

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
April 05, 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 Chair Jean Fitzgerald at 7:33 p.m. Chairman Fitzgerald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

- 2. Executive Session:** Executive Session: To discuss the contract of employment for two employees to not be renewed for the following year, based upon a reduction in force, upon its expiration at the end of the 2015 – 2016 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action.”

MOTION: by Bowler seconded by Klaskin to enter Executive into Executive Session to discuss the contract of employment for two employees to not be renewed for the following year, based upon a reduction in force, upon its expiration at the end of the 2015 – 2016 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action.” 7:34 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

The public session resumed at 7:37.

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

3.1. Recognition:

3.1.1. Norah Shea - Certificate of Recognition

Ms. Kathryn Hart stated the following regarding Norah Shea.

Ms. Hart stated that when she first met Norah when she was in 1st grade and she used to look at her with her big, brown eyes and beautiful smile.

Norah was fairly shy, but always loved by her teachers and peers. Over the past 4 years, Ms. Hart stated that she has watched Norah gain confidence, learn the math and language arts skills, and stand out as a role model to her peers. Ms. Hart stated she could talk about how much effort Norah put into everything she does, how she always tries her best or how she helps her teachers. But, what stands out to the most is how she is naturally kind and empathetic to other children. If someone needs help, she's there for them. If someone needs a pat on the back, she's the one. If someone needs reassurance, she's by their side. No matter what the situation, she reaches out to other people and makes their day a little better. She doesn't judge anybody without getting to know them and I am so impressed by her kindness every single day.

This is why we nominated her for the award from The Secretary of State's Office and the Connecticut Citizenships Fund, Inc. in recognizing her as a student who has gone above and beyond to make a difference in her community.

Ms. Hart stated that Norah's family and a friend of hers, Danielle Luongo were invited to come here to tonight so she knows how much we all appreciate her for simply being herself. Ms. Hart stated that she asked Danielle to tell her what makes Norah special and she said that she always asks about others in a thoughtful way, that she listens to others, and that she cares about everyone.

Ms. Hart presented a small gift to both Norah and Danielle. Ms. Hart stated that she hopes it will be a good memory of their friendship.

Ms. Hart stated that it is an honor having Norah at Jeffrey School and that she knows she will continue to do great things as she gets older and impact more and more people.

Superintendent Scarice thanked Norah's parents for having her be part of Jeffrey School. Superintendent Scarice stated that the District only plays a small role that is it really the parents who get the credit for how Norah has turned out.

3.1.2. National Library Week - April 10-16, 2016

Superintendent Scarice stated that first sponsored National Library Week took place in 1958. In the mid-1950s, research showed that Americans were spending less on books and more on radios, televisions and musical instruments. The first National Library Week was observed in 1958 with the theme "Wake Up and Read!" Superintendent Scarice stated that circulation of books has grown to approximately 1700 and that is with a decline in enrollment. Superintendent Scarice thanked the librarians and the library paraprofessionals for their hard work and dedication.

3.1.3. Administrative Professionals Week, April 24-30, 2016

The first National Secretaries Week was organized in 1952. As the organization gained international recognition, the events became known as Professional Secretaries Week and Professional Secretaries Day. In 1955, the observance date of National Secretaries Week was moved to the last full week of April, with Wednesday now designated as Administrative Professionals Day. The name was changed to Professional Secretaries Week in 1981, and became Administrative Professionals Week in 2000 to encompass the expanding responsibilities and wide-ranging job titles and expanding responsibilities of the modern

administrative workforce of administrative support staff. Superintendent Scarice stated that it is the administrative professional staff that keeps the offices running like a well-oiled machine.

3.2. Public Participation

No comments were made.

4. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report Paige Calvert and Aidan Hughes

Mr. Hughes did not attend the meeting.

Ms. Calvert noted that last Friday a breakfast was held for the honor students of DHHS.

Ms. Calvert reported that this past weekend the musical Chorus Line took place. Ms. Calvert stated how hard everyone worked on the production.

Ms. Calvert noted that the senior class trip is scheduled for the Roger Williams Zoo at the end of May.

5. Superintendent's Report Thomas R. Scarice

5.1. Brown Middle School Student Presentation: Frozen Yogurt in Middle School Café (on file) Ella Bennett and Maya Sestan – Students of Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School

Ms. Julie Phelps introduced Ella Bennett and Maya Sestan

Ella and Maya gave a presentation to the Board on the process they went through to obtain a Fro-Yo machine for their school. Ella and Maya stated that they spoke with the counsellor at Brown Middle School Ms. Kilian regarding a Fro-Yo machine for the school. The next step they took was to start a petition. On the first day they received over 100 signatures. The next step they took was putting together a slide presentation to show to Ms. Julie Phelps as well as Mr. Arthur Sickie. Currently Water C. Polson Middle School and Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle have Fro-Yo machines. Ella and Maya showed the Board the slide presentation which they used in their presentation to Ms. Phelps and Mr. Sickie. Ella and Maya also mentioned they would like to now work on obtaining toppings for the yogurt.

Superintendent Scarice stated that their process piece and thinking were great was great.

Ms. Fitzgerald stated that she was impressed and that the administration does listen.

5.2. Growing an Aligned K-12 World Language Curriculum (on file) Kristin Mancini and Amy Klebart

Ms. Mancini and Ms. Klebart reported the following:

The World Language department began K-12 Curriculum writing during the 2015-2016 school year. The 5-8 team started the process by mapping out everything they are currently teaching on the board in the Hammonasset room. When collaborating together

for the first time as a 5-8 team, they found repetitions in the curriculum, and examined repetitions and isolated ones that should be deliberate by design. They also realized that their teaching methodologies differed a bit. There was an ultimate realization that they don't have any written curriculum and teachers were really able to see how necessary it was for program alignment.

They identified one methodology, especially effective with the lower levels for being engaging and fun, TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling). K-4 had never been trained in this methodology, 5-6 teachers were using it consistently, and 7-8 teachers were willing to implement some strategies but hadn't been trained in ten years. The World Language department hosted Blaine Ray from TPRS Publishing in the district. He trained K-8 teachers and a few 9-12 teachers in TPRS methodology and strategies. Teachers had a great time!

The curriculum process has already showed them some amazing then and now transitions. In Spanish 3, the first unit used to be called "The Present", based strongly on grammar and was not thematic. The new unit is now called "Navigating the world: The Amazing Race." Students are a part of Amazing Race: Latino America. They explore who they are as a member of a team, and participate in challenges (learning activities) based on "traveling" to both Puerto Rico and Mexico. Amy Klebart, a 7th grade Spanish teacher spoke at the meeting about the then and now transitions in 7th grade. In 7th grade Spanish chapter 3 from a textbook was a basic food unit. It is now called "Healthy Body, Healthy Mind" and focuses more on nutrition. Students create an infographic giving advice to adolescents at Polson to live a healthy lifestyle. The top student choice infographic was posted outside the Tiger Fitness Center.

The list of courses in progress, in line for 2016-2017, and for anticipated completion by July were shown to the Board of Education.

5.3. Daniel Hand High School grades 9-12 to NYC - China Town, Chelsea Market and Arthur Avenue. April 26, 2016.

Superintendent Scarice informed the Board of an upcoming out of state trip to NYC for DHHS students.

5.4. Other Matters

Superintendent Scarice noted that two Madison teachers were awarded the VFW Teacher of the Year: Erin Smith from J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School and Robyn McManus from Walter C. Polson Middle School. Superintendent Scarice stated that they will also be recognized at the VFW post installation award ceremony on Friday, May 27 at 6:30 p.m.

Superintendent Scarice reported that kindergarten registration has begun and there are currently 95 students enrolled with a projection of 171 students. Superintendent Scarice stated that the enrollment numbers will begin to increase through the spring.

6. Board Members' Comments

Ms. Marino stated that the Unified Sports for middle school students took place this past weekend in New Haven.

Atty. Klaskin stated that VIBE who won the title of Grand Champions in Orlando are now going onto the finals which will take place in Chicago. Atty. Klaskin noted that there is a link on Madison Patch for people to make donations to help support VIBE's trip to Chicago.

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

7.1. Planning Committee

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

Ms. Bowler reported on the following:

The Planning committee reviewed the Hazard Communication Plan and Personal Protective Equipment Plan with the Chemical Hygiene Officer John Bowers. There will be online training done with every employee subject to hazardous materials - K-12 art leaders, CTE, Science, etc.

The Planning Committee reviewed the World Language Curriculum Writing Revision with Kristin Mancini. Ms. Mancini provided an update on where she and her team are in the rewriting of the k-12 world language curriculum.

Frank Henderson reviewed with the Planning committee some changes to the Polson Music Program for next year. Musical theater is now eliminated and the stage crew, show choir and 8th grade advance theater have been added for the 2016-2017 school year. Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Theater and Study Hall remain as options as well. No new FTEs were added to provide the additional offerings.

The Planning Committee reviewed the School Utilization Facilities Study and the public forum. The administration along with DRA are working on the following:

- Operational savings numbers as a conservative annual range
- Debt service over the next 5-10 years
- Cost of the remaining plans
- The amount of money the town could potentially make from the sale of Island Ave School now and in the future (grand list)
- LaSage property appraisal

May 3rd is the next tri board meeting (Board of Education, Board of Finance and Board of Selectman) which will also serve as an additional public forum to be held hopefully at Walter C. Polson Middle School.

The Planning committee discussed a new language arts lab classroom model for next year. Kate and Maggie Roberts will be running their Lab Classroom Model here in Madison next year. Applications will go out to all teachers in grades 2-10. Teachers who want to be learners should apply. It will be a large time commitment but an incredible professional development experience. There will be 9 classrooms chosen. This also allows the district to double the impact of our professional development dollars.

The committee hopes that based on applications to be able to have a classroom in each school.

7.2. Personnel Committee

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

Mr. Dean stated that there is a meeting scheduled for the MAESS contact tomorrow night at 5:45 PM.

7.3. Policy Committee

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

7.3.1. Policy #4118 - Tenure (Second Reading)

7.3.2. Policy #4112.8/4212.8 - Nepotism: Employment of Relatives (Second Reading)

Ms. Keating stated that Policy #4118 and Policy #4112.8/4212.8 are being presented to the Board for second reading tonight.

7.4. Finance Committee

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

No report was given.

7.5. LEARN Liaison

Liaison: Katie Stein

No report was given.

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

Mr. Bruce Wilson commented that he is glad to see that the work on the curriculum is being continued. Mr. Wilson stated that it is the foundation of the work that makes Madison special.

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

9.1. Bills Payable: \$1,490.65 2014-2015 Budget and \$333,197.23 - 2015-2016 Budget

9.2. Line Transfers: \$52,542.47

9.3. Budget Expenditure as of March 30, 2016

9.4. Donation: \$3,000.00 to J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School from Decagon Devices, Inc. for instructional supplies to support instruction in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

10. Action Item: Minutes of the March 22, 2016 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Keating_to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Marino

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

11. Action Item: Walter C. Polson Middle School Bell Times

MOTION: by Planning_to change Walter C. Polson Middle School Bell Times from 7:30 a.m.- 2:08 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. -2:38 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

12. Action Item: To add an action item regarding the contract of employment for two employees to not be renewed for the following year, based upon a reduction in force, upon its expiration at the end of the 2015 – 2016 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action.”

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Bowler to add an action item regarding the contract of employment for two employees to not be renewed for the following year, based upon a reduction in force, upon its expiration at the end of the 2015 – 2016 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action.”

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

13. Action Item: Non-Renewal for 2015–2016 School Year

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded Dean that the contract for employment for Janet Dwyer and Michael Lajoie not be renewed for the following year, based upon a reduction in force, upon its expiration at the end of the 2015 – 2016 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person in writing of this action.”

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

14. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

15. Future Agenda Items

No future items were discussed.

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

17. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean seconded by Klaskin to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Approved at the 5/3/16 Board of Education Meeting
LAF