis; Seth Klaskin; Violet McNerney; Matt Parthasarthy; 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.

Galen Cawley entered the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

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

**2.1. Public Participation**

No comments were made.

**3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report**

Emily Baker and Ryan Tomicic

Due to exam week Emily and Ryan did not attend the meeting. No report was given.

**4. Superintendent's Report**

Thomas R. Scarice

**4.1. Review of March 14, 2018 District Events**

Superintendent Scarice updated the Board on the March 14<sup>th</sup> “Walkout”. An estimated 70% Daniel Hand students and more than 80% of Polson students participated. Students were given a choice regarding their participation. In addition, following Senator Murphy’s kick-off address, the students had access to State Representative Noreen Kokoruda, as well as the ability to post messages, write letters, while also sharing their thoughts with The Source and The Hartford Courant. All of these actions were in keeping with the Districts priorities of amplifying student’s voices, keeping the event age appropriate, and ensuring the safety of our students.

We intend on following up with Representative Courtney and Senator Kennedy, in addition to continuing to work with our student body.

## 4.2. Other Matters

Superintendent Scarice stated that he will be attending a Global Leadership Summit in Boston this Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> along with Ms. Dahling-Hench and 4 students who took part in the Independent Study Course pilot from DHHS. The student referred to this course as “life changing”. While attending this event they have been asked to speak on a panel.

## 5. Board Members' Comments

Mr. Klaskin noted that tonight’s Board of Education meeting is the last meeting before the DHHS VIBE students head to Nashville to perform on the Grand Ole Opry stage.

DHHS VIBE held a fundraiser concert on March 16<sup>th</sup> for their upcoming National Competition in Nashville on March 23, 2018.

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

### 6.1. Planning Committee

Members: Jessica Bowler, Chair; Emily Rosenthal, Happy Marino

Ms. Bowler gave the following report.

#### **Sicily Trip**

Martin Glasser came today to discuss a trip for April 2019 to Sicily Italy. This would be his 10<sup>th</sup> trip with students. The chaperone Ratio would be 1:6, we would be using Explorica as the tour company which we have used many times before. The trip would be Friday – Saturday with a 26 kid limit – would need 20 kids to make the trip happen. Open to next years Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors. We will vote on it at the next meeting on 4/10 - please let me know if you have any questions before them.

#### **Vertical Teams**

Before we started the curriculum writing cycles, many K-12 teachers had never met and worked together before. Now that we have completed the curriculum writing and rolled it out for LA, Math, Social Studies and World Language we need to move into Phase 3 of the process. How are the students responding to the new curriculum? Are we reaching all students? Is anything lost in translation? Now we have to have the teachers look at actual student work and analyze it – what the students are actually doing not just grading it. Vertical Team Meetings have one teacher from each grade level get together and discuss an area – for example – Math and find a common piece to review that is applicable K-12. Recently a group looked at Math and Progressions – looking for gaps, is the theme consistent over time, are we building upon themes. This along with current research and expert opinions are discussed and reported back through team meetings, coaches and the Admin Council to all teachers. These vertical teams allow for a recognition of what other grades are doing and working on along with connecting everyone K-12 back to the system and the strategy at our core.

These vertical teams and meetings are happening for LA, World Language and Social Studies in addition to Math and will happen for Science once all the new curriculum is written and rolled out.

#### **New Course Response at DHHS**

As many of you know as a result of the new curriculum and pathways many new courses are being offered at the High School for next year. Ms. Dahling-Hench shared

with us the levels of current student interest for some of the new courses – this does not mean all the students will get these courses – but shows the high level of interest. The numbers have been very high compared to prior years, especially in the courses that have been re-created and are brand new offerings. For example Biotechnology, World Traveler and Modern Middle East all have very high numbers for next year along with the Independent Study class which was a pilot for this year with 5 students – 36 students have requested it for next year. This is very exciting news!

### **Future Agenda Items**

The Planning Committee discussed items for future agendas with Superintendent Scarice as he was at the DHHS PTO meeting for the last planning meeting.

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

Members: Matt Parthasarthy, Chair, Violet McNerney, Greg DeSantis

The Personnel Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The March 21, 2018 meeting has been postponed. No report was given.

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

Members: Emily Rosenthal Chair; Violet McNerney, Seth Klaskin

Ms. Rosenthal gave the following report.

Policy #4141 – Social Networking which was discussed at the March 6<sup>th</sup> Board of Education went back to the Policy Committee this evening. There are a few amendments to be made and will be brought back to the full Board for second reading at the April 10, 2018 Board of Education meeting.

Bylaw Language Inconsistencies – There were recommended edits and will be brought to the full Board on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

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

Members: Happy Marino, Chair; Galen Cawley, Matt Parthasarthy

The Finance Committee has not met since the last Board of Education Meeting. No report was given.

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

Emily Rosenthal

Ms. Rosenthal gave the following report.

The LEARN Board of Directors met on March 15. The Director of Development gave an update on the new Student Support Services Ocean Avenue LEARning Academy, work with the Vermont International Academy, and collaborations with the National Coast Guard Museum on future educational programs. Marine Science Magnet High School and the Riverside Magnet School were recently named schools of distinction. The LEARN Regional Educational Service Center announced a partnership with UConn's School of Education - students in the Masters in Special Education program are given field placement with LEARN and may receive other benefits. Finally, the RESC Alliance Directors testified before the Appropriations Committee regarding fiscal support for magnet schools, addressing the current fingerprinting policy for substitute

teachers, and supporting early childhood education. Alliance members are also working with CAPSS and the CT Technology Assistance Project to work on an educational software hub for student data privacy.

## **6.6. Facilities Committee**

Mr. Klaskin gave the following report.

The Facilities Committee had its inaugural meeting on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 6:30pm. We kicked off the meeting with a review of the pilot committee's mandate, mission, and structure. The committee will be taking responsibility for administering all facilities-focused functions of the Board, through October 31, 2020, whereupon it will provide a final Report to the Board and the Board will determine its desire either to allow the Committee to sunset, or else potentially to create a permanent Facilities Committee by amending the Board's Bylaws to make it a permanent standing committee of the Board. The Committee consists of three Board members, with one serving as Chair. The present makeup of the Committee is Seth Klaskin (Chair), Galen Cawley, and Greg DeSantis. The Board Chair will be ex officio to the Committee, as with all other committees.

The Facilities Committee then discussed the means by which it will carry out its mandate and mission. Bill McMinn was introduced as the District's and Town's Facilities Director, and it was noted that Mr. McMinn will be given time during each regularly scheduled committee meeting to report to the Committee on the state of facilities, project progress, and any other updates he may find important to provide or of interest to the Board. The Committee will begin in earnest the process of reviewing District recommendations in preparation of a 10+ Year Master Facilities Plan (to be called the 10 Year Plan, abbreviated 10YP). The committee also addressed a suggestion made by Greg to establish a Community Advisory Committee under existing Bylaws to bring broader perspective, expertise, and credibility to our work. The Facilities Committee members will work to recommend helpful disciplines and stakeholder groups (ex., real estate agent, architect, PTO representative, etc.) and specific names for consideration at our next meeting. We welcome suggestions, but please note that they will be taken into consideration. The committee will find ways to solicit community input from time to time and will employ the Community Advisory Committee to assist with such endeavors. In terms of its discussion on the means of carrying out its mission, the committee finally noted that it will need to report often to the Finance and Planning Committees to keep them apprised of developments that will impact their committee work. Mr. Cawley will report to Finance and Ms. Stein will report to Planning.

The balance of the meeting was devoted to Superintendent Scarice and Bill McMinn's presentation of their preparation for the 10 Year Plan. They presented the software that is being used to identify and calculate the projected cost of each project item, as well as to provide links to backup material for each item. Bill has been working closely with Chuck Warrington from Colliers International, who has consulted to provide valuable project pricing information based on comps wherever possible, so the draft document is shaping up very accurately as a planning tool.

This Plan will be shared with the Board and ultimately the Board will vote on the final Plan recommended by the Committee to address facility needs and priorities. The adopted Plan will serve as the basis for the Board's submissions to the Town CIP Committee. The Board will maintain a Plan that extends further than the CIP's 5-year

planning cycle in order to utilize best practices in long-range facilities planning. It will be the goal of the Committee to keep the entire Board updated so that informed decisions can be made in this important area.

Finally, the Committee determined that the whole Board would benefit from a presentation as soon as possible, as context for the Plan and in order to offer input into the final version to be adopted by vote of the whole Board. To accomplish this, Ms. Stein has reached out to notify Board members of an upcoming Board Workshop, to take place in Executive Session. The Executive Session format is necessary for this initial meeting due to the need to speak frankly about facility security planning that is endemic throughout the plan. Once the Board has context and can see the priority that student security is given in the planning, future meetings are expected to have a more public format to seek open input and ensure transparent process. The Committee members took special note of the excellent preparation work the District has done and are excited to share the draft Plan with the whole Board.

**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: 2017-2018: \$446,573.40**

**8.2. Line Transfers: \$52,163.26**

**8.3. Donation: \$1,563.00 from Bershtein, Volpe & McKeon P.C. to purchase 12 new logo golf bags for the boy's golf team.**

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

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; McNerney; Parthasarthy; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Mr. Klaskin thanked Bershtein, Volpe & McKeon P.C. for their generous donation of \$1,563.00 to purchase 12 new logo golf bags for the boy's golf team

**9. Action Item: Minutes of the March 6, 2018 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)**

MOTION: by DeSantis seconded by Rosenthal to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2018 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; McNerney; Parthasarthy; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

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

MOTION: by DeSantis seconded by Parthasarthy to approve the removal of used books and equipment AYES: Bowler; Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; McNerney; Parthasarthy; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

**11. Action Item:** To add 6.6 Facilities Committee Report to the agenda.

MOTION: by Cawley seconded by Klaskin to add #6.6 Facilities Committee Report to the agenda.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; McNerney; Parthasarthy; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

**12. Old Business**

No old business was discussed.

**13. Future Agenda Items**

No future agenda items were discussed.

**14. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)**

March/April 2018

**15. Adjournment**

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by DeSantis to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; McNerney; Parthasarthy; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Approved at the April 10, 2018 BOE Meeting