

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
November 15, 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 7:32 p.m. Chairman Fitzgerald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jessica Bowler; Galen Cawley; John Dean; Jean Fitzgerald; Alison Keating; Matt Keller; 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.

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

2.1. Recognition

2.1.1. Recognition: Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents
Student Leadership Award (CAPSS)
Emma Boey & Nicholas Cianfaglione

Principal Salutari made the following comments.

**Daniel Hand High School
2016-17 CAPSS Award Recipients
BOE Bios**

Leadership Service, Academic Prowess, Service to Others in the Community

Emma J. Boey

It is my pleasure to introduce to you Emma Boey as one of Daniel Hand's recipients of the 2016-17 Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendent Award.

Emma is a high-achieving student, an active community member, and a young woman of exemplary character. Extraordinarily bright and exceptionally conscientious, Emma is a model student. Schoolwork is her first priority as her incredible work ethic and devotion to her studies have resulted in a flawless transcript and outstanding GPA. Emma has enthusiastically selected the most rigorous program of study available and she has consistently surpassed the expectations of her instructors in these demanding courses. Emma has an intellectual curiosity for all subjects and has embraced challenging courses in every academic discipline with an eager and passionate attitude. Her cooperative and courteous manner, along with her ability to work well with others, makes her a favorite amongst her teachers.

Outside of the classroom, Emma is a spirited participant in numerous school and community activities. She is a member of the golf team, competes on the math team, and works on the school newspaper. Regarded as a leader, Emma was elected by her peers to serve as a Class Officer where she is involved in organizing and planning social and fundraising activities for her classmates. Furthermore, Emma has graciously volunteered her time to help others. She has been a volunteer worker in the emergency room at a local hospital and has spent time over her summer vacation teaching English to elementary school students in Taiwan. Emma's extracurricular interests demonstrate her strong leadership skills, her ability to work well with others, and her willingness to try new activities.

Emma is personable, kind, and has a cheerful demeanor. Her friendly nature allows her to relate effortlessly to people of all ages. She has friends across many peer groups because of her engaging personality, open-minded attitude, and down-to-earth manner. Her character is impeccable as she is exceptionally responsible, reliable, independent, trustworthy, and mature beyond her years.

Emma is an outstanding student and person who clearly deserve this special recognition.

Nicholas R. Cianfaglione

It is my pleasure to introduce to you Nicholas Cianfaglione as one of Daniel Hand's recipients of the 2016-17 Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendent Award.

Nick is a bright, diligent, and capable student who has excelled in the classroom. Highly conscientious, self-motivated, and determined, Nick is most productive when he is busy and challenged. He has ambitiously selected many of the most rigorous courses available. His disciplined work ethic and persistent approach to his studies have allowed him to successfully tackle this demanding course work. In class, Nick is pleasant, positive, respectful, and courteous to others, making him well liked by his teachers. He is an active class participant who works well with his peers in all situations. As a result, Nick is a welcome addition to any classroom environment.

When you first meet Nick, you will immediately recognize his warm personality, engaging manner, and cheerful disposition. He effortlessly forms connections to individuals of all ages, across all peer groups, and others are drawn to him because he is so personable, genuine, and pleasant. Nick is an exceptionally mature and responsible young man who has a strong drive to succeed in all areas of life. Nick is a dedicated entrepreneur and has devoted much of his free time to the development of his businesses. I have been most impressed by Nick's ability to organize and run two highly successful businesses while being a full-time high school student.

When not working on his business pursuits, Nick has been committed to organizations that raise money for cancer research. He is the president of Club for Cancer at Daniel Hand where he has organized, led, and/or participated in several large scale fundraisers that have raised thousands of dollars for cancer research. Nick has also been a participant and leader in Relay for Life, an annual event that raises money for the American Cancer Society. Nick's enthusiasm, charismatic leadership abilities, and willingness to follow through with his responsibilities make him an invaluable member of these programs.

Nick is an outstanding student and person who clearly deserves this special recognition.

Superintendent Scarice stated that the student's success all starts at home with their families.

2.1.2. Recognition: Madison Association of Educational Supportive Services (MAESS) Susan Evans and Carla Marino - MAESS Co-Presidents

2.1.3. Recognition American Education Week Mike Ginsberg, MEA President, Mary Ellen Babik, MEA Vice President

The National Education Association was one of the creators and original sponsors of American Education Week.

Distressed that 25% of the country's World War I draftees were illiterate and 9% were physically unfit, representatives of the NEA and the American Legion met in 1919 to seek ways to generate public support for education.

In 1921, the NEA Representative Assembly called for designation of one week each year to spotlight education. In its resolution, the NEA called for: "An educational week ... observed in all communities annually for the purpose of informing the public of the accomplishments and needs of the public schools and to secure the cooperation and support of the public in meeting those needs."

The first observance of American Education Week occurred December 4-10, 1921, with the NEA and American Legion as the cosponsors. A year later, the then U.S. Office of Education joined the effort as a cosponsor, and the PTA followed in 1938.

Superintendent Scarice thanked the members of MAESS and MEA. Superintendent Scarice stated that the work in the District could not be done without them.

Superintendent Scarice stated that the working being done today is exponentially different.

2.2. Public Participation

No comments were made.

3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report Aidan Hughes and Emily Baker

Representatives did not attend the meeting.

4. Superintendent's Report Thomas R. Scarice

4.1. Colliers International - School Utilization Study

Mr. Marc Sklenka of Collier International attended the Board meeting. Mr. Sklenka stated that Collier has been in business since 1996 starting in Old Saybrook and that Collier is currently based out of Madison. Mr. Sklenka stated that Collier is here to help put Madison in a position to make a decision regarding the project so that the District can have all the information they need to propose it to the public.

Mr. Sklenka stated he has collected information from DRA and has begun going over the documents. He stated that on Thursday there will be a meeting with the team. The grant application should be submitted to the state no later than June 30, 2017. With the referendum date in November 2017.

4.2. Special Education Update (On File)

Elizabeth Battaglia, Kathryn Hart and Daniel Ives

Dr. Battaglia, Principal Hart and Mr. Ives discussed the following:

Program of Alternative Learning at Jeffrey Elementary School

The purpose of the Program of Alternative Learning (PAL) is to give our students the opportunity to gain support with the development of age-appropriate self-regulation skills. This will increase a student's overall availability for learning across all domains. The students in PAL often require proactive instruction in alternative strategies in order to succeed in school. Strategies fall into two general categories: academic and behavior. The goal of PAL is to enable each student to be successful and independent within the general education environment. Our mission is to empower students to be contributing members to the school community as caring, respectful, and connected learners.

The staff is made up of Dan Ives, Special Education Teach with collaboration from the support staff as well as supported by the administrators. There are also consultations with Dr. Peck and there are registered behavioral technicians on hand.

As for the students the program started with 3 Jeffrey students and one from Island.

Common elements include morning meeting, space center and closing which take place during a 20-25 minute period. The space center is a place for the student to cool down and only used for positive reasons. It is also a place where students are able to earn reward time.

The success rate shows that there has been a great improvement with fewer outbursts. It was stated that not everyone needs the same thing to be successful.

Collaboration with parents is important. There are daily logs as well as parent meetings when necessary. Consistency at home and school is essential. A weekly skill email is sent to parents each Monday.

4.3. Daniel Hand High School April 2017 Trip

Superintendent Scarice stated that due to insufficient interest in the 2017 Portugal trip, it has been cancelled.

Ms. Marino asked if the District would have an exchange program. Ms. Dahling-Hench stated that the closest the District has to an exchange program was going to Costa Rica where they hosted the Districts students.

4.4. Tri-State

Ms. Dahling-Hench reported the following:

The District has been a member of the Tri-State Consortium for three years. In that time period, groups have participated in study groups, assessment design institutes, visits to other districts, and trainings. Tri-State is a dynamic learning organization comprised of similar districts from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. They are dedicated to the continuous growth of systems and learning from dynamic experience.

Our Essential Questions:

As a K-12 system, are students thinking mathematically on an ongoing basis?

To what extent does developing mathematically thinking drive the planning of our instructional strategies?

To what extent are we employing a wide variety of instructional strategies to develop the mathematical thinking of our students?

Three categories of systemic performance form the framework of the Tri-State assessment mode: Student Performance, Internal Support and External Support.

Ms. Dahling-Hench stated that the District will be hosting Tri-State May 24-26, 2017. The District will be hosting approximately 20 professionals from the Consortium. They serve as Critical friends examining an essential question we pose. They work from the evidence we provide in interviews, authentic documents and what we really do.

Mr. Dean requested a list of the schools that will be attending the Tri-State. Ms. Dahling-Hench stated that a list will be put together.

Superintendent Scarice stated that the idea is to bring the old math to the 21st Century.

4.5. Other Matters

No other matters were discussed.

5. Board Members' Comments

No comments were made.

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

6.1. Planning Committee

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

Ms. Bowler reported on the following:

- 1) School Utilization Facilities Study
The District will be signing on with Colliers to be our Owners Project Manager (OPM) and Madison's OPM will be at tonight's Board of Education Meeting.
- 2) 2017-2018 calendar was approved by the Planning Committee and will go to the Policy Committee and the full Board tonight. The full Board will vote on the 17-18 calendar at the December 6, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.
- 3) Tri-State
Ms. Dahling-Hench reviewed the planning that is underway for our 2017 visit. We will be reviewing the math K-12 program.
- 4) Polson Schedule
Mr. Henderson came to discuss the exploration of creating a daily pride period for 2017-2018. This would be a 20-25 minute block for a brief period of downtime in the middle of the day backing up to lunch. They will also be looking to increase the number of elective course i.e. every day PE, art, STEM and health electives.

6.2. Personnel Committee

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

No report was given.

6.3. Policy Committee

6.3.1. Policy #6070.2 Curriculum (Third Reading)

Policy #6070.2 Curriculum will be voted on later in the meeting.

6.4. Finance Committee

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

Ms. Keating reported on the following:

Budget Assumptions will be voted on by the full Board at the December 6, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.

At the Finance Committee meeting the committee discussed the status on Repairs and Maintenance accounts – With costs increasing and building maintenance costs rising looking forward the District will need to keep an eye on the account and adjust accordingly.

Superintendent Scarice noted that the reduced budget did not allow for contingencies.

The Early Retirement Incentive was accepted by the MEA and will be voted on later in the meeting.

6.5. LEARN Liaison
Katie Stein

Ms. Stein reported on the following:

Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel for the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education shared the following: Reported on the Judge's ruling on the CT Coalition for Justice in Education lawsuit and touched upon a few key topics regarding the minimally adequate funding formula, definition of elementary education, and the way educators are hired, fired, paid and evaluated in relation to the value of teaching children. The State has appealed the decision which has been upheld by the CT Supreme Court. She also discussed the many task forces in place including a RESC Special Education task force addressing funding issues.

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

No comments were made.

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

- 8.1.** Bills Payable: \$15,011.89 2015-2016 Budget; \$343,604.76 2016-2017 Budget
- 8.2.** Line Transfers: \$33,601.35
- 8.3.** Donation: \$1,500.00 to Daniel Hand High School to purchase new cheerleading uniforms from For Our Children's Unlimited Success, Inc. (FOCUS)

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

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald;
Keating;

Keller; Klaskin; Marino; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Atty. Klaskin thanked the organization For Our Children's Unlimited Success, Inc. (FOCUS) for their generous donation.

9. Action Item: Minutes of the November 1, 2016 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Bowler
to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2016
Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Bowler; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating;
Klaskin; Marino; Stein

ABSTAIN: Keller, Cawley

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

10. Action Item: To approve Policy #6070.2 Curriculum

MOTION: by Policy to approve Policy #6070.2 Curriculum

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Keller; Klaskin; Marino; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

11. Action Item: To add action item to approve Early Retirement Incentive

MOTION: by Finance to add action item to approve Early Retirement Incentive

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Keller; Klaskin; Marino; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

12. Action Item: To approve the Early Retirement Incentive

MOTION: by Finance to approve the Early Retirement Incentive

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Keller; Klaskin; Marino; Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

13. Old Business

Old business was not discussed.

14. Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items were not discussed.

15. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

November/December Calendars

16. Adjournment

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

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Keller; Klaskin; Marino; Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Approved at the 12/6/16 BOE meeting

LF