

**Madison Public Schools  
Board of Education Regular Meeting  
January 09, 2018  
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 Alison Keating at 7:30 p.m. Chairman Keating led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jessica Bowler; Alison Keating; Happy Marino; Violet McNerney; Matt Parthasarthy; Emily Rosenthal; Katie Stein

Galen Cawley entered the meeting at 7:32 PM

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. Public Participation**

Mr. Walter Lippman a resident of Madison.

Mr. Lippman stated that he was meeting one of the school buses to get his friends two children off of the bus. The bus driver stated that they could not release the students to Mr. Lippmann even though the students know who he is. Mr. Lippmann stated that he proceeded to get on the bus and show the driver his ID. Once he showed the driver his ID he was allowed to take the children off the bus. Mr. Lippmann said that the driver proceeded to apologize to him and Mr. Lippmann told the bus driver never to apologize for wanting to keep the kids safe.

Mr. Lippmann brought it to the Board attention that he strongly believes there should be a mandatory pre-employment drug testing. Mr. Lippmann went on to tell the Board of different organizations that require pre employment drug testing.

**3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report**

Emily Baker and Ryan Tomicic

Ryan did not attend the meeting.

Emily reported on the following:

Before winter break DHHS had spirit week which was a lot of fun with the students wearing their ugly holiday sweaters. They also had Hawaiian day which was a lot of fun.

Rehearsals for Sound of Music have begun.

Nine students from AP Biology took a trip to Rockefeller University in NYC. They learned that the number one animal that kills approximately 1,000,000 per year is the mosquito. Emily stated that it was a fun trip to NY.

Winter sports are under way with good attendance. Facebook chat for DHHS sports is helpful getting the word out to people when/where games are taking place.

Show Boat (talent show) is being revived this year and will take place on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The scheduling process has started.

Student Leadership is this Friday.

#### **4. Superintendent's Report**

Thomas R. Scarice

##### **4.3. Other Matters**

Superintendent Scarice commented on the public participation comment that was made earlier in the meeting, The District currently screens employees through finger printing, DCF check as well as State and Federal checks. The District conducts a comprehensive background check on all potential employees. There is no evidence of any drug abuse among the employees of MPS. The screening that takes place by the District is in line with other Districts.

##### **4.1. Furniture Enhancements: Instructional and Cultural Impact – Walter C. Polson Middle School Rebecca Frost, Frank Henderson, Carol Sullivan**

Ms. Frost, Mr. Henderson and Ms. Sullivan discussed the following:

The new furniture that is in place at Polson has brought a new energy to the classrooms. The flexible seating provides increase motivation as well as engagement between the students. The students are able to choose where they want to work i.e. high top chairs, gaming chairs, standing etc). This allows the students to choose the seat that will help them do their best work who do they work best with, where will they are able to focus more and what do I need as a learner right now? This will help the students make good choices in terms of their work habits.

Two students from Polson attended the meeting. Both of the students stated how much they as well as the other students at Polson enjoy the new seating options during class. They said students actually rush to class to get the type of seating they work best in.

During back to school night the parents were commenting on how nice the new furniture looked.

They thanked the Board for approving the purchase of the furniture.

#### 4.2. 2018-2019 Superintendent's Recommended Budget: Discussion

Superintendent Scarice stated that the 2018-2019 Superintendent's Recommended Budget would be discussed during the Finance Committee report.

#### 5. Board Members' Comments

Mr. Parthasarthy made the following comments:

As a new board member, my goal on this board is to ensure that we, as a group, do the best that we can for the children of Madison as well as for the taxpayers that elected us – essentially the people that we work for.

Today, we are discussing the need to create a new Facilities Committee to address the ongoing issue of repairs, maintenance, and new construction, as appropriate, to the various buildings that fall under the purview of this Board. To that end, this committee must be tasked with:

- Studying the current state of repair of the school buildings, and making recommendations to the Board for such alterations and repairs.
- Investigating, when necessary, the future building needs of the district, and undertaking necessary studies to be able to provide a recommendation to the Board for further action.

Yes, it is true that this work has historically fallen under other committees. Yet we also know that these other committees have had the burden of not just having to deal with facilities, but also the very important work of creating policies and studying programmatic improvements. To separate the administration of Facilities studies out of these other committees, and into its own committee, not only is a necessity; it also makes good practical sense. Who can argue with that?

This Board recently debated whether to create a permanent Facilities Committee or an Ad Hoc one. An Ad Hoc committee, of course, does not require amendment of the bylaws. It is also temporary in nature. How is it that a temporary committee can be formed to administer to buildings that endure for decades? Furthermore, I can understand the consternation of having to amend bylaws. It's time consuming. It's difficult. But my position is this – if it's important enough to ask this town for \$65M, it's important enough to take the time to amend bylaws and create a proper Committee.

My friends, it is time we take our personalities out of the equation. The town spoke to us loud and clear in September's referendum. We now need a permanent Facilities Committee to carry the ball forward from September, to understand why the referendum failed, what further options make more sense, and how we bring those options back to the town for a future vote. The only way we can accomplish that in the long run is with the creation of a permanent Facilities Committee. It is my sincere and express hope that we can accomplish that for the benefit of those that elected us. Thank you.

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

### 6.1. Planning Committee

Members: Jessica Bowler, Chair; Galen Cawley, Katie Stein

Ms. Bowler reported on the following:

#### **Social Studies Implementation**

Chris Pagliuco and Pete Nye came to discuss the K-12 social studies implementation so far this year.

Chris focused on a few areas for K-8:

Implementing Curriculum

Gathering Student Work Samples to use for future years

Identifying Resources (textbooks, websites, etc.)

Collaboration with Madison Historical Society

Vertical Alignment

And

Interdisciplinary Opportunities

Chris is focusing on many areas but especially on writing the curriculum for K-4 and conducting PD on historical content especially for K-6 teachers.

K-4 teachers are especially excited for the support documents for the lessons they are piloting this year – these will become the lesson logs which will also include student work samples cataloged by unit for next year and beyond.

Vertical Alignment – a student survey will be implemented shortly to give students in 3-8 to evaluate and give feedback on each unit with regards to Fun, Thinking, Relevance and Purpose. There is also a Social Studies Newsletter that goes out each trimester to highlight exciting things around Social Studies in the district. Later this month will be the first vertical alignment meeting for the K-8 Social Studies teachers.

Collaboration with the Madison Historical Society – establishing field trips and experiences for many grades – there is a new Director of Education for the Madison Historical Society – a name you may all recognize – Jean Fitzgerald – this is a very exciting opportunity for our district.

Interdisciplinary opportunities – Working with Social Studies Curriculum Lead – Sarah Sandora - on some exciting interdisciplinary work for grades 3 and 6 in particular.

Pete Nye discussed 9-12 and the impact of the new electives and student choice. There is a lot of excitement about the new offerings and all of them are very well enrolled.

We also went on to discuss if as a district we want to mandate certain pieces of history that have to be taken as classes by every student before they graduate. Right now the mandates are US History and Civics but should we also mandate other classes or do we let kids elect to take what interests them?

Pete's goal is to get kids to articulate why and how history is relevant by the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

We discussed a google product called Google Expeditions that we may want to consider for the World Traveler elective at some point down the road – it is a Virtual Reality software for the classroom that puts you in these places to be able to study them without leaving your desk. The cost is about \$8,000/class and is something to think about moving forward to maybe pilot.

Lastly we discussed the Adjustment Protocol for Curriculum changes as we implement/pilot new units:

Technical changes can be made to units with permission from the Assistant Superintendent.

Substantive changes need to be reviewed by the CRC (Curriculum Review Committee)

### **TEAM Program for New Teachers**

The TEAM Program is a state mandated two-year induction program for new teachers that include mentorship and professional development support that new educators need to be successful.

As a result of state budget cuts, the state pulled the supports and trainings from local districts during the middle of this school year. They also made the online resources available to districts at the cost of \$150 per new teacher (for a two year period per teacher).

In lieu of paying for the online resources and pay for mentor teachers to review reflection papers, the Madison TEAM committee developed an improved plan that would support new teachers while meeting the statute requirements with an in-house delivery method.

This method would require that the TEAM coordinator deliver and facilitate professional development to new teachers an additional 4 times annually based on the required modules.

The TEAM coordinator (one teacher) will continue to match Mentors and Mentees, review logged hours, file appropriate state documents and assure completion of the program.

There is a slight cost to this but we will absorb this cost as a district (about \$2500).

### **2018-2019 School Year Calendar**

I am handing out this draft for people to review between now and the next meeting. Any questions should be sent to me via email. This will be on the policy committee's next agenda and once approved there will come to the full board for approval. If any changes are made at the policy committee the revised calendar will be handed out that night and we will have time to review before a Full BoE vote is taken.

## **Literacy Coach Model**

We reviewed the current instructional coaching model for Language Arts that we have today for the three coaches we have across our schools. All of the building principals joined us so that we could really get the full picture of the LA coaching model as it stands today.

### **6.2. Personnel Committee**

Members: Matt Parthasarthy, Chair, Seth Klaskin, Violet McNerney

No report was given.

### **6.3. Policy Committee**

Members: Seth Klaskin Chair; Emily Rosenthal, Violet McNerney

**6.3.1.** Policy #4170 Restraint and Seclusion (Second Reading)

**6.3.2.** Policy #5200 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 (Nondiscrimination)  
(Second Reading)

**6.3.3.** Policy #6080.21.1 English Learner Students (Second Reading)

**6.3.4.** Bylaw #9450 Board Committees (Second Reading)

The above mentioned Policies have been changed to First Reading. Except for Bylaw #9450 Board Committees

Action Items (#'s 11-14) have been added regarding Bylaw #9450 Board Committees

### **6.4. Finance Committee**

Members: Happy Marino, Chair; Galen Cawley, Matt Parthasarthy

Ms. Marino reported the following:

The Board of Education conducted a budget workshop on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Superintendent Scarice presented a 2018-2019 budget which represented a 2.39% increase over 2017-2018 with his administrators and staff. Aspects of the budget were discussed, in particular, the literacy coach position, the ESS contractor for the middle school and investing in facilities. After further discussion among board members, the finance committee will recommend at our next committee meeting the reduction of the literacy coach and the ESS position for the budget year in discussion, further reducing our overall budget \$174K and bringing the proposed increase to 2.08%. 2018-2019 will be a transitional year, and we would like to review the restructured District prior to adding in an additional literacy coach position. (this is a 4<sup>th</sup> coach, there are currently three in district).

As it relates to the ESS position, this is a one year hold for us to revisit. Our budget will look different due to closing a school and the high school debt roll off, so we will have more room. It may be appropriate at that time to examine the ESS continuum K-12 as well as the CLC program continuum.

The board also feels that it is important to allocate funds to the facilities budget. Our recent referendum highlighted a need to exercise preventative maintenance keeping our buildings in good form. At our last general board meeting we discussed the request to have funds

returned from the town for elementary updates in advance of closing Island Ave. The board would like to affirm that we heard the voters and in addition to the elementary schools, realize the importance of funding the facilities line items for ongoing maintenance to the high school and upper middle schools.

The budget workshop on January 4<sup>th</sup> was canceled.

**6.5. LEARN Liaison**

Emily Rosenthal

No report was given.

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

Joan Walker resident of Madison.

Ms. Walker stated that she supports keeping students in the system. Noting that she thinks it would be difficult on a student being brought back in after being out placed especially in high school. Ms. Walker stated that by keeping students in the District is also beneficial to all students by teaching them empathy and how to deal with others..

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

**8.1. Bills Payable: \$697,915.97 - 2017/2018 Budget**

**8.2. Budget Expenditure as of January 3, 2018**

MOTION: by Cawley seconded by Marino  
to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating;  
Marino; McNerney; Parthasarthy; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

**9. Action Item: Minutes of the December 19, 2017 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)**

MOTION: by Stein seconded by Cawley to approve  
the minutes of the December 19, 2017

Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating; Marino; McNerney;  
Parthasarthy; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

**10. Action Item: Capital Improvement Project – Brown Middle School Site Improvements**

MOTION: by Planning Committee to  
approve recommendation of Planning Committee to  
forward site improvement project at Brown Middle  
School, as presented, to the Board of Selectmen for  
consideration in the town Capital Improvement  
Program (CIP)

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating;  
McNerney; Parthasarthy; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Marino

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

**11. Action Item: I hereby move that the agenda items pertaining to the second reading of the proposed amendments to Board Policies 4170, 5200, and 6080.21.1 be revised and corrected so as to substitute “first reading” for “second reading.”**

MOTION: by Marino seconded by Stein to move that the  
agenda items pertaining to the second reading of the proposed  
amendments to Board Policies 4170, 5200, and 6080.21.1 be  
revised and corrected so as to substitute “first reading” for  
“second reading.”

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating; Marino; McNerney;  
Parthasarthy; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

**12. Action Item: I hereby move that the agenda item pertaining to the second reading of Board Policy 9450 be removed from the agenda for tonight’s meeting, and I further move that the following item be added to tonight’s agenda:**

MOTION: by Bowler seconded by Marino to move that the  
agenda item pertaining to the second reading of Board Policy  
9450 be removed from the agenda for tonight’s meeting, and I  
further move that the following item be added to tonight’s  
agenda:

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating; Marino; McNerney;  
Parthasarthy; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

**13. Action Item: I hereby move pursuant to Board Policy 9450 that the Board create a standing Facilities Committee and further move that the Facilities Committee’s *responsibilities include, but not necessarily be limited to:* reviewing the recent school study and referendum; determining what, if any, steps are necessary to address the needs of students within our buildings by focusing on the CIP ten-year plan and on community input, to be obtained through surveys, interviews, focus groups, public meetings and such other means as are deemed necessary and appropriate; and recommending for review and possible adoption**



by the full Board a contiguous plan to bring to the Town to address both the short and long term needs of the schools.

MOTION: by Stein seconded by McNerney to move pursuant to Board Policy 9450 that the Board create a standing Facilities Committee and further move that the Facilities Committee's ***responsibilities include, but not necessarily be limited to:*** reviewing the recent school study and referendum; determining what, if any, steps are necessary to address the needs of students within our buildings by focusing on the CIP ten-year plan and on community input, to be obtained through surveys, interviews, focus groups, public meetings and such other means as are deemed necessary and appropriate; and recommending for review and possible adoption by the full Board a contiguous plan to bring to the Town to address both the short and long term needs of the schools.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating; Marino; McNerney; Parthasarthy; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

The Board discussed the need of adding a Facilities Committee to the 4 existing Committees (Planning, Policy, Finance and Personnel). Some of the Board members voiced their concern about adding a Facilities Committee and wanted a clearer description of what the responsibilities would be of a Facilities Committee.

- 14. Action Item:** I hereby move pursuant to Board Policy 9450 that the Board create a standing Facilities Committee and further move that ***as its first order of business***, the Facilities Committee: review the recent school study and referendum; determine what, if any, steps are necessary to address the needs of students within our buildings by focusing on the CIP ten-year plan and on community input, to be obtained through surveys, interviews, focus groups, public meetings and such other means as are deemed necessary and appropriate; and recommend for review and possible adoption by the full Board a contiguous plan to bring to the Town to address both the short and long term needs of the schools.

MOTION: by Stein seconded by McNerney to move pursuant to Board Policy 9450 that the Board create a standing Facilities Committee and further move that ***as its first order of business***, the Facilities Committee: review the recent school study and referendum; determine what, if any, steps are necessary to address the needs of students within our buildings by focusing on the CIP ten-year plan and on community input, to be obtained through surveys, interviews, focus groups, public meetings and such other means as are deemed necessary and appropriate; and recommend for review and

possible adoption by the full Board a contiguous plan to bring to the Town to address both the short and long term needs of the schools.

AYES:; Keating; McNerney; Parthasarthy; Stein

NAYS: Bowler, Cawley, Marino, Rosenthal

ABSTAIN:

MOTION FAILED: 4-4

## 15. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

## 16. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Stein brought Policy #8111 to the Boards attention and would like to have it as an agenda item at the next BOE meeting.

*The Board of Education may assign one or more of its members to serve as liaison to the schools. The purpose of Board liaisons is to improve understanding of the schools and to improve communications. Board liaisons recognize that their authority exists only in regularly called meetings of the Board. Board liaisons are considered guests in the schools and will schedule visitations through the school administrator.*

## 17. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached) January/February 2018

## 18. Adjournment

MOTION: by Bowler seconded by McNerney to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating;

; Marino; McNerney; Parthasarthy; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0