

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
May 17, 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 Ms. Jessica Bowler at 7:30 p.m. Ms. Bowler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jessica Bowler; John Dean; 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.

Cindy Mead attended via phone.

Galen Cawley entered the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

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

2.1. Recognition

2.1.1. Alexandra Minutillo - Connecticut's top High School Youth Volunteer for the 2016 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program.

Superintendent Scarice introduced Alexandra Minutillo as the recipient of Connecticut's top High School Youth Volunteer for the 2016 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. Superintendent Scarice stated that the District has very little to do with the person Alexandra has become. Superintendent Scarice stated that its mom and dad and all they have instilled in her over the years. Superintendent Scarice stated that as the State Honoree for high school Alexandra will receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion and an all-expense paid trip which took place in early May to Washington, D.C., where she joined the honorees from each of the other states and the District of Columbia for four days of national recognition events.

Superintendent Scarice introduced Cynthia Schneider who made the following statement regarding Alexandra.

Alexandra Minutillo was named Connecticut's top high school volunteer of 2016 by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism.

Alexandra, a sophomore at Daniel Hand High School, formed a nonprofit organization and school club that has raised more than \$10,000 to buy gifts for teenage patients at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Watching her grandparents struggle with cancer, Alexandra saw first-hand how draining the

experience can be. When she started high school, she decided she wanted to do something for young people undergoing cancer treatment. Through conversations with cancer specialists at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, she learned that most donations for young cancer patients are intended for pre-school and grade-school youngsters. So she decided to focus on "the often-invisible teen population and "provide age specific items for these patients as they struggle with treatment and hospitalization.

After forming a nonprofit called "Smiles for Smilow," Alexandra started a club that now has more than 40 members. Then she got to work planning fundraisers, publicizing them through social media and a website she created. Thus far, the club has had a bake sale, sold novelty items and solicited donations at shopping areas, local football games and parades. Alexandra also speaks often to civic groups about donating to her cause. Among the items she has purchased with her proceeds are a media cabinet for the cancer center's teen recreation area, a notebook computer and gift cards. "We have been able to accomplish something that changes people's lives," said Alexandra.

As the State Honoree for high school Alexandra will receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion and an all-expense paid trip in early May to Washington, D.C., where she will join the honorees from each of the other states and the District of Columbia for four days of national recognition events. Congratulations to Alexandra for this well-deserved recognition and honor.

Ms. Stein stated that she works at the hospital in the hematology/oncology department and was in Trumbull at the Smilow Cancer Care Center and there was a beautiful healing garden with new outdoor furniture that was made possible by Alexandra and all of the work she has put into the "Smiles for Smilow," organization.

2.1.2. CAFE Student Leadership Award

Daniel Hand High School – Samuel Wilson

Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School – Isabelle Vagell and Kevin Sandor

Walter C. Polson Middle School – Molly Joe and William Beecher Porter

Superintendent Scarice noted that the students are nominated to receive the CAFE Student Leadership Award by the school administrators. Superintendent Scarice stated a few skills that the student being nominated should exhibit. Willingness to take on challenges, capability to make difficult decisions, concern for others, ability to work with others and willingness to commit to a project are just to name a few.

Mr. Frank Henderson made the following comments.

Molly Joe - Walter C. Polson Middle School

Molly is an amazing young lady with boundless energy who cares deeply about her peers and people in general. Her enthusiasm, drive, and willingness to "go the extra mile" to help peers feel included is observable on a daily basis at Polson Middle School. Molly has found her stride during her 8th Grade year at Polson and she has emerged as a student leader and deserving recipient of the CAFE Student Leadership Award.

Molly is a Peer Helper at Polson and she takes her role and responsibility very seriously. She is a strong and supportive voice at meetings and during Peer Helper events. Additionally, she is a member of the Polson Unified Theatre group and this past year took on a very active leadership role in an effort to assist and support students with disabilities who were part of the cast. This has been a very success program because of the commitment and dedication of students like Molly Joe.

Molly Joe has had a wonderful influence on student life at Polson Middle School and she has consistently supported her peers with positive energy and a smile. Molly, congratulations on this well-deserved honor!

Beecher Porter - Walter C. Polson Middle School

Beecher is one of the most impressive students at Polson Middle School. He is a mature, responsible young man who has had a positive influence on student life at Polson. Beecher understands difficult issues and is able to quietly, but strongly communicate his views and ideas with his classmates in a respectful manner. He is sensitive to the needs of others and works well with his peers. Beecher Porter is a gentleman and through a well deserving recipient of the CABA Leadership Award.

Beecher is highly regarded by our faculty and fellow students for both his leadership and character. In the classroom he is a dedicated and committed student who consistently goes above and beyond expectations. Outside of the classroom Beecher's leadership emerges through his involvement in athletics. He is a member of the Polson Basketball Team and swims for the Soundview YMCA Stingrays. As a veteran member of the Stingrays he understands his responsibilities as a role model for the younger swimmers and takes these responsibilities very seriously.

Beecher is a dedicated student and athlete who has gained the respect and appreciation of faculty and peers through his genuine empathy and care for others. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor!

Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School

Isabelle Vagell and Kevin Sandor were both presented with a CABA Student Leadership Award. Mrs. Phelps was unable to attend this evening's meeting. Both Isabelle and Kevin will be acknowledged at the June 21, 2016 Board of Education meeting by Mrs. Phelps.

Ms. Cynthia Schneider spoke on behalf of Principal Salutari.

Samuel A. Wilson – Daniel Hand High School

Samuel is a motivated, mature young man who has excelled and mastered every task that has been given to him. He has had great success in the academic environment. In his four years at Daniel Hand, he has filled his schedule with numerous honors and A.P. courses. Even with this rigorous schedule, he has earned class awards each year for his excellence and performance in many subjects. Sam is one of the more respected students at DHHS, yet the respect is not only by his peers, but also by his teachers. For his junior year evaluations, his teachers had nothing but wonderful things to say that depict the type of person he is in the classroom. They describe Sam as "one of the top students they have ever taught, a true leader in the class, easy to teach, and a role model to his classmates." These traits, along with many others, are only some of the reasons why all those around him benefit from being in his presence.

Samuel is not only passionate about academics, but he is also very involved with sports, clubs, and volunteering. In addition to his passion for academics, Sam brings incredible energy to the activities he participates in outside the classroom setting. Sam is a member of the lacrosse team where his work ethic and respect is greatly admired. He is a member of the National Honor Society where he remains active and up-to-date with all that is going on in the school and the community. Sam was appointed to a leadership role for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp. His efforts in this role involved over 20 hours of volunteer work on a project that rebuilt a building. Sam also volunteers his time to

better the lives of those who are less fortunate. He spends time in New Haven working with students with disabilities. He helps these students learn how to read and develop strategies that will benefit them in the classroom. Sam is also an active and well known member of the DHHS Science Olympiad Club. His knowledge of science helps this group continue to grow. Sam is a young man who will continue to volunteer and help others due to his passion for these opportunities and his genuine desire to support those in need.

Sam is a student who has accomplished so much over the past four years. His urgency to do well, his work ethic, and overall desire to succeed is something that many wish they possessed. Sam has had an incredibly positive impact on our school community.

2.2. Public Participation

Mr. Bennett Pudlin of 15 Salt Meadow Lane noted that he met earlier this evening with the Board of Education Finance Committee to discuss senior tax relief. Mr. Pudlin noted that the Board of Finance will be holding a Public Forum to discuss senior tax relief which will take place on June 8, 2016 at 7:00PM.

3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Paige Calvert and Aidan Hughes

Ms. Calvert and Mr. Hughes were unable to attend this evenings meeting.

4. Superintendent's Report

Thomas R. Scarice

4.1. 3rd Grade Language Arts Persuasive Essays

Ryan Hustis, Ben Lind, Fletcher Sharon, Hazel Siu and Brooke Anderson
3rd Grade Students of Kathleen H. Ryerson Elementary School

Superintendent Scarice introduced Ryan, Ben, Fletcher, Hazel and Brooke; 3rd grade students of Ryerson Elementary School to discuss their Persuasive Essays they submitted. Superintendent Scarice stated that as our curriculum work develops, we endeavor to include more and more authentic audiences for our students when they are writing, solving problems, and applying their learning. Another compelling aspect of this work for this unit is that students were able to choose their audience. This builds off of our commitment to increasing student choice.

Principal Kelly Spooner, Michelle Horn and Lisa Caldwell, Peggy Bell and Clare Pinski attended this evenings meeting. Ms. Spooner stated that she is very proud of the students. Ms. Spooner also stated that the persuasive essays the students submitted are just an example of what happens every day in the classrooms. Ms. Spooner stated that the students are having fun while learning.

Superintendent Scarice stated that a few years ago when the Madison Public Schools Vision Statement was revised the one word in particular that stands out is joyful.

Mrs. Bell stated that she is amazed and impressed by the reading and writing of the students.

4.2. Other Matters

Superintendent Scarice reported that there are currently 129 kindergarten students enrolled with a projected number of 171 for the 2016-2017 school year.

Superintendent Scarice stated that the State budget has come to a closure and the numbers are now known. The District is now ready to restart the School Utilization Study.

5. Board Members' Comments

No comments were made.

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

6.1. Planning Committee

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

Ms. Bowler reported on the following:

Carol Sullivan spoke to the Planning Committee about the Math Curriculum Adoptions – to provide us an update as the Math Curriculum writing comes to completion.

- First and foremost Ms. Bowler wanted to thank Carol and her team for all of their hard work over the last two years
- The curriculum writing and review processes were reviewed
- The Math Curriculum has moved from chapter based to unit and idea based
- The focus for the curriculum writing is around 10 transfer goals for our students
- The second half of the curriculum writing and review process will be completed by the end of June 2016 and come to the Board for adoption this summer

Denise Earles spoke to the Planning Committee about the ELA Curriculum Adoptions – to provide the Committee with an update as the ELA Curriculum writing comes to completion

- First and foremost Ms. Bowler wanted to thank Carol and her team for all of their hard work over the last two years
- The ELA Curriculum has moved from units driven by texts and to units now driven by themes
- Asking kids to spend time on how ‘to think’ using the text as the back up
- The focus for the curriculum writing is around 9 transfer goals for reading and 10 transfer goals for writing
- The second half of the curriculum writing and review process will be completed by the end of June 2016 and come to the Board for adoption this summer

For both Math and ELA the next phase is for all of the curriculum to be implemented and provide PD to the teachers. Feedback of course is welcome and tweaks will continue to be made as implementation takes place over the next school year.

Polson Roof Project Update

- Bill McMinn provided the Planning Committee with an update –
- The fitness equipment will be relocated to the High School gym on June 13th and work will begin on June 13th
- Work is projected to be completed by early July weather permitting and the District is on budget
- Solar Update – the solar RFQ is out and due May 26th – this is for multiple locations around town including the Polson Roof

School Utilization Facilities Study

The team continues to work behind the scenes on this project so that after the budget season has completed which will be around May 24th, we can look to un-pause this project and pick it back up shortly thereafter.

Enrichment Programming

The District has been trying for a number of years to implement a program for ‘high interest areas’ but have had trouble adding an FTE for this in recent budget cycles. The team has come up with a creative idea to allow us to make incremental steps in this area – re-write a Tech specialist job description and add this role as part of their job. The focus would be grades 3-6 – upper elementary and lower middle school. The Committee will pilot this for the Fall 2016 and then re-evaluate.

6.2. Personnel Committee

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

Mr. Dean stated that negotiations took place last week with MESS and proposals were exchanged. The next meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2016.

6.3. Policy Committee

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

Ms. Keating stated that two policies were being presented to the Board this evening for first reading.

Policy #6080.3 - Mathematics Education

Policy #6080.2 - English Language Arts Education

6.4. Finance Committee

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

Ms. Bowler reported on the following:

2015/2016 Budget Projections -

The Finance Committee reviewed the end of the year line item transfers and status of the 2015/2016 budget as the District approaches year end.

2016/2017 Budget -

The Finance Committee would like to remind everyone that the referendum is next Tuesday, May 24th and voting will be open from 6:00 am – 8:00 pm

6.5. LEARN Liaison

Liaison: Katie Stein

No report was given.

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

Mr. Bennett Pudlin of 15 Salt Meadow Lane stated he would like to get the word out that the Budget Referendum date is scheduled for May 24, 2016.

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

8.1. Bills Payable: \$560,227.14 - 2015-2016 Budget

8.2. Line Transfers: \$77,524.17

MOTION: by Keating seconded by Dean to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Keating;

Klaskin; Marino; Mead; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

9. Action Item: To table the Minutes of the May 3, 2016 Board of Education Meeting until the June 7, 2016 Board of Education Meeting. (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

Atty. Klaskin stated that the minutes from the May 3, 2016 Board of Education meeting should be tabled pending additional comments that were made during the meeting be added to Item #13.

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Cawley to table approval of the Minutes from the May 3, 2016 Board of Education Meeting until the June 7, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.

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

Marino; Mead; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

10. Action: Textbook Adoption (Reference Policy #6100.10) Advanced Placement French

MOTION: by Keating seconded by Marino to adopt the Advanced Placement French Textbook.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

11. Action Item: To elect not to participate in the National School Lunch Program or the State of Connecticut's optional Healthy Foods Certification Program, starting with the 2016-17 school year.

Atty. Klaskin stated that he is behind the program. Atty. Klaskin stated that there are other Districts that require assistants more than Madison.

Superintendent Scarice thanked Arthur Sickie; Director of Administrative Services and Joe Barraco; Manager of Food Services (Chartwells) for their thoroughness and for a job well done.

MOTION: by Dean seconded by Stein to elect not to participate in the National School Lunch Program or the State Connecticut's optional Healthy Foods Certification Program, starting with the 2016-17 school year.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

12. Action Item: To have the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to execute an appropriate amendment to the existing agreement between the Madison Public Schools, and the Chartwells Division of the Compass Group USA, Inc. This amendment will reflect the contract changes necessary to run the Madison Public Schools Food Service without participating in the National School Lunch Program or the State of Connecticut's optional Healthy Foods Certification Program. This amendment will also extend the term of the agreement through June 30, 2017.

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Dean to have the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to execute an appropriate amendment to the existing agreement between the Madison Public Schools, and the Chartwells Division of the Compass Group USA, Inc. This amendment will reflect the contract changes necessary to run the Madison Public Schools Food Service without participating in the National School Lunch Program the State of Connecticut's optional Healthy Foods Certification Program. This amendment will also extend the term of the agreement through June 30, 2017.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Keating; Klaskin;
Marino; Mead; Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

13. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

14. Future Agenda Items

No future items were discussed.

15. Meetings/Dates of Importance (see attached)
May-June Calendars

16. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean seconded by Klaskin to adjourn the
meeting at 8:32 p.m.
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Keating; Klaskin;
Marino; Mead; Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Approved at the June 7, 2016 Board of Education Meeting
LF