

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
March 07, 2017
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 Jean Fitzgerald at 7:37 p.m. Chairman Fitzgerald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jessica Bowler; John Dean; Jean Fitzgerald; Alison Keating; Seth Klaskin; Katie Stein

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

Superintendent Scarice named the following students who were awarded at the Future Choices Art Show

The top award for Best in Show was given to – Liam Bennet

Also receiving awards were:

Holly Gilbert, Kasia McPherson, Kasia Zarnetske, Gabriella Dollahite, Aiden Hughes Jack Brady, Jessica Haigis, Bobby Gilbert, Emma Valdez, Jason Noel, Kate Klein Skylar Clark and Emma Boey

2.1.1. Timothy O'Malley - Certificate of Recognition

The Secretary of the State's Office and the Connecticut Citizenship Fund, Inc.

Superintendent Scarice stated the following:

The certificate is given to a student who has gone above and beyond to make a difference within their community. Each student has been selected by a representative within the student's school community based on their individual contributions. Superintendent Scarice stated that the District has little to do with how the students turn out and that it's all due to the parents. Superintendent Scarice stated that the District is lucky to have students like this in Madison.

Ms. Kathryn Hart stated the following:

It is a pleasure to be here with Timmy and his family tonight. Unfortunately, Mrs. Lunn couldn't join us, but she is thinking of you! There are many words that come to mind when I think of Timmy: kind, hardworking, thoughtful, and selfless. He is a role model in so many ways whether it is through his high level

of effort on every assignment or through his compassion for others. Timmy makes a point each day to greet each student and staff member he sees. If he notices that a friend is sitting alone or sees a child who is upset, he makes sure to check in and offer a hug or words of encouragement. Timmy is part of a small group each morning and helps teach children with special needs how to participate in a Morning Meeting. He gets as much pleasure and joy out of this experience as the children he is helping. Mrs. Lunn summed Timmy up perfectly, "The dedication he puts towards making others feel good is truly admirable". It is a pleasure to have Timmy at Jeffrey School and I am proud to recognize him for all he has accomplished so far and I look forward to seeing what else he will accomplish in the future.

2.1.2. Connecticut Board of Education Member Appreciation Month

The Madison Public Schools is joining in a statewide celebration this month to salute the efforts of local school board members. March has been proclaimed School Board Member Appreciation Month in Connecticut. The month-long observance calls attention to the contributions of members of local boards of education.

The Madison Public Schools benefits every day from the energy and countless hours that the members of the Madison Board of Education devote to fulfilling the Board's responsibilities to the public school system and to the citizens who elected them. School board members contribute their time and talent toward the advancement of public education. Because they are elected officials, they represent a continuing commitment to local citizen control and decision-making in education.

The men and women serving our school district are:

Jean Fitzgerald, Chairman; Alison Keating, Vice Chairperson; Jessica Bowler, Secretary; Seth Klaskin; Happy Marino; Katie Stein; John Dean; Galen Cawley; Matt Keller

Superintendent Scarice stated that the District could not do without these members. Superintendent Scarice thanked the Board for their time and hard work.

2.2. Public Participation

Mr. Bob Hale reported the Board of Selectman budget deliberation was a long process. The Board passed a budget of \$24,738,964, which is a 1.74% increase over this year's budget.

The budget submitted to the Board had an increase of 2.74%. Mr. Hale stated that the BOE budget benefited from considerable discussion and the Board vote to send the request to the Board of Finance as submitted.

Mr. Hale stated that there would not be many funds coming from the state this year. Madison taxpayers need a break from the increased fees and hidden charges from the State.

If we were to keep the mill rate flat the town and Board of Education budget request

would have to be reduced by more than \$1.5 million dollars.

If revenue falls short there is little or no room in the Town portion of the budget for further reductions.

The mill rate is flat at \$1.5 million.

Mr. Walter Lippman a 25 year resident of Madison. Stated he attended the last BOE meeting. At that meeting he brought to the attention to the BOE as well as Superintendent Scarice his concern for drug testing all employees. Since that time he stated he has had conversations with Superintendent Scarice which Mr. Lippman said were positive. Superintendent Scarice went on to say that it is possible for new hires to be required to be tested. Mr. Lippman stated that this should be implemented as soon as possible starting today.

3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report Aidan Hughes and Emily Baker

Student Representatives did not attend the meeting.

4. School Utilization Study

Ms. Fitzgerald reported the following:

We are at a crossroads...

We began this study to address three things:

- Declining enrollment
- Address the needs of our aging facilities
- To have our facilities match the instructional vision of our district

Back in October 2016 we agreed to investigate a possible 5 school model.

Events have happened that could have an impact on our decision:

- Reduction in state funds to municipalities
- Reduction/elimination of ECS State Funding
- Proposed changes to the State Statute CGS 10-283 on applications for grants for school building projects.
- Uncertainty of reimbursement rates for both renovate as new and new construction
- Potential shift in the financial responsibility for the teacher's pension from the State to the towns

Options:

The District could still move forward with the 5 school model with a fall 2017 referendum date
Moving forward with 5 school option with a 2018 referendum

The District could develop a AW10-year strategic plan and infuse it into the town CIP program
The District could develop a new plan for a 4 school model and look for a possible fall 2018 referendum

The District could move forward with a new school at Ryerson, fall 2017 referendum and develop a 10- year strategic plan for renovations at Jeffery and Polson and infuse it into the town CIP program, while redistricting and reconfiguring schools

Close Island

TCLC remains the same

Ryerson K-3 (new school)

Jeffery K-3

Brown 4-5

Polson 6-8 (this would somewhat address the state's concern of maximizing space)

Hand 9-12

Ms. Fitzgerald read into record the following on behalf of Happy Marino.

Given the current economic climate, the uncertainty facing state support for our budget, as well as being cognizant of the other expenses to the town most recently approved (i.e. The senior tax freeze and the library referendum), it is my opinion that at this time the board should halt all current activities and any spending on the school study and instead refocus our efforts on a 10 year strategic plan through the CIP. We should utilize the topographical and other relevant data already obtained to work on a model that the town can financially sustain.

The Board discussed scheduling a retreat for the Board members to review the School Utilization Study and a 10 year plan.

5. Superintendent's Report

Thomas R. Scarice

5.1. Other Matters

Superintendent Scarice stated that the District is on target regarding food services.

Superintendent Scarice said the student's satisfaction with the menu is off the charts.

There have also been added selections such as Chaves bagels and Ashley's ice cream to the menu.

Friday is professional development day. Yohuru Williams, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Arts and Science, Professor of History at Fairfield University will be attending.

Superintendent Scarice stated that this is a unique opportunity having Dr. Williams

attend the District's PD day. Dr. Williams knows about black history inside and out.

Dr. Williams is a former chief historian of the Jackie Robinson Foundation as well an author and has appeared on PBS.

Superintendent Scarice remarked on the school ratings with the new formula being used. Due to the increase in students opting out of SBAC District's ratings are being lowered. Superintendent Scarice stated this was unfair to the District.

Superintendent Scarice stated that there have been changes to regarding the social and emotional program such as; double recess time, 10 minute quiet time, individual reading and writing program, change in the GPA as well as deemphasizing testing. ESS has been a success at the high school.

5.2. Responsive Classroom

Renee Pardo, Christa Laragy, Peggy Bell

Ms. Pardo, Ms. Laragy and Ms. Bell reported on the following:

“We are mistake-making, laughter-sharing, independence building, brain-stretching, sort of places! Everyone matters at MPS!

The Responsive Classroom approach is a way of teaching that emphasizes social, emotional, and academic growth in a strong and safe school community. It is an approach that consists of practical strategies for helping students build academic and social-emotional competencies day in and day out.

The Four Domains of Responsive Classroom:

1. Engaging Academics
2. Positive Community
3. Effective Management
4. Developmental Awareness

There are four key components of the classroom morning meeting.

1. Greeting
2. Sharing
3. Group Activity
4. News & Announcements

Each student is greeted each day by name to provide a sense of belonging.

Children share news, information about themselves or opinions about certain topics. This helps them get to know each other and bond which builds trust and strengthens communication skills.

A whole group activity reinforces learning and encourages cooperation and inclusion.

Each morning a morning message is displayed for the students.

To learn well, children need to move! A few minutes of playful moving, laughing, chanting, or singing promote more – and more productive - learning.

Each day the children also have quiet time before the next part of the day begins with curriculum. During this time the students can draw pictures, read a book etc.

At the end of each day the students participate in a closing circle with reflection, celebration and then the closing of the school day.

5.3. K-12 Science Program Renewal (on file)

Gail Dahling-Hench

Ms. Dahling-Hench reported on the following:

What should our science students know and be able to do by the time they graduate D.H.H.S.? Ms. Dahling-Hench reviewed the current course sequence to the Board.

District & School Parameters

- Graduation Requirement of 3 Science Credits (1.0 LS / 1.0 PS / 1.0 Additional Science)
- Eliminate “Tracking” From MS to HS
- Eliminate Parental Overrides From MS to HS
- No Prerequisites for 9th Grade Science Courses
- No Level 3 Course Offerings
- No “Mester” Courses
- Honor NGSS Standards in Curriculum Design
- Plan for Future NGSS Exam in 11th Grade
- Plan for Future Biology Exit Exam in 9th Grade
- Plan for Future STEM Course Offerings to Meet Graduation Requirements
- Plan for Future Capstone Initiatives

Ms. Dahling-Hench also reviewed the life science electives, AP electives, physical science electives as well as the self-directed learning and in which grades they are available from freshman to seniors.

Science Proposal Highlights

- Provides Flexible Pathways and Promotes More Choice for Our Students
- Meets NGSS Standards in Life, Physical, and Earth Sciences
- Affords Students Opportunities in the 3 Foundational Areas of Science
- Exposes Students to Various Fields of Science Offered via the New Science Electives
- Science Electives were Designed to:
 - Spark Students Interest to Take Courses Previously Not Considered
 - Give Students the Opportunity to Delve Deeper into Areas of Interest

5.4. Legislative Update

Superintendent Scarice stated that he has a meeting scheduled on Friday with Noreen Kokoruda as well as other representatives to discuss mandate relief.

6. Board Members' Comments

No comments were made.

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

7.1. Planning Committee

Members: Jessica Bowler, Chair; Galen Cawley, Alison Keating

Ms. Bowler reported on the following:

Text-Book Adoption – Freedom: Stories Celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UConn ECE Human Rights – new course in 2017/2018)
25 copies are being ordered of the above mentioned book.

Technology Plan (MITT)

What would it take for 9th grade to be a 1:1 ratio for a device

Looking at the 2018-2019 budget - current 7th grade

\$50 per device will be charged per student for insurance of the device if the parent

wants to lease it from us. If the parent would like to purchase their own device for the student they will be able to get the specifications needed for the device from the school.

We would budget for 50% - approximately 104 devices

Math Program – Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School

Julie Phelps and Carol Sullivan attended the Planning Committee Meeting.

The grade 6 math extension model will mirror the current grade 5 model

Unit by unit model

Allows extension to a large number of students

Every other day with a math interventionist and other days will be independent work days under the supervision of the math teacher

Non-Resident Enrollment – Concept Discussion

This could potentially bring in more revenue to the District. Discussion will continue on this topic.

School Utilization Facilities Study

A meeting was held today with Colliers. They reviewed the educational specs that will be used to guide the process with the state

7.2. Personnel Committee

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

Mr. Dean stated the following:

Negotiations began with NAGE began last Tuesday. The next meeting is scheduled for April 25th.

7.3. Policy Committee

Members: Katie Stein, Chair; Seth Klaskin, Matt Keller

6.3.1. Policy #4111.1 - Reference Checks (Third Reading)

6.3.2. Policy #4121 - Substitute Teachers (Third Reading)

6.3.3. Policy #5100.9.4 - Physicals for School Athletics (Third Reading)

6.3.4. Policy #5120.2.1 - Head Injuries (Third Reading)

Ms. Stein stated that the above policies will be voted on later in the meeting.

7.4. Finance Committee

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

The Finance Committee has not met since the last BOE meeting. The Board of Selectman approved the Board of Education budget and it has now been sent to the Board of Finance.

7.5. LEARN Liaison

Katie Stein

LEARN has not met since the last BOE meeting. The next LEARN meeting will take place this 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: \$14,508.41 - 2015-2016 Budget and \$762,018.22 - 2016-2017 Budget

9.2. Line Transfers: \$34,869.70

9.3. Budget Expenditure as of March 1, 2017

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

AYES: Bowler; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating;
Klaskin; Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

10. Action Item: Minutes of the February 7, 2017 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Stein to table
the minutes from the February 7, 2017 Board of
Education due to not having a quorum to take
action.

AYES: Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keller; Klaskin;
Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Bowler, Keating, Marino

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Approval of the minutes from the February 7, 2017 Board of Education were tabled due to not having a quorum to take action.

11. Action Item: To approve Policy #4111.1 - Reference Checks

MOTION: by Policy to approve Policy #4111.1 -
Reference Checks

AYES: Bowler; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating;
Klaskin; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

12. Action Item: To approve Policy #4121 - Substitute Teachers

MOTION: by Policy to approve Policy #4121 - Substitute Teachers

AYE: Bowler; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Klaskin; Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

13. Action Item: To approve Policy #5100.9.4 - Physicals for School Athletics

MOTION: by Policy to approve Policy #5100.9.4 - Physicals for School Athletics

AYES: Bowler; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Klaskin; Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

14. Action Item: To approve Policy #5120.2.1 - Head Injuries

MOTION: by Policy to approve Policy #5120.2.1 - Head Injuries

AYES: Bowler; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Klaskin; Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

15. Action Item: To adopt textbook Freedom: Stories Celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UConn/ECE Human Rights – new course in 2017/2018)

MOTION: by Planning to adopt textbook Freedom: Stories Celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

AYES: Bowler; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Klaskin; Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

16. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

17. Future Agenda Items

No future items were discussed.

**18. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)
March 2017 Calendar**

19. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean seconded by Bowler to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

AYES: Bowler; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Klaskin; Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Approved at the March 21, 2017 BOE Meeting
LF