

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
March 08, 2016
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 Vice Chair Cindy Mead at 7:31 p.m. Vice Chairman Mead led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jessica Bowler; Galen Cawley; John Dean; Alison Keating; Seth Klaskin; Happy Marino; Cindy Mead; Katie Stein

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

2. Action Item: Enter into Executive Session

MOTION: by Bowler seconded by Klaskin to enter into Executive Session to discuss the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) Contract 7/1/16 – 6/30/17 and pending litigation at 7:33 p.m.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Keating; Klaskin; Marino; Mead; Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

The Board adjourned executive session at 7:53.

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

3.1. Recognition

3.1.1. Recognition: Connecticut Board of Education Member Appreciation Month

Superintendent Scarice thanked the Board for their time and energy they give to the District. Superintendent Scarice stated that the best evidence of community engagement is by having elected Board members. Superintendent Scarice presented the Board with a small token of thanks from the District.

3.2. Public Participation

No comments were made.

4. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Paige Calvert and Aidan Hughes

Ms. Calvert noted that the musical Chorus Line will take place March 31 – April 2, 2016.

Ms. Calvert stated that Principal Salutari sent an email to all the senior students for their input as to where graduation should take place, on the Madison Green, the Madison Green with a tent or at the Madison Surf Club.

Mr. Hughes stated that exams end tomorrow and Trimester 3 begins on Friday.

Superintendent Scarice stated that at the first Board of Education meeting in April the Board will need to take action to schedule to the Daniel Hand High School commencement ceremony.

5. Superintendent's Report Thomas R. Scarice

5.1. School Utilization Facilities Study

Superintendent Scarice stated that the process of the School Utilization Facilities Study began in the fall of 2014 during the budget operating season. Superintendent Scarice noted that the Board has narrowed down to three models a 6, 5 and a 4 school option.

Superintendent Scarice stated that another Public Hearing, as well as another Tri-Board meeting, will be scheduled. This will be the 7th Public Hearing and the 3rd Tri-Board meeting.

Superintendent Scarice introduced Paul Moore of DRA who presented the Board with updated information. Mr. Moore distributed a Connecticut School Construction Grant Process list to the Board members which had the process steps outlined starting back to September 2014 through November 2016. Mr. Moore also presented the Board with maps of Madison Public Schools elementary zones for 2015-2016 PK-2 student distribution as well as a new elementary school site test plan. (on file)

Mr. Moore stated the bond will be on the total amount of the project and will be reimbursed in increments from the State. Mr. Moore also stated that the amount will be 25% more than what will actually be needed for the project.

Superintendent Scarice spoke to the considerations that are going into the process of making the best decision for the District. The geography, cost and the best design that fits what is being done in the classrooms. Ms. Bowler also stated another item mentioned at the Public Forums has been the condition of the buildings. Ms. Keating stated that she has attended all of the public forums and that one topic that continues to be brought up is the issues at Daniel Hand High School.

Mr. Bob Hale stated that he thinks the Board is in good shape by narrowing down the model options.

Superintendent Scarice stated this will be an ongoing discussion with the Board.

Atty. Klaskin thanked Paul Moore for all of his work.

5.2. State Test - Participation Rate Update

Superintendent Scarice stated that this is currently at the state legislative level. The District had a 77% participation rate with the participation requirement being 95%. Superintendent Scarice stated that between 15-18 Districts fell below the 95% participation rate.

Superintendent Scarice stated that it is the legal right of the parent to not have their child tested. Superintendent Scarice noted that districts with lower than the 95% participation rate could be unfairly penalized with a drop in the state's school performance index. Superintendent Scarice also stated there is the threat of entitlement funds being withheld for those districts that do not have a 95% participation rate. Additionally, there could potentially be a sanction to districts that seek exemption from the state minimum budget requirement (MBR) law that allows districts to fund below the previous year's budget based on a decline in enrollment. There is draft legislation that would not exempt districts from this law if their testing participation is below 95%.

Superintendent Scarice stated that the legislative session is scheduled to end in May.

Superintendent Scarice stated that he is keeping State Representative Noreen Kokoruda and Senator Ted Kennedy informed. Superintendent Scarice also stated he would like to invite both of them to a Board of Education following the end of the Legislative Session which will be in May.

5.3. Other Matters

Ms. Marino stated that she has heard positive feedback regarding the 2016-2017 school year calendar with the school start date being after Labor Day.

The Planning Committee began reviewing the list of questions and concerns associated with a possible change in start time at Walter C. Polson Middle School and some possible solutions to each. This will continue to be discussed at the Planning Committee level.

6. Board Members' Comments

Atty. Klaskin stated that even though the season is over for VIBE, it was a clean sweep in all categories during the competition. Atty. Klaskin stated that the DHHS VIBE will be attending the National Semi-Finals in Orlando and noted they are currently ranked #2 in the country, tied for second place with a couple of other districts. Jonah Levine (student of DHHS as well as the Board of Education cameraman) stated that DHHS VIBE was tied for 2nd place with three other Districts.

Atty. Klaskin also noted that DHHS held its first music festival. Atty. Klaskin stated it was a great time and commended Ron Soja.

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

7.1. Planning Committee

Members: Jessica Bowler, Chair; Cindy Mead, Galen Cawley

Ms. Dahling-Hench noted that in the 2016/2017 school year, select fifth graders will no longer be able to take sixth grade math due to the different schedule and teaming model for fifth grade.

These students will now be cluster fit into the teams which will allow them to get extended and enriched math in their own class with a group of peers.

This will be determined by 4th grade teacher recommendation.

This will also allow us to meet additional students' needs as it will be handled unit by unit so if another child in the class scores 100 on the pretest for that unit they too can join the enrichment group for that unit in their class.

The remaining Planning Committee report items were discussed earlier in the meeting during the Superintendent's report.

7.2. Personnel Committee

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

Mr. Dean stated that the next contract discussion will be for The Madison Association of Education Supportive Services (MAESS) which will take place at the end of this month.

7.3. Policy Committee

Members: Alison Keating, Chair; Katie Stein, Seth Klaskin

7.3.1. Policy #5090.7 – Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, Inhalants, and Performance-Enhancing Substances (Second Reading)

7.3.2. Policy #5120.3.4 – Managing Student Food Allergies and Glycogen Storage Disease (Second Reading)

Ms. Keating stated that Policies #5090.7 and #5120.3.4 are being presented tonight for second reading.

7.4. Finance Committee

Members: Cindy Mead, Chair; Alison Keating, Jessica Bowler

Ms. Mead stated that the Finance Committee has not met since the last Board of Education Meeting.

Ms. Mead also reported that the 2016-2017 budget passed with the Board of Selectmen and is now moving onto the Board of Finance.

7.5. LEARN Liaison

Liaison: Katie Stein

Ms. Stein stated that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday.

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

No comments were made.

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

9.1. Bills Payable: \$23,489.85 - 2014-2015 Budget and \$441,955.74 - 2015-2016 Budget

9.2. Line Transfers: \$39,503.06

9.3. Budget Expenditure as of March 2, 2016

9.4. Donation: \$2,295.00 - Two 3-D Printers to Daniel Hand High School from Daniel Hand High School PTO.

9.5. Donation: \$2,250.00 - Projector, Cart and Screen to Daniel Hand High School from Daniel Hand High School PTO.

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

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Keating; Klaskin; Marino; Mead; Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Mr. Cawley acknowledged the two generous donations made to Daniel Hand High School from the Daniel Hand High School PTO. Mr. Cawley thanked the DHHS PTO.

10. Action Item: Minutes of the February 16, 2016 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Dean to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Mead

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

- 11. Action Item:** To ratify the contract between National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) and the Board of Education for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

MOTION: by Personnel Committee to ratify the contract between National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) and the Board of Education for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Keating; Klaskin; Marino; Mead; Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Atty. Klaskin thanked NAGE and the Personnel Committee. Mr. Dean also thanked the Personnel Committee. Mr. Dean reported that it is a one year contract.

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

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Bowler to approve the removal of used books and equipment.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Keating; Klaskin; Marino; Mead; Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

- 13. Action Item:** Cancel the April 19, 2016 Board of Education Meeting due to scheduled Public Hearing for the Budget.

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Marino to cancel the April 19, 2016 Board of Education Meeting due to scheduled Public Hearing for the Budget.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Keating; Klaskin; Marino; Mead; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

14. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

15. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were discussed.

16. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)
March/April Calendars

Ms. Mead noted that there is a Public Hearing for the Budget scheduled for April 19, 2016 at 7:30 PM.

17. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean seconded by Klaskin to adjourn the meeting at 9:09_p.m.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Keating; Klaskin; Marino; Mead; Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Approved at the 3/22/16 Board of Education Meeting
LAF