

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
June 21, 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 Chair Jean Fitzgerald at 7:37 p.m. Chairman Fitzgerald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jessica Bowler; Galen Cawley; Jean Fitzgerald; Alison Keating; Seth Klaskin; Matt Keller.

Also present: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; students; and community members.

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

2.1. Recognition

- 2.1.1.** Matt Price, Theater Arts teacher at Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School, recipient of the first state Theater Arts Teacher of the year award.

Superintendent Scarice:

Tonight we are recognizing the recipient of a unique award, the first of which has been given by the State Board of Education. Matt Price, Theater Arts teacher at Brown Middle School, has been awarded the Theater Arts Teacher of the Year award.

Superintendent Scarice spoke to his visit to Mr. Price's theater camp earlier this year when he observed 15-20 highly engaged students. Superintendent Scarice noted how fortunate Madison students are to be part of a program that Mr. Price has breathed new life into, the effects of which go well beyond the school day.

Ms. Julie Brown, Brown Middle School Principal:

Matt Price is the state's first recipient of the Excellence in Theater Education award, and in choosing Matt as the first winner, the state has set a very high bar for future nominees.

What stood out to the state review committee are the same attributes that amaze and impress us at Brown on a daily basis – his ability to engage and inspire students and his dedication for theater arts, serving as both a schoolwide and community ambassador for the study of theater. I don't think I exaggerate when I say that Matthew Price is the face of theater at Brown and perhaps the district.

His own talent, passion, creativity, sense of humor, and perhaps most importantly his ability to build relationships with his students and help them find their voices, literally

and figuratively, are qualities that earned him the State of Connecticut Theater Teacher of Excellence recognition. I extend my congratulations to Matt on behalf of the entire Brown School staff and commend the State on making such an exciting choice for this award.

2.1.2. Isabelle Vagell and Kevin Sandor (CABE AWARD)

Ms. Brown, Principal, Brown Middle School acknowledged Isabelle Vagell and Kevin Sandor, recipients of the CABE Student Leadership Award:

Isabelle Vagell

Isabelle Vagell is a dedicated learner who eagerly seeks out academic and personal challenges. Her positive attitude and outlook on life allow her to face any obstacles, seeing these as opportunities to become a stronger person. Isabelle has taken personal hurdles and turned her experiences into opportunities to help others overcome their own struggles. She is innately conscientious and is always quick to notice when others need a friend or need assistance. This skills set has made her an integral member of the Brown School Peer Supporters; a student leadership group which Isabelle has been a member of throughout her 2 years at Brown. Isabelle truly exemplifies the qualities of an altruistic and committed student leader in and out of the classroom. Her eagerness to help and encourage others makes her a sought-after group member for classroom projects and her kind and gentle demeanor makes her a friend to all students at Brown. Among her many admirable qualities, Isabelle's selflessness and altruism are most impressive. For her birthday this year Isabelle chose to celebrate by volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House and this fall when a classmate was moving away, she was a source of comfort and support for that student and helped to organize a moving-away party to help her friend through the tough time. Isabelle is a highly motivated, mature, and compassionate young person who is well deserving of this recognition.

Kevin Sador

Kevin Sandor is a kind and conscientious student leader who has an infectious desire to learn and to help others. Kevin emerges as a peer role model in every setting he's in. He was a homeroom leader in 5th grade and helped to organize and facilitate donation efforts for the Adopt-A-Family holiday gift drive and as a 6th grader Kevin has flourished as a Peer Supporter and continues to make a positive impact at Brown. The most admirable facet of Kevin's personality is his ability to bring out the best in his classmates through his kind, inclusive, and thoughtful demeanor. Kevin works well with whomever he is partnered and always exhibits an encouraging and inclusive attitude. He balances a lighthearted sense of humor with a respectful seriousness about learning and working collaboratively with others. He can respectfully agree to disagree, and can also negotiate a single solution from multiple opinions in a group while not infringing on the feelings of others. He works hard, but makes the hard work fun for all. Consequently, he is well respected by peers and adults and is the ideal candidate to receive this award.

2.1.3. Paige Calvert and Aidan Hughes - Board of Education Student Representatives

Ms. Fitzgerald presented Paige and Aidan with certificates of recognition and a token of appreciation. Ms. Fitzgerald spoke to Paige and Aidan stating it has been a pleasure working with both and talked about how the role has evolved. Their participation has been invaluable and both have gone above and beyond representing Daniel Hand High School.

Ms. Fitzgerald introduced and welcomed new Board member, Matt Keller, who has replaced Cindy Mead.

2.2. Public Participation

No public comment.

3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Paige Calvert and Aidan Hughes

Paige Calvert reported that graduation was magnificent; it was a beautiful night with great speeches. Night in Hand was the “best night of our lives”. Paige thanked the Board for the past 2 years and stated she will take this experience with her

4. Introduction of the new Board of Education Student Representative

Paige Calvert introduced the new Board representative for the junior class, Emily Baker. Emily thanked the Board and talked about her desire to help her community and her love for her school. Ms. Fitzgerald commented that is what stuck out in her essay, and that she has a clear understanding of what her role will be.

Superintendent Scarice spoke to the vigor of the process of becoming a student representative (essay writing, interview and recommendations).

5. Superintendent's Report

Thomas R. Scarice

5.1. Curriculum Adoptions - Social Studies and World Language

Paul Coppola, Kristin Mancini and Gail Dahling-Hench

Superintendent Scarice introduced two guests in attendance – Paul Coppola and Kristin Mancini, curricular leaders in Social Studies and World Language, respectively.

Superintendent Scarice noted the district is halfway through the timeline in adopting K-12 curriculum.

Mrs. Dahling-Hench spoke to the role of the curricular leader, noting they not only meet with every curricular group, they also assure vertical alignment and articulation to ensure equity across grades. Three years ago, the district set forth on a proposed cycle and put in place a checklist of good design elements and a system of quality control. This was reviewed by the Curriculum Review Council, a blend of teachers and administrators, who provided feedback on all units, ensuring they meet criteria. Mrs. Dahling-Hench referred to the checklist while Ms. Mancini spoke to the process.

Mr. Coppola commented the more “fingerprints” on a curriculum document, the better, and spoke to the collaborative process. The goal is to show how curriculum can jump off the page & come alive. Mr. Coppola discussed how history & social studies has been taught in the past and referred to the “instructional shift”, discussing the integration of Language Arts and providing a comparison of the “then” and “now”.

Mr. Coppola spoke to the Social Studies curricular vision and Mrs. Dahling-Hench discussed professional development. Mr. Coppola commented that teachers say they have never experienced the degree of resources and the time that has been allowed for professional development.

Ms. Mancini presented on behalf of World Language and stated that just one year ago, K-12 teachers had never met one another. Ms. Mancini outlined the shifts that have occurred in World Language, going from grammar lessons to highly engaging units. Ms. Mancini highlighted the transfer goals outlined in the World Language guiding document and stated that upon review of the 21st century capacities, we have hit on 11 in year 1. Ms. Mancini stated the accomplishments are thanks to professional development and administrators that allow teachers to attend.

5.2. Other Matters

Superintendent Scarice discussed today's Administrative Retreat; where administrators took advantage of the time to talk about where we are as a district. Four years ago, the Board adopted a new vision & mission statement. Through the Harvard Business Review, Superintendent Scarice found a case study which discussed how the FBI had to completely re-orient its work after 9/11. The case study chronicles the challenges and touched upon leadership and strategy, not mechanics. This will assist the Admin Council in taking a deep look at how our mission has changed.

The Teacher Evaluation Plan was reviewed by two external auditors – policy specialist Dr. Lynette Branham who wrote a 26 page report analyzing the efficacy of how we evaluate teachers, and Deb Reed from RBT (Research for Better Teaching) who provided a similar audit.

6. Board Members' Comments

Mr. Klaskin inquired about the status of approval of the Teacher Evaluation Plan by the CSDE. Mr. Scarice stated the status remains unchanged.

Chair Jean Fitzgerald referred to the June 14, 2016 Board retreat; the Board talked about how things are working or not, how do we know things are working?

Chair Fitzgerald handed out the 2016/2017 schedule of meetings and asked Board members to review stating attendance at meetings is very important.

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

7.1. Planning Committee

Members: Jessica Bowler, Chair; Galen Cawley, Alison Keating

Ms. Bowler reported on the following:

- First and foremost, thank you to Paul Coppola and Kristin Mancini and their teams for their hard work this past year.
- Curriculum updates reviewed earlier and presented for approval tonight were discussed, as well as what happens with the curriculum once it is approved and rolled out. Curriculum leads are working on developing protocol to handle feedback once curriculum is implemented. Curriculum documents should be thought of as living documents to be continually updated and tweaked.
- The district continues to think about progress reports that teachers complete for students K-12. K-4 progress reports were updated last year to be more standards-

based, but we need to continue discussions at all grade levels around further updating so that we can provide feedback to parents regarding the skills students are working on. Professional development will occur in August with a guest speaker to this end.

- We will vote tonight on the following textbook adoptions:
 - UCONN ECE for Chemistry – online and physical textbooks.
 - Algebra 2 as a result of finalized and approved curriculum – online and classroom textbooks which can be taken home if needed.
- Work will continue regarding the School Utilization Facilities Study and discussions will begin again at the Board level at the September 6 Board meeting. Bill McMinn is working on identifying projects for the CIP project list for the next 5 years. This will include anything over and above decided through the study, i.e. normal long-term building projects.
- The Teacher Evaluation Plan has been audited by two independent external auditors and updates were made as a result of feedback received from internal focus groups and interviews. There are no changes to the Administrator Evaluation Plan.

7.2. Personnel Committee

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

No report was given.

7.3. Policy Committee

Members: Katie Stein, Chair, Seth Klaskin, Matt Keller

7.3.1. Policy #6080.3 - Mathematics Education (Third Reading)

7.3.2. Policy #6080.2 - English Language Arts Education (Third Reading)

7.4. Finance Committee

Members: Alison Keating, Chair, Jessica Bowler, Happy Marino

Ms. Keating reported on the following:

- The Finance Committee met earlier this evening to finalize the 2015-2016 fiscal year and requested the Board of Finance to return funds to the Special Education Reserve Fund.
- A motion was made to give the Superintendent and Director of Finance authority to close out the 2015-2016 fiscal year with additional approval of the Finance Committee chairperson.

7.5. LEARN Liaison

Liaison: Katie Stein

No report was given.

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

No comments were made.

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

9.1. Bills Payable: \$199.64 - 2014-2015 Budget and \$644,787.80 - 2015-2016 Budget

9.2. Line Transfers: \$15,792.33

9.3. Donation: \$1,764.16 to Island Avenue elementary School from the Stop and Shop A+ Bonus Rewards Program.

MOTION: by _Jessica Bowler,_seconded by Alison Keating to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Fitzgerald;
Keating; Klaskin; Keller

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: 6-0

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

10. Action Item: Minutes of the June 7, 2016 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Alison Keating, seconded by Jessica Bowler to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Fitzgerald;
Keating

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Klaskin, Keller

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0

11. Action Item: To approve the removal of used books and equipment (Ref. Policy #3260)

MOTION: by Alison Keating, seconded by Seth Klaskin to approve the removal of used books and equipment.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Fitzgerald;
Keating; Klaskin; Keller

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

12. Action Item: To approve Policy #6080.3 - Mathematics Education

MOTION: by Policy Committee to approve Policy #6080.3 - Mathematics Education.
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Fitzgerald; Keating; Klaskin; Keller
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

13. Action Item: To approve Policy #6080.2 - English Language Arts Education

MOTION: by Policy Committee to approve Policy #6080.2 - English Language Arts Education.
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Fitzgerald; Keating; Klaskin; Keller
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

14. Action Item: To adopt the World Language Curriculum for courses as presented

MOTION: by Planning Committee to adopt the World Language Curriculum for courses as presented
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Fitzgerald; Keating; Klaskin; Keller
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

15. Action Item: To adopt Social Studies Curriculum for courses as presented

MOTION: by Planning Committee to adopt Social Studies Curriculum for courses as presented.
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Fitzgerald; Keating; Klaskin; Keller
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

16. Action Item: To adopt the UCONN ECE Chemistry course Textbook

MOTION: by Planning Committee to adopt the UCONN ECE Chemistry course Textbook.
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Fitzgerald; Keller Keating; Klaskin
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

17. Action Item: To adopt the Algebra II Textbook

MOTION: by Planning Committee to adopt the Algebra II Textbook.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Fitzgerald;
Keating; Klaskin; Keller

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

18. Action Item: To adopt the Madison Teacher Evaluation Plan and Madison Administrator Plan

MOTION: by Planning Committee to adopt the Madison Teacher Evaluation Plan and Madison Administrator Plan

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Fitzgerald;
Keating; Klaskin; Keller

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

19. Action Item: For the Finance Committee chair to close out the 15-16 fiscal year with Superintendent and Director of Finance

MOTION: by Jessica Bowler, seconded by Seth Klaskin for the Finance Committee chair to close out the 15-16 fiscal year with Superintendent and Director of Finance

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Fitzgerald;
Keating; Klaskin; Keller

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

20. Old Business

No old business.

21. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items.

22. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

July-August 2016 Calendars

23. Adjournment

MOTION: by Alison Keating, seconded by Seth Klaskin to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Fitzgerald;
Keating; Klaskin; Keller

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Approved at the July 19, 2016 BOE Meeting
WB