

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
September 14, 2021
7:30 PM
Polson Library & Remote**

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 7:38 p.m. Mr. Cawley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Zoe Roos, Communications Specialist; Isabelle Vagell and Lucy Fritzinger, Student Board Representatives, Mr. Dan Hansen, Educational Consultant, several members of the public.

2. Action Item: Motion to approve resignation of Happy Marino, Board of Education member

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Miller to approve the resignation of Happy Marino, Board of Education member

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

3. Action Item: Motion to approve appointment of Christine Maisano, Board of Education member

MOTION: by Stein, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the appointment of Christine Maisano, Board of Education member

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Action Item: Motion to add the student representative report to the agenda.

MOTION: by Stein, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to add the student representative report to the agenda.

AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney,
Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Isabelle reported the start of the school year has gone well and it feels like things are returning to normal. Accessing extra help is much easier being in-person. Spirit Day occurs on Friday along with the sr. picnic. Wake up call will also occur.

Lucy reported it's been great to get back into the swing of things. Sports are on schedule and we've been exercising outside. Fall play group had opening meeting yesterday. Campus feels alive again with activities occurring after 2:15. Students have been very cooperative with mask wearing.

4. Superintendent's Report Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

4.1. Start of School Update

Dr. Cooke reported it's been a great start to the school year. As expected, bus delays occurred the first day but were ironed out by day 2. We are experiencing staff changes, although nothing to the extent that area districts are dealing with, and throughout the state as well. Several openings have been created by teachers taking promotions within the district. The search for additional bus drivers is ongoing. We are continually reviewing and adjusting COVID mitigation strategies and recently removed the Plexiglas shields from the DHHS Dining & Assembly Hall at lunchtime. We are watching the lunch numbers at Jeffrey and have arranged for some classes to eat outside.

Dr. Cooke noted we continue to be on the low end with COVID cases, falling in the yellow range, but do currently have students quarantined. Beginning September 27, per governor's orders, all staff in public schools must either be vaccinated or provide weekly testing results, for which we have established a procedure through Human Resources. We are in the high range with regard to vaccinations (of our students as well).

Sharing of the referendum project is fully underway and our website continues to be updated. Information will be shared with the community Friday via the weekly update. Promotional materials have been created and we will attend community events, on a small scale, to share information. Dr. Cooke referenced the referendum timeline provided for tonight and introduced Mr. Dan Hansen who will review the Educational Specifications. We are not asking the Board to take action until October, after a first and second reading have taken place.

4.2. Review of Education Specifications for New School Building

Mr. Hansen reviewed the process for planning a new school facility and what the State requires from us. The Educational Specifications document was developed with the input of approximately 45 staff members and identifies the core beliefs of the district. Mr. Hansen stressed that the educational specifications do not specify the design of the new school building, but identifies the spaces requires for all program areas as well as support services.

A question and answer period ensued, which can be heard on the meeting recording posted on the district website.

5. Board Member Comments

Dr. Infantine-Vyce voiced her concerns with traffic issues between Hand and Polson.

6. School / Community Session

6.1. Public Participation

- Christine Maisano introduced herself and thanked the Board for their support.
- Natasha Mills asked the Board what the end goal is, what are we working towards.
- Erin Andrin inquired about the band trip to Disney World.
- John Andrin asked if the Plexiglas will be taken down at Polson, as has been done at Hand.

Comments in their entirety can be heard on the meeting recording posted on the district website.

7. Board of Selectmen Liaison

Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy was not in attendance.

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

8.1. Budget Expenditures as of September 10, 2021

MOTION: by DeSantis, seconded by Pellegrino to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

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

9.1. Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Diane Infantine-Vyce, Chair; Greg DeSantis, Catherine Miller

Dr. Infantine-Vyce reported the committee met this evening and was given a presentation on Morphology Scope and Sequence by Literacy Coaches Stephanie Fumiatti, Michelle Horn, Lisa Caldwell and Literacy Coordinator Celine DaSilva. Paul Mezick, DHHS Science Dept. Chair & Chemical Hygiene Officer for Polson & DHHS, spoke to the changes within the Polson and Hand Chemical Hygiene Plans and will be getting back to the committee with answers to questions posed about emergency bleeding and lacerations protocol, as well as some minor changes to align the plans.

9.2. Communications Committee

Members: Tom Pellegrino, Chair; Diane Infantine-Vyce, Greg DeSantis

No report. The committee will meet on October 5.

9.3. Facilities Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal, Chair; Happy Marino, Katie Stein

Mr. McMinn gave an update on the solar carport project, noting it is complete and waiting on final inspection. Brown and Polson improvements were discussed. Discussions also took place regarding the new school – ed specs, website, communication plan, etc. Next meeting scheduled for October 12.

9.4. Finance Committee

Members: Katie Stein, Chair; Happy Marino, Tom Pellegrino

No report. The committee will meet on September 28.

9.5. Personnel Committee

Members: Violet McNerney, Chair; Diane Infantine-Vyce, Catherine Miller

Dr. McNerney reported the committee is waiting on materials from the Teamsters. The attorneys are in mediation with the NAGE union, and we are in the finalization process with the MEA.

9.6. Policy Committee

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

Dr. DeSantis reported the committee has not met; however, there is a policy on tonight's agenda for a second reading - Policy #3020.7 Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers.

9.7. LEARN Liaison

Katie Stein

No report.

10. Action Item: Motion to approve the Daniel Hand High School Science Department Chemical Hygiene Plan

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Miller to approve the following changes to the existing Daniel Hand High School Science Department Chemical Hygiene Plan:

- Effective Dates
- State Statute Changes
- Dosimetry parameters for goggles, §214a of CT Statute

With the expectation there may be future modifications concerning protocols for emergency treatment of profuse bleeding & lacerations

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

11. Action Item: Motion to approve the Polson Middle School Science Department Chemical Hygiene Plan

MOTION: by DeSantis, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the following changes to the existing Polson

Middle School Science Department Chemical Hygiene Plan:

- Effective Dates
- State Statute Changes
- Dosimetry parameters for goggles, §214a of CT Statute

With the expectation there may be future modifications concerning protocols for emergency treatment of profuse bleeding & lacerations

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

12. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2021 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.0)

MOTION: by Stein, seconded by Miller to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2021 Board of Education Meeting

AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Infantine-Vyce, McNerney

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

13. Future Agenda Items

14. Meetings/Dates of Importance

15. Adjournment

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Stein to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

The Town of Madison does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and the meetings are ADA accessible. Individuals who need assistance are invited to make their needs known by contacting the Town's ADA/Human Resources Director, Deb Milardo, at 203-245-5603 or by email at milardod@madisonct.org at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.