

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
January 22, 2019
7:30 PM
Town Campus Hammonasset Room**

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. Chairman Stein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Kirk Barneby; Galen Cawley; Greg DeSantis; Seth Klaskin; Happy Marino; Violet McNerney; Tom Pellegrino, Emily Rosenthal; 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. Public Participation

No comments were made.

3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report
Ryan Tomicic and Jacqueline Sandor

Ryan and Jacqueline were unable to attend this meeting.

4. Superintendent's Report
Thomas R. Scarice

4.1. 2019-2020 Budget Discussion

Superintendent Scarice asked the Board if they had any questions/comments regarding the budget. Board members had no questions/comments at this time.

4.2. 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. Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Galen Cawley, Chair; Emily Rosenthal, Kirk Barneby

Mr. Cawley reported on the following:

Mr. Cawley noted that the committee met earlier today at DHHS. Ms. Sarah Sandora gave a presentation on the new sciences courses which offer more choices for the students.

The committee joined Mr. Russo class and were able to see the glowing salamanders and DNA analysis. The committee was also able to see the fruits of the Boards spending while at DHHS.

6.2. Communications Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal Chair; Greg DeSantis, Kirk Barneby

No report was given.

6.3. Facilities Committee

Members: Seth Klaskin, Chair, Galen Cawley, Greg DeSantis

No report was given.

6.4. Finance Committee

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

The Finance Committee reported on the meeting from Monday January 14, 2019 and they recommended further reductions to the administrations recommended budget totaling \$128,000 to the board and will take action later in the meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the proposed 2019-2020 budget.

6.5. Personnel Committee

Members: Tom Pellegrino, Chair, Violet McNerney, Happy Marino

No report was given.

6.6. Policy Committee

Members: Greg DeSantis Chair; Violet McNerney, Seth Klaskin

6.6.1. Policy #5110.4 - Suspension/Expulsion/Exclusion from School Activities
(Second Reading)

6.6.2. Policy #5144 - Physical Restraint/Seclusion/Exclusionary Time Out
(Second Reading)

Policy #5110.4 and Policy #5144 are up for second reading and will be going for third reading and to take action at the next BOE meeting on February 12, 2019.

Discussion took place at the Policy Committee meeting earlier this evening regarding:

Classroom Observation – this is in its early stages and will be presented to the Board at a future Board of Education Meeting.

Policy Review Process – regarding combining Policies 9610, 9620 and 9630 and making them into one policy. Will be presented at a future Board of Education Meeting,

6.7. LEARN Liaison Rotating

Mr. DeSantis reported that he was unable to attend the LEARN meeting.

Ms. Stein introduced Noreen Kokoruda to the meeting.

Noreen Kokoruda reported that she had spoken with the Commissioner of Education, Diana Wentzell about any BOE's concerns about a MBR violation. Although we no longer qualify under the top 10% of schools exemption, we still will not have of a problem due to closing a school and continued enrollment decreases. She also assured the BD that the \$417k of retired capital debt is never considered in the MBR. The Commissioner offered to have the DOE Finance Director work with our Finance Director and come up with the true MBR number for next year if that would help.

6.8. Tri-Board Working Group for Board of Education Facilities

Members: Kirk Barneby; Galen Cawley; Al Goldberg; Jean Ferris; Jude Friedman; Bennett Pudlin

The Tri-Board held what they believe to be their last public forum last week. Superintendent Scarice and Mr. Barneby completed their meetings with the realtors. Superintendent Scarice has a meeting tomorrow with the seniors at the senior center. A meeting took place last week to discuss the space at the senior center due to outgrowing the space.

Deadline for presentations will be April 1, 2019.

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

Pete Thomas – Devonshire Lane

Mr. Thomas voiced his concerns over the approaching new challenges in short term and long term finance/investments by being collaborative and positive about the investment in the future.

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

8.1. Bills Payable: 2018-2019 - \$496,184.15

8.2. Line Transfers: \$39,381.92

8.3. Line Item Transfers: \$32,126.66 (Tabled from the January 8, 2019 Board of Education Meeting)

MOTION: by DeSantis seconded by Barneby to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Barneby; Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

9. Action Item: Minutes of the January 8, 2019 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Rosenthal seconded by Barneby to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2019 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Barneby; Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

10. Action Item: To approve Evaluation Plan for the position of Athletic Director

MOTION: by DeSantis seconded by Barneby to approve Evaluation Plan for the position of Athletic Director.

AYES: Barneby; Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

11. Action Item: To approve the Board of Education 2019-2020 Budget

MOTION: by Finance Committee to approve the Board of Education 2019-2020 Budget.

AYES: Barneby; Cawley; Marino; McNerney

NAYS: DeSantis; Klaskin; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein

ABSTAIN:

MOTION FAILED: 4-5

- 12. Action Item:** To approve the Board of Education 2019-2020 budget at \$58,048,102 as presented by the administration on December 28, 2018 which presents a 0.10% decrease from 2018-2019 budget.

MOTION: by Pellegrino seconded by Klaskin to approve the Board of Education 2019-2020 budget at \$58,048,102 as presented by the administration on December 28, 2018 which presents a 0.10% decrease from 2018-2019 budget.

AYES: Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: Barneby; Marino; McNerney

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 6-3

Ms. Stein stated the following:

As we discuss the budget proposal for 2019-2020 I want to thank all those who have worked so hard in this collaborative effort. The team of administrators, Stacy Nobitz and our Superintendent have worked tirelessly to put together a thoughtful budget. Thanks to the Board, for the amount of time, thought and effort put into the budgetary process. While I understand that some of my colleagues might be disappointed by what seems a daunting budgetary number, it is vitally important that we not forget our mission. We have a duty to guarantee the finest 21st century educational programming and school facilities for Madison's families. We must to work to keep Madison an "education destination" even while we endeavor to be prudent. Therefore, we cannot let fiscal concerns be the primary factor driving our decision making.

That being said, we cannot be frivolous in our requests. That means making tough decisions. This less than zero budget has required many. It reflects a 2nd year pause in curriculum cycles, it has cut an administrator beyond the one expected, and reduced staff beyond the declining enrollment projections. This includes our own and very much appreciated board clerk. Finally, but not least, this budget reflects the closure of Island Avenue school which was a very difficult but necessary decision.

While we might disagree on the "bottom line" I am making my decision tonight on the belief that this budget exceeds the expectations for responsibility and meets our educational mandate. It reflects a conservative approach without sacrificing educational excellence. This budget reflects the absorption of an additional School safety resource officer, the expansion of our Instructional coaching program and the support of a shared elementary school guidance counselor for our youngest learners. It also responds to the curricular adjustments and impact on resources inherent in the reconfiguration of schools. This budget is the right budget for this time in the town of Madison.

13. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

14. Future Agenda Items

No future items were discussed.

15. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

16. Adjournment

MOTION: by DeSantis seconded by Klaskin to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

AYES: Barneby; Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Approved at the March 5, 2019 BOE Meeting

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