

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
June 02, 2020
6:00 PM
via Zoom**

BOARD MINUTES

Full documentation of these proceedings can be found through on demand video located in the Meetings/Minutes section of the district website

1. Call to Order / Attendance

Chair Stein called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

In attendance: Kirk Barneby, Emily Rosenthal, Galen Cawley, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Greg DeSantis, Tom Pellegrino, Violet McNeerney, Cathy Miller, Katie Stein, Tom Scarice, Gail Dahling-Hench, Liz Battaglia, Art Sickle, T. J. Salutari, Brian Bodner, Melanie Whitcher, Kathryn Hart, Martha Curran, Frank Henderson, Becky Frost, Kelly Spooner, Zoe Roos.

Also: Eric Dillner, Isabelle Vagell

2. School / Community Session

2.1. Public Participation – no public participation

3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Jacqueline Sandor and Eric Dillner

Jacqui Sandor is currently not in attendance. Eric Dillner reported on the email sent by the CIAC regarding next school year's spring sports and reported online learning has gone more smoothly.

4. Superintendent's Report

Thomas R. Scarice

Superintendent Scarice made note that Mr. Salutari is the recipient of the Madison Youth and Family Services Community Asset Award for 2020.

Superintendent Scarice commented on the current events and discussed the difficulties addressing the issues with school taking place via distance learning. Mr. Scarice noted that if school were currently in session, he believes students would be taking part in activities that would address the issues, as well as asking for support and participation from administration. Mr. Scarice spoke to a prior incident here in Madison and steps that were taken at that time.

4.1. Recognize the Board of Education Student Representatives

Superintendent Scarice thanked Eric Dillner for his service and commitment this year. Eric thanked the Board for their support and for hearing the concerns and opinions of the students.

4.2. Introduce the 2020-2021 Board of Education Student Representatives

Superintendent Scarice spoke to the process of selecting student representatives. Mrs. Whitcher announced the new junior representative, Isabelle Vagell, who comes to the position with a wealth of experience, having served an internship with Senator Christine Cohen last year. Isabell is passionate about public service and hopes to eventually make it her career. She has already had an impact in the district – as a girl scout, she began a social action club at Polson. Mr. Bodner added Isabelle has done a lot at Hand to promote worthy causes and with Mr. Salutari's approval, she has organized multiple fund raisers. Mr. Salutari noted that all who applied were very impressive and all would be chosen, if possible.

4.3. End of Year Recognition and Transition Events

The administrative team has assembled a comprehensive list of all end of year recognition and transition events for the school community, mostly students and parents. Mr. Scarice thanked Trent Joseph, Health Director; Sam DeBurra and Bob Gilhuly, Fire Marshall and Deputy Fire Marshall; Peggy Lyons, First Selectman, and the Madison Police Department for their assistance and support in organizing these events. Mrs. Whitcher and Mr. Bodner spoke about the College Admissions Day and Mr. Scarice reviewed events at all schools.

4.4. District Reopening Committee

The district reopening committee has begun its initial organizational steps and the first meeting will occur on Thursday. Mr. Scarice noted information was received today regarding summer school. Mrs. Dahling-Hench reported the committee will be reviewing the structure of the steering committees and the task force. Heather Dobson has been working to assign jobs and determine what is feasible. Mrs. Dahling-Hench reported that last week, she attended the Long Term Recovery Committee meeting on the Town side of which she is a member of the administrative council.

4.5. Other Matters - None

5. Board Members' Comments

Mr. DeSantis expressed his appreciation for the discussion this evening regarding the difficult circumstances we are facing both locally and nationally. The violence we are seeing is exclusively directed toward black people and on behalf of the Board, Mr. DeSantis wanted the Town to know the Board is here to support and assist.

Mrs. Miller provided the following statement: Our country is suffering from a pandemic and its name is not Covid-19. Its name is racism. As an educator for the last 33 years, I have chosen to dedicate my career to nurturing young minds and hearts and I do so proudly every day. To fight this pandemic called racism, we must continue to create in-roads that will lead to an anti-racist school community.

Imagine what our kids are feeling and thinking as they watch the recent events unfold. We have an opportunity to teach—these are teachable moments. And we have the opportunity to shape a new generation of citizens who will be the change we are hoping and praying to see.

As a BOE member, I have been elected to work on behalf of the children and families of Madison. I take this work seriously and I feel privileged to have a platform from which to speak and make a difference.

I want the citizens of Madison and, especially the children, to know that I, along with the other members of this Board of Education, intend to work to insure that our schools and our curriculum reflect a commitment to growing anti-racist global citizens.

Dr. Infantine-Vyce recognized Polson Principal Kathryn Hart. A student at Polson was concerned about a friend who had stopped checking in online and reached out to the teacher. Mrs. Hart reached out to the student to let him/her know everything was ok. The student in question had already been identified and was receiving services.

Dr. Infantine-Vyce suggested that the Town reiterate that help is available to any and all students who may be feeling stressed during this time.

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

6.1. Curriculum and Student Development

Galen Cawley, Chair, Greg DeSantis, Catherine Miller

No report.

6.2. Communications Committee

Emily Rosenthal, Chair, Greg DeSantis, Kirk Barneby

No report.

6.3. Facilities Committee

Tom Pellegrino, Chair, Kirk Barneby, Galen Cawley

No report.

6.4. Finance Committee

Kirk Barneby, Chair, Galen Cawley, Tom Pellegrino

The Finance Committee continues to work with Stacy Nobitz regarding the budget for this year, looking at areas of savings as a result of school closure as well as expenditures related to COVID-19. There is a Line Item Transfer of \$10,000 for approval this evening so that we can continue to provide meal service through the end of June. We have identified an opportunity for Chair Katie Stein to work with the Madison Board of Finance and Peggy Lyons to establish a COVID-19 reserve.

6.5. Personnel Committee

Violet McNerney, Chair, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Catherine Miller

No report.

6.6. Policy Committee

Greg DeSantis, Chair, Violet McNerney, Emily Rosenthal

No report.

6.7. CIP Committee

Katie Stein, Kirk Barneby

No report.

6.8. LEARN Liaison

Diane Infantine-Vyce

LEARN met on May 14. Dr. Infantine-Vyce reported the following:

- Hiring of the Principal of the Marine Science High School and the Multi-Cultural Regional School is complete.
- Under the CARES act, federal funding will be given to Title I schools which LEARN will apply for; they are eligible for an additional \$317,000 in order to accelerate learning gaps caused by school closures.
- The Dual Language Magnet Middle School principal and many of the certified staff from the Waterford location have been hired to operate the middle school program at the Goodwin University Campus. Any excess equipment will be offered to other districts.
- District superintendents continue to meet bi-weekly to assess and plan for reopening, while reviewing and assessing other states' reopening tools.
- Evaluation of the executive director will be held in executive session at the next meeting in June.
- The Marine Science Magnet parking garage, restrooms, etc. were approved for use by the City of Groton.
- The proposed slate of officers will be nominated on at the June Board meeting.
- Summary of budget & discussion of graduation plans (virtually via Zoom)
- Groton will be using a local parking lot with a large screen for their June 19 graduation.

6.9. Board of Selectmen Liaison

Scott Murphy

No report – Mr. Murphy not in attendance.

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

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

8.1. Line Item Transfers: \$10,000.00

8.2. Budget Expenditures as of May 28, 2020

MOTION: by Barneby, seconded by Pellegrino to approve the Consent Agenda.
AYES: Barneby, Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

9. Action Item: Minutes of the May 19, 2020 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by McNerney to approve minutes of the May 19, 2020 Board of Education Meeting.
AYES: Barneby, Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

10. Action Item: Removal of Used Equipment

MOTION: by Miller, seconded by Rosenthal to approve the removal of used equipment.
AYES: Barneby, Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

11. Old Business

12. Future Agenda Items

13. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

14. Action Item: To enter into Executive Session to Discuss Central Office Administrator Contracts

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by DeSantis to enter into executive session to discuss central office administrator contracts.
AYES: Barneby, Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

15. Adjournment

MOTION: by Pellegrino, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 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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