

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
June 08, 2021
7:30 PM
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 Galen Cawley at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Cawley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Galen Cawley, Greg DeSantis, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Happy Marino, Cathy Miller, Violet McNeerney, Tom Pellegrino, Emily Rosenthal, Katie Stein.

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Zoe Roos, Communications Specialist; Isabelle Vagell, Eric Dillner, Lucy Fritzinger, Student Board Representatives

2. Proclamation of Appreciation

Board members read the Proclamation of Appreciation, thanking the entire Madison Public School staff for their hard work this year.

3. School / Community Session

3.1. Public Participation – none

Emily Rosenthal shared two communications were received this week through the Contact the Board link on the website regarding mask wearing policies for next year.

4. Board of Education Student Representative Report

Isabelle Vagell and Eric Dillner

Isabelle reported exams for underclassmen begin tomorrow, going through Friday, 1/2 days for grades 9-11, two exams per day. AP and some Honors class summer work was recently posted online for all underclassmen. Awards were mailed to underclassmen; seniors received theirs in person. Class officers have been chosen for next year. Jr. Class Council will be holding a fundraising carwash at the Madison Service Center this Sunday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Eric reported the National Honor Society induction took place this past week. Many jr. and sr. class members received awards. Sports are doing quite well which are wrapping up for this year. The golf team won D2 States and other teams are receiving awards as well. Sr. Prom occurred this past Saturday at Anthony's Ocean View and was enjoyed by all. Graduation preparations are underway.

Tonight is Eric's last board meeting and Cathy Miller commented: Eric, you have been quite a model for this role, and it's kind of sad to see you go because, you really set the bar high for others, and congratulations on all of your honors. I watched you receive your awards at the award ceremony and I was very proud. And you have been a wonderful addition to our Board of Ed, and I can't wait to see all the great things you'll do.

5. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

Dr. Cooke commented on the early dismissal the past two days due to the heat, combined with the need for mask wearing, created very difficult conditions. Jeffrey was the warmest in the district, with some classrooms reaching 87 degrees. Dr. Cooke talked about the need for air conditioning in the buildings.

Dr. Cooke spoke to the year-end events and expressed how impressed he is with the efforts of our teachers and administrators to ensure these events took place. Dr. Cooke noted the DHHS Awards event and Retiree event, as well as the jr. and sr. proms and spoke to the results of various sports teams, noting many athletes received All State and All Conference Recognition. Graduation is fast approaching and we are watching the weather very closely.

With regard to professional development funds for 21-22, Dr. Cooke noted that the State granted extra days last year resulting in 6 PD days prior to the start of school. This year, one of the allotted three days will include Convocation and mandatory state training. NEASC will take place at DHHS, which will be a major focus of their PD time. Dr. Cooke had the opportunity to observe the coaches planning elementary Language Arts and Math curricula for next year.

Dr. Cooke thanked Eric and Isabelle for their service to the Board and welcomed Lucy Fritzinger who will be joining Isabelle next year. Lucy is new to Daniel Hand having transferred to our school this September. She impressed the selection committee with her enthusiasm to be a member of the school community, and by her desire to serve and get back to the community that was so welcoming to her. Her participation at Hand shows she is committed to having her actions speak louder than words. Lucy carries a rigorous course load, is a member of three sports teams, volleyball, basketball, and softball, as well as members of two clubs, Caring for Connecticut and the Camaraderie Club.

The board has discussed the purchase of the Janssen property several times and the Board of Selectmen as well as the First Selectwoman have provided input. The Board of Selectmen asked the Board to make a motion to support the purchase of the property which is on the agenda later this evening.

6. Board Member Comments - none

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

Mr. Steve Rozea expressed his concerns over the wearing of face masks and Dr. Cooke responded. Their remarks in their entirety can be heard in the meeting recording found on the district website.

8. Board of Selectmen Liaison

Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy was not in attendance.

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

9.1. Line Item Transfers as of June 8, 2021

9.2. Budget Expenditures as of June 4, 2021

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

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

10.1. Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Diane Infantine-Vyce, Chair; Greg DeSantis, Catherine Miller

Dr. Infantine-Vyce reported the Curriculum and Student Development Committee met on June 1. A presentation was given regarding the social studies curriculum and instruction for K-8 by Mr. Christopher Pagliuco and at the high school level, History, by Mr. Peter Nye. Mr. Pagliuco discussed approaches for teaching Grades K-2 and Grades 3-8 Social Studies. Unit Titles and examples were given for each grade discussing how studying history is approached at each level. Grades 3, 4, 5, and 8 emphasize US History and Grades 6 & 7 emphasize global issues as required by CT State Standards. Mr. Nye discussed the High School approach to US History (Chrono-thematic) and Civics (Problem Identification). The topic of critical race theory was initiated, but due to time constraints, a follow-up meeting will need to be scheduled.

Gail Dahling-Hench discussed this year's accomplishments, including suicide prevention training of the staff at Polson and Hand, the introduction of Wellness Wednesday at Hand, the ongoing partnership with Madison Youth and Family Services and the Whole Child subcommittee work. Becky Frost, as part of the whole child wellness subcommittee, discussed the SEM Universal Screen which the district is now applying for. Details of the screen and associated assessments were also discussed.

Joanne Friedrich will be providing Trauma Informed Training in August of 2021.

10.2. Communications Committee

Members: Tom Pellegrino, Chair; Diane Infantine-Vyce, Greg DeSantis

Tom Pellegrino reported the Communications Committee met this evening. The end of year communication process was discussed, with Zoe Roos highlighting the anticipated communications coming out at the end of the year, encouraging families and members of the district to pay attention to future email notifications being sent. Rita Boland, Webmaster, reviewed ways of accessing the communication portal app through the website.

The committee was given a preview of the proposed redesign of the MPS logo, which was met with positive comments.

The committee discussed the referendum, noting the excellent presentation given by Dr. Cooke and the helpful communication given by Chairman Cawley and Dr. Cooke to the public. A decision has not yet been made regarding the date of the referendum.

Dr. Pellegrino discussed the previously-suggested Frequently Asked Questions sheet for the public, and the thought exchange to solicit information. Chair Cawley stressed the importance of continuing to publicize information and conduct marketing.

10.3. Facilities Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal, Chair, Happy Marino, Katie Stein

Katie Stein reported on behalf of Emily Rosenthal. The Facilities Committee met, joined by Bill McMinn who provided an update on the hot water heater malfunction at the high school. Thank you to the custodial staff and our own superintendent for being there at 2 a.m. to both assess the problem and mitigate damage. Damage occurred to the west building including the heater itself controls, plumbing, ceiling tiles, some weight room equipment and rugs. The insurance adjuster is currently working with Mr. McMinn.

The CIP plan is due on July 1. Additional meeting time will occur prior to July 1 to look closely at the 10-year maintenance plan and make CIP recommendations to the full board. A facilities study of all town buildings is in process by the Town and in response to their request for an emergency shelter location, Polson has been chosen and recommended. This would include coordinating generator design with the proposed mechanical enhancements already in the school renewal plan.

The Janssen property was discussed and soil studies have been conducted at the second proposed location for the new PK-3 elementary school. Studies came back as favorable for school construction on that site.

The school renewal plan was also discussed. We talked briefly about the public forum and the resulting facility issues that came from that. There was broad attendance and positive feedback was given at that workshop. The Board of Selectmen is requesting that the Board of Education provide feedback on a preferred location which is an action item later in our agenda.

Carport construction is on track with construction set to begin and take place between June 15 and August 15.

Mrs. Rosenthal reminded the Board of the Special Facilities Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, June 14 at 5:30 p.m.

10.4. Finance Committee

Members: Katie Stein, Chair, Happy Marino, Tom Pellegrino

The Finance Committee met on May 25, the night of our public forum on the school so there was no report was given at that time. We discussed ESSER grants which was part of the Superintendent's report that evening. We reviewed year end projections, noting the deficit in our food services due to COVID and hybrid learning. Stacy Nobitz is working hard to make sure that funds are encumbered so that we will be in good shape at the end of the fiscal year. We reviewed line item transfers which were also addressed in the forum and our workshop meeting as well.

10.5. Personnel Committee

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

Dr. McNerney reported that negotiations have commenced and are continuing for both the NAGE group (cafeteria workers) and the Teamsters (custodial staff). Updates will be provided as they occur.

10.6. Policy Committee

Members: Happy Marino, Chair; Violet McNerney, Emily Rosenthal

Happy Marino reported the Policy Committee met May 25, at which time a report was given. However, there are two policies for a third reading tonight - #2110, Administration Positions and #9540.10 Meeting Conduct.

A discussion ensued regarding the secretary's statement detailed in Policy #9540.10, lines 79 and 80. The Board agreed to revise the language to read: "For remote attendees, if you would like to have your comments read, please add them to the chat or questions and answers functionality."

10.7. LEARN Liaison

Katie Stein

No report

11. Action Item: Motion to recommend the purchase of Janssen property

MOTION: by DeSantis, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to recommend the purchase of the Janssen property.

The floor was open for discussion. Board members voiced their concern regarding the wording of the motion which was revised to read:

MOTION to recommend to the Board of Selectmen to negotiate the purchase of the Janssen property.
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Marino, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

12. Action Item: Motion to approve Policy #2110 Administration Positions

MOTION: by Stein to approve Policy #2110 Administration Positions.
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Marino, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

13. Action Item: Motion to approve Policy #9540.10 Meeting Conduct

MOTION: by DeSantis to approve Policy #9540.10 Meeting Conduct, as amended during earlier discussions.
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Marino, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein
NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

14. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2021 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by McNerney, seconded by Pellegrino to approve minutes of the May 25, 2021 Board of Education meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

15. Future Agenda Items

16. Meetings/Dates of Importance

17. Adjournment

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Stein to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

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