

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
September 08, 2020
7:30 PM
via Zoom**

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 Katie Stein at 7:35 p.m. Chair Stein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also present: JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Liz Battaglia, Director of Special Education, Heather Dobson, Human Resource Director, Bill McMinn, Director of Facilities; Becky Frost, Jeffrey Principal; Kelly Spooner, Ryerson Principal; Frank Henderson, Brown Principal, Kathryn Hart, Polson Principal, Anthony Salutari, DHHS Principal, Zoe Roos, Communications Specialist; Scott Murphy, Madison Board of Selectmen.

Various members of the public via Zoom.

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

2.1. Public Participation

Barbara Sonenstein, parent of a student who attends ECA, voiced her concerns about students being denied attendance at ECA this year. Mrs. Sonenstein stated she sent a letter to Mr. Salutari.

Lisa Engelhart attempted to join public comment but was experiencing technical difficulties.

3. Interim Superintendent's Report

Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote

3.1. School Opening

Dr. Paddyfote reported on the opening of school. Cohort A returned on Thursday, Cohort B returned on Friday and today was the first day of distance learning. Initial feedback is positive. Each of the building principals reported on the first days of school, noting a smooth, successful start. All thanked the Board of Education and Central Office for their support.

Gail Dahling-Hench thanked the administrative team for their positive spirit and can-do attitude with regard to the re-opening of school. Mrs. Dahling-Hench stated surveys and focus groups will

continue to be conducted, as well as a parent webinar series, 2 of which have occurred and were well-attended.

Dr. Paddyfote commented how fortunate Madison is to have such dedicated and enthusiastic teachers and staff members, as well as a Police Department that is very responsive to the needs of the school district, particularly with regard to COVID-related issues. Dr. Paddyfote stated the students have been abiding by the social distancing and mask rules and thanked the parents for their support and patience. Dr. Paddyfote expressed her thanks to everyone for a successful reopening of school.

Chair Stein noted our student representatives Eric Dillner and Isabell Vagell are in attendance tonight. Eric reported he is part of the first cohort and was happy to be back in school today. Teachers seemed happy to teach as they normally do. A fire drill occurred which gave practice to the new way to re-enter the building. Eric noted the café was on the slow side.

Isabelle Vagell reported she is part of the cohort that was online today and the feedback was positive. A few issues of note – today was a full day in front of the computer screen and some found it mentally and physically exhausting. It would be helpful if there was an established break during each class to be offline – for a bathroom break, snack break, etc. Isabelle reported that one particular classroom she participated in (remotely) experienced difficulties hearing and seeing the teacher and students utilized chat monitors.

Chair Stein moved away from the established agenda and allowed time for Lisa Engelhart to speak, due to the fact we were experiencing technical difficulties, as well as Jeff Waterman. There were technical difficulties again, and we were unable to hear either person.

Scott Murphy read Mrs. Engelhart's comment in chat: I'd like to thank all involved today in scheduling the dates for the SAT and PSAT. Greatly appreciated and our kids will hopefully benefit from this opportunity. At the risk of sounding ungrateful, however, I am disappointed that it had to get to where parents needed to pound the table and advocate for their children. We all expect our administration and guidance department to be their first line advocates in this type of situation. These dates should have been scheduled at a much earlier date. Our children deserve to have those in charge to do everything in their power to offer them the same opportunities their peers around the state, country and globe receive. The lack of effort in achieving this is very disappointing. We parents do have a question. Why is the date now scheduled, so far out? We run the risk of schools closing if Covid numbers rise. Many students have the goal of submitting their college applications by Nov 1. This is cutting it quite close. Clinton purposely moved their scheduled October date into late September to address both of these concerns. Is it possible to do so for our students? Or is it just the reality that we are asking late in the game?

4. Board Members' Comments

Chair Stein reported she met last week with Jean Fitzgerald, Board of Finance Chair and Peggy Lyons, Madison First Selectwoman and discussed the state of the schools and financial implications. Chair Stein also reported Galen Cawley has offered to sit on the panel for the RFP for the solar panel project.

Dr. Infantine-Vyce asked Dr. Paddyfote to talk about the cancellation of the SAT's. Dr. Paddyfote and Mr. Salutari explained that due to the start of school with a cohort model, the district was unable to serve all students, which the College Board would not allow. Mr. Salutari provided further information, stating October 14 has been identified as a test date, as well as a November and December date which are questionable at the moment.

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

5.1. Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Galen Cawley, Chair; Greg DeSantis, Catherine Miller

No report. Next meeting is September 15 at 5:30 p.m.

5.2. Communications Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal Chair; Greg DeSantis, Kirk Barneby

No report. Emily Rosenthal did provide an update, however, on the various communications received over the past two weeks, how they were received, and the fact that they are shared with all Board members.

5.3. Facilities Committee

Members: Tom Pellegrino, Chair, Kirk Barneby, Galen Cawley

Mr. Pellegrino reported the Finance Committee met this evening and was given a follow-up report from Colliers on the air quality commissioning study. The in-person field work has been completed; air quality volumes were adjusted and no severe issues were identified. The next step is to identify costs, anticipated to be ready by mid-October. Bill McMinn and Dr. Paddyfote gave an update on the reopening of schools. The Facilities Department has done an amazing job getting the buildings ready and staff has worked many hours to accomplish that. We also revisited the CIP, particularly future plans and we will reconvene on October 6, when Mr. McMinn will have a plan to spread work out between now and 2025. Potential referendum dates were considered and will be discussed further.

5.4. Finance Committee

Members: Kirk Barneby, Chair, Galen Cawley, Tom Pellegrino

No report.

5.5. Personnel Committee

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

Violet McNerney reported the Personnel Committee has begun negotiations between the Association of Madison Administrators and the Madison Board of Education.

5.6. Policy Committee

Members: Greg DeSantis Chair; Violet McNerney, Emily Rosenthal

Mr. DeSantis reported the committee has not met, but noted there are two policies on the agenda tonight for a second reading: #3541.5 – Transportation and #5090.3.1 - Student Dress.

5.7. LEARN Liaison
Diane Infantine-Vyce

No report.

5.8. Board of Selectmen Liaison
Scott Murphy

No report – the Board of Selectmen have not met.

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

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

7.1. Line Transfers as of August 31, 2020

7.2. Budget Expenditure as of August 31, 2020

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by McNerney to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

8. Action Item: To approve \$2,500 donation from the Jeffrey PTO to the Jeffrey School for recess bins

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Miller to approve the \$2,500 donation from the Jeffrey PTO to the Jeffrey School for recess bins.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

9. Action Item: To approve the Minutes of the August 25, 2020 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Pellegrino, seconded by McNerney to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2020 Board of Education Meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Infantine-Vyce

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

10. Old Business

11. Future Agenda Items

12. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

13. Adjournment

MOTION: by Barneby, seconded by DeSantis to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

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