

Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday November 15, 2022 7:30 PM
Town Campus Hammonasset Room/Zoom
10 Campus Drive, Madison, CT 06443

Subject to Approval

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 Seth Klaskin at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Klaskin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Galen Cawley, Mary Ann Connelly, Jen Gordon, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Seth Klaskin, Maureen Lewis, Cathy Miller, Steven Pynn, Emily Rosenthal.

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent.

2. School / Community Session

Crissy Beam
15 Michele Lane

Ms. Beam expressed her opposition to the Open Choice Program and commented on her experience with the Program in her previous district.

Jacquelyn Carbone
35 Surrey Drive

Ms. Carbone also expressed her opposition to the Open Choice Program and commented on her previous experiences as well.

3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Lucy Fritzing and Eli Ackerman

Lucy provided the following: The National Honor Society induction ceremony will take place this Wednesday, November 16. NEASC visited the school at the beginning of the month as part of the accreditation process. A Veterans Day ceremony was held last Friday, November 11. The fall play will take place December 8-10 and the spring play will be announced at that time.

Eli spoke to an event that is currently being planned; to be announced at a later date. Exam week is the week after Thanksgiving, with December 2 being the end of Trimester 1.

4. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

Justin Hopkins from Tecton gave a presentation regarding improvements to the Brown School and plans for the new school. The presentation can be viewed in its entirety on the district website. Adam Levitus from Tecton was also present.

Dr. Cooke noted there is no action item on tonight's agenda regarding the Open Choice Program, as the Board has requested additional information. In response to public comment this evening, Dr. Cooke clarified that participation in the program does not lead to increased oversight from the state and participating in the program will not lead to a reduction in special ed services for existing students.

The district is the recipient of the CABA Bonnie Carney Excellence in Communications Award: District website, special project - Madison Schools Renewal Plan, and honorable mention for social media. Congratulations and thank you to Rita Boland and Zoe Roos.

Dr. Cooke commented on the Veterans Day celebrations throughout the district noting they were well-attended.

5. Board Members' Comments

Galen Cawley commended Rita Boland and Zoe Roos for their work which led to the CABA awards. Chair Klaskin commented on the NEASC visit at Daniel Hand, which went very well.

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

Jacquelyn Carbone
35 Surrey Drive

Ms. Carbone inquired about handicapped accessibility in the new school building.

Crissy Beam provided further comments regarding the Open Choice Program.

7. Board of Selectmen Liaison
Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy not in attendance this evening.

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

8.1. Line Item Transfers - none

8.2. Budget Expenditures as of November 15, 2022

9. Action Item: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

MOTION: by Miller, seconded by Gordon to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

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

10.1. Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Steve Pynn, Chair; Catherine Miller, Jen Gordon

Mr. Pynn reported the committee met this evening and was given 2 presentations from Mr. Salutari and Mrs. Whitcher – Program of Studies and NEASC visit. The Program of Studies is reviewed yearly. It is an intensive process which involves all faculty members. All courses and descriptions are reviewed

against criteria, with this year's focus on STEM and Humanities. Every course offering has been rewritten, being certain that 8th grade students have a clear understanding of what is offered in their freshman year.

The Art Department responded to the challenge from members of the board to rewrite their philosophy and mission to be more in alignment with what they actually do and what they aspire to. The rewrite was well received by the Board Members.

DHHS (which is currently NEASC accredited), is in the throes of a 10-year accreditation process. This process involves all faculty and staff, and involves 5 standards and 32 indicators of effective practice. There is a chairperson for each of the 5 standards. The NEASC team was given a comprehensive self-reflection report completed by all staff. The team observed a number of classrooms during their November 2 and 3 visit and a full report will be provided after which time the Steering Committee will develop a growth plan. This plan will focus on the work required in preparation for the Decennial visit in November of 2024. Mr. Salutari praised the hard work of all involved.

10.2. Facilities Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal, Chair, Steven Pynn, Galen Cawley

Jacqueline Vice, DHHS Jr., gave a presentation regarding the reinstatement of paper towels in student bathrooms and presented the Board with a list of signatures. Paper towel dispensers had been removed and replaced with hand dryers. Bill McMinn shared that the DHHS Environmental Club petitioned for the hand dryers approximately 10 years ago. During COVID, paper towels were placed back in the bathrooms. While they are preferred, they come at an expense.

Justin Kababik, Project Manager from BL Companies, provided an update on the Polson HVAC project. A report is expected January, 2023.

Bill McMinn provided updates on the Polson lockers, tennis courts and high school stage lighting. A Facilities Committee member is sought to volunteer regarding the Brown School K-1 East Wing Project; Mr. Cawley will represent the committee. Madison Land Trust Property should move forward soon. The DHHS rooftop unit #7 failed for the 3rd time. Working with Johnson Controls, to resolve.

10.3. Finance Committee

Members: Galen Cawley, Chair, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Emily Rosenthal

Galen Cawley reported the Finance Committee met on October 25. The committee reviewed the timeline schedule for each of the union negotiations. The committee received a request from Bill McMinn for additional funds for custodial supplies and trash services. The 2023-2024 Budget Calendar and Assumptions were reviewed and approved for moving to the Board of Education (on tonight's agenda).

10.4. Personnel Committee

Members: Maureen Lewis, Chair; Catherine Miller, Mary Ann Connelly

Maureen Lewis reported the committee is meeting tomorrow night to begin negotiations with the newly-formed nurse's union.

10.5. Policy Committee

Members: Diane Infantine-Vyce, Chair; Maureen Lewis, Jen Gordon

Dr. Infantine-Vyce reviewed the policies on tonight's agenda. For rescission: #2230, Workplace Safety Committee; #2260, Administrative Responsibility for Student Placement; #2400, Evaluation of Administrative Personnel; #4112.5, Drug-Free Schools. A motion will be added to waive the second reading of these policies and rescind them tonight. Policy #2250, Crisis Management and #5070.2, Assignment of Former Home Schooled Students to Class are also scheduled for rescission after two readings, with a first reading tonight. Policies for a first reading include #5030, Assignment of Students to Schools; #5120.4.2.1, Suicide Prevention and Intervention; #5144, Physical Restraint (both of which need to be approved simultaneously with the rescission of Policy #2250); #6080.23, Home Schooling (which will replace Policy #5070.2); #6080.26.4, Enrollment in and Advanced Course or Program or Challenging Curriculum and #6130.2.2, Curricular Exemptions.

After extensive discussion of #6030, School Calendar Policy, it was decided to bring this policy back to the next Policy Committee meeting for further consideration.

10.6. LEARN Liaison

Mary Ann Connelly

Mrs. Connelly attended a meeting last week, where LEARN policies were discussed. Mrs. Connelly also spoke briefly to the LEARN presentation included in this Board packet regarding the Role of the Regional Trauma Coordinator.

10.7. Town American Rescue Plan Funding Committee

Emily Rosenthal

There is a small amount of funds remaining and the committee continues to meet monthly. Mrs. Rosenthal encouraged submission of applications.

10.8. Town Marijuana Advisory Committee

Mary Ann Connelly

The committee has not met.

11. Action Item: Motion to approve the report of the September 27, 2022 Board of Education Retreat (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

THIS MOTION HAS BEEN TABLED

MOTION: by Gordon, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to table the report of the September 27, 2022 Board of Education Retreat.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

12. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Rosenthal to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Infantine-Vyce,
Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

13. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2022 Board of Education Meeting
(Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Gordon to
approve the minutes of the October 25, 2022 Board of
Education Meeting.
AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Infantine-Vyce,
Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

14. Action Item: Motion to adopt Math K-6, Humanities, and World Literature Curriculum Units

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Miller to adopt the
Math K-6, Humanities, and World Literature Curriculum
Units.
AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Infantine-Vyce,
Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

15. Action Item: Motion to approve trip to Rome and Paris April 4-13, 2024

MOTION: by Miller, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to
approve the trip to Rome and Paris April 4-13, 2024.
AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Infantine-Vyce,
Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

16. Action Item: Motion to approve the 2023-2024 Budget Calendar and Budget Guidelines

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Connelly to
approve the 2023-2024 Budget Calendar and Budget
Guidelines.
AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Infantine-Vyce,
Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Additional Action Item: Motion to waive the second reading of Policies #2230, Workplace Safety
Committee; #2260, Administrative Responsibility for Student Placement; #2400, Evaluation of
Administrative Personnel; #4112.5, Drug-Free Schools.

MOTION: by Cawley, seconded by Gordon to waive the second reading of Policies #2230, Workplace Safety Committee; #2260, Administrative Responsibility for Student Placement; #2400, Evaluation of Administrative Personnel; #4112.5, Drug-Free Schools.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

17. Action Item: Motion to approve the rescission of Policies #2230, Workplace Safety Committee; #2260, Administrative Responsibility for Student Placement; #2400, Evaluation of Administrative Personnel; #4112.5, Drug-Free Schools.

MOTION: by Lewis, seconded by Connelly to approve the rescission of Policies #2230, Workplace Safety Committee; #2260, Administrative Responsibility for Student Placement; #2400, Evaluation of Administrative Personnel; #4112.5, Drug-Free Schools.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

18. Action Item: Motion to approve the donation of \$1,500 to Jeffrey Elementary School from the Jeffrey PTO to fund items from the school wish list.

MOTION: by Miller, seconded by Gordon to approve the donation of \$1,500 to Jeffrey Elementary School from the Jeffrey PTO to fund items from the school wish list.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

19. Action Item: Motion to approve the donation of \$6,750 to Jeffrey Elementary School from the Jeffrey PTO to support school-wide cultural events.

MOTION: by Lewis, seconded by Gordon to approve the donation of \$6,750 to Jeffrey Elementary School from the Jeffrey PTO to support school-wide cultural events.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

20. Future Agenda Items

21. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

Note: the December 20, 2022 Policy Committee meeting has been changed from 4:30 to 3:30 and will be by Zoom only.

22. Adjournment

MOTION: by Gordon, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

The Town of Madison does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and the meeting facilities are ADA accessible. Individuals who need assistance are invited to make their needs known by contacting the Town ADA/Human Resources Director, Debra Ferrante, at 203-245-6310 or by email at ferranted@madisonct.org at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.