

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
May 25, 2021
7:30 PM
Zoom**

MEETING 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

The public meeting of the Madison Board of Education was called to order by Chair Galen Cawley at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Cawley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Galen Cawley, Greg DeSantis, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Happy Marino, Cathy Miller, Violet McNerney, Tom Pellegrino, Emily Rosenthal, Katie Stein.

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Liz Battaglia, Special Education Director; Bill McMinn, Facilities Director; Stacy Nobitz, Finance Director; Kathryn Hart, Polson Middle School Principal; Anthony Salutari, DHHS Principal; Chris Perras, Polson Guidance Counselor; Zoe Roos, Communications Specialist; Peggy Lyons, First Selectwoman, Town of Madison. Charles Warrington, Colliers International.

CABE Student Leadership Award Recipients: Georgia Cohen & William McGuire (Polson), Lindsay Riordan and Jackson Kuja (DHHS).

2. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

Dr. Cooke introduced Kathryn Hart, who read the biographies of the two students nominated for the 2021 CABE Student Leadership Awards – Georgia Cohen and William McGuire. Mr. Salutari read the biographies of the two Daniel Hand students nominated for this award – Lindsay Riordan and Jackson Kuja. Bios and student pictures can be found on the district's website homepage.

On behalf of the Board of Education and the Madison Public Schools, Dr. Cooke and Chair Cawley congratulated the students and their families.

3. Presentation

3.1. School Building Project Presentation

Dr. Cooke gave the "Madison Schools Renewal Plan Public Form" presentation, outlining details of the proposed new PK-5 school, the change to Brown Intermediate School, and updates to Polson Middle School. Dr. Cooke spoke to the advantages/disadvantages of a winter and spring Referendum date, as well as possible site locations for the new PK-5 school. Enrollment projections, the cost of the referendum and operating cost savings estimates were also discussed. The presentation can be found in its entirety on the district website.

3.2. Question and Answer Session

Questions and Comments were received from various members of the public and can be heard via the meeting recording on the district website:

Jude Hession-Friedman
Matt Gordon
Gus Horvath
Charles Lehberger
Erica McMillian
Steve Pynn
T. Szejkowski
Joan Walker
Paul Wang
Barbara Yeager

3.3. Discussion on Referendum Date

A discussion ensued regarding a potential referendum date for the project. The project will go to referendum in December 2021 or February/March 2022.

4. ESSER Grants with Possible Action

Dr. Cooke reported the district received \$379,077 from the ESSER II Grant and \$851,351 from the ESSER III Grant over the three years of the grants. The Board was asked to approve the grant expenditures as currently proposed. The funds will help support the hiring of additional FTEs and investments in technology.

MOTION: by Stein, seconded by Rosenthal to approve the submission of the ESSER Grants with staffing as proposed.

AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Marino, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

5. School / Community Session

5.1. Public Participation – no further participation

6. Board Member Comments

Diane Infantine-Vyce spoke to the structure of tonight's agenda and made recommendations for future meetings when a presentation is scheduled (and subsequent public question and answer session).

7. Audience Response to Information Presented (Ref. Bylaw #9540.10) - none

8. Board Committee Update

8.1. Policy Committee

Members: Happy Marino, Chair; Violet McNerney, Emily Rosenthal

The committee met this evening. Happy Marino reported follow-up discussions took place regarding three policies:

Policy #2260 Administrative Responsibility for Student Placement – this policy will remain active and renumbered to be included in the 5000 (Student) Series.

#5090.3.1 Student Dress – DHHS students gave a “No Shame Dress Code” presentation during the April Policy Committee Meeting. Comments were reviewed by Kathryn Hart and T. J. Salutari, as well as Board members. Student Handbooks were also reviewed for each school. The policies are fairly equitable in terms of gender; however, we are recommending that teacher and administrator training occur to help in the fair enforcement of the policy. It was also agreed the dress code should be included in the Polson Handbook.

#9540.10 Public Participation at Board Meetings – Answers from legal counsel (in response to questions from Dr. DeSantis) were circulated prior to the meeting. Administration will incorporate these comments into the policy which will return to the Policy Committee for further review.

The committee reviewed the Shipman audit of the Series 3000 policies to determine which of the 22 policies should be reviewed first. Next meeting is scheduled for June 22.

9. Action Item: Motion to approve minutes of the May 11, 2021 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Pellegrino, seconded by McNerney to approve minutes of the May 11, 2021 Board of Education meeting
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, McNerney, Marino, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Infantine-Vyce
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-1

10. Future Agenda Items

Katie Stein spoke to returning to in-person meetings.

11. Meetings/Dates of Importance

Diane Infantine-Vyce noted a discrepancy in meeting dates – clarification to follow.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: by Stein, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Marino, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

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