

Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
September 19, 2017
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: Galen Cawley; Jean Fitzgerald; Alison Keating; Matt Keller; Seth Klaskin; Happy Marino; Katie Stein

Also present: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools; students; and community members.

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

2.1. Recognition: The Alex Marino Awards for Outstanding Effort and Attitude

Ms. Spooner thanked the Marino Family for starting The Alex Marino Awards for Outstanding Effort and Attitude.

2.1.1. Spanning the Universe Student Award - Blake Freeman

Ms. Spooner stated The Spanning the Universe Award is given to a student with special needs in recognition of their hard work, positive attitude and contribution to their school community. Students like Blake Freeman and like Alex Marino, for whom this award is named, face more than their share of challenges. For them it may take an extra amount of effort simply to show up, which they do day after day. They arrive ready and willing to work hard, and they do it with a smile on their face. Their positive contribution to the community around them is truly worthy of commendation.

2.1.2. The Borrowed Wings Staff Award - Kathleen Durkin

Ms. Spooner introduced Kathleen Durkin a paraprofessional at Ryerson as the winner of The Borrowed Wings Award. The award is presented to a Special Needs Staff Member in recognition of their extraordinary effort and the immeasurable contribution they have made to the lives of our children. Counselor, coach, friend, and teacher, our children could not reach their potential without you. Thank you for helping them to fly.

2.2. Public Participation

No comments were made.

3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report Emily Baker and Ryan Tomicic

Emily and Ryan reported on the following:

With the opening of school meetings have started to take place sports, code of conduct, etc. DHHS had their first fire drill as well as code red and both went smoothly.

The pep rally took place and there was a lot of energy. Wake up call took place during 2nd period with the band playing in the halls of DHHS.

The senior picnic took place and the students had a great time with games and music.

Back to school night took place.

Fall sports are underway and are being updated on Facebook.

The fall play this year is going to be Cheaper by the Dozen.

4. Superintendent's Report Thomas R. Scarice

4.1. General District Updates

Superintendent Scare stated the District is now in its third week of school. The school year is off to a good start.

In a few weeks the District will be welcoming a few new Board of Education Members.

Superintendent Scarice noted that Back to School Nights have been successful.

Last night the District hosted a PTO night at Island Avenue Elementary School at which approximately 70 people attended.

4.2. Other Matters

Superintendent Scarice noted that next Tuesday a critical referendum will take place.

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. Keating reported the following:

The Planning Committee met today to interview architects for the new Ryerson Elementary School. The Committee originally looked at 15 firms before narrowing it down to 4. They were all very qualified. As a Committee, DRA was recommended to be the architectural design team for the new Ryerson Elementary School pending the referendum. The Committee will look to vote on this at the next BOE Meeting. If you have any comments or concerns please contact me or Galen to discuss the process and answer any questions you might have.

Mr. Cawley stated that all of the firms were excellent. A few things that stood out about DRA were their knowledge of the Town of Madison as well as their strong team support.

Superintendent Scarice stated that DRA was aggressive and competitive. DRA has done their homework on the needs of the District. DRA has looked at the other buildings in Madison so that the new structure would blend in with the New England look.

6.2. Personnel Committee

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

Ms. Keating stated the following:

The Negotiations Committee has not met. I would however like to make a statement. Just to clarify my report at the last BOE meeting since there was some confusion. On September 5 at the BOE Meeting, I wore the hat of 4 people. I was happy to fill in for my fellow Board Members by giving the negotiations report for John, the planning report for Jessica, chaired the meeting for Jean who had a family emergency and I gave my own finance report. I would like to state for public record that the negotiations committee report that I gave was both appropriate and necessary as we had come to an agreement with AMA and we were later voting to approve it. We worked hard on a fair contract with our Administrative Union and since we came to an agreement it was necessary for "John" that is me to give the final details in open session, discuss it in executive session then vote on it in open session.

Thank you.

6.3. Policy Committee

Members: Katie Stein Chair; Seth Klaskin, Matt Keller

Ms. Stein noted the following:

The 5 policies listed below are going to the Board this evening for first reading.

#5113 – Student Attendance

As a result of recent legislation, it is necessary to remove language regarding a ½ day of suspension – it will now **not** be included in the calculation of student absences. (Refer to line 118 & 119). Legal references require updating as well.

#3542.4 – Lunch Charging

Recent changes to National School Lunch Program regulations require that school districts have a “written and clearly communicated meal charging policy that ensures a transparent approach to the issue” (of lunch charging). Although we no longer participate in that program, we do have a Lunch Charging policy that requires updating, specifically, removing all references to the NSLP and the term “reimbursable”. Legal references require updating as well.

#4030.5 – Family & Medical Leave

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 has been amended to include the National Defense Authorizations Act, which our policy does not state. Legal references require updating as well.

Curriculum

CABE suggested (during the 2013 audit) to incorporate Policy #6070.4, Curriculum Adoption, into Policy #6070.1, Curriculum Development (and rescind #6070.4.)

CABE also suggested incorporating #6070.5, Curriculum Guides, into #6070.2, Curriculum (and rescind #6070.5).

Accordingly, we are proposing to rescind Policy #6070.5 and #6070.4 and modify Policy #6070.1, Curriculum Development, and #6070.2, Curriculum.

6.4. Finance Committee

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

Ms. Keating reported the following:

The Finance Committee met this evening and had their initial discussion regarding the Madison Public Schools Budget Calendar for 2018-2019.

6.5. LEARN Liaison

Katie Stein

No report was given. The next LEARN meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2017.

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: \$301,662.14 2017-2018 Budget

8.2. Line Transfers: \$19,859.74

8.3. Donation: \$5,000 from Island Avenue Elementary School PTO for Island Avenue Elementary School cultural art assemblies for music Mondays

8.4. Donation: \$1,000 in fitness workout cards from IMPLUS for Daniel Hand High School to enhance player's personal workouts.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Atty. Klaskin thanked Island Avenue Elementary School PTO for their \$5,000 donation for Island Avenue Elementary School cultural art assemblies for music Mondays as well as IMPLUS for their \$1,000 donation for fitness workout cards for Daniel Hand High School to enhance player's personal workouts.

9. Action Item: Minutes of the June 20, 2017 Board of Education Meeting.

MOTION: by Keating seconded by Stein to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2017 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Cawley; Fitzgerald; Keating; Marino, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Klaskin, Keller

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

10. Action Item: Minutes of the July 11, 2017 Board of Education Meeting

MOTION: by Stein seconded by Keating to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2017 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Cawley; Fitzgerald; Keating; Keller; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Klaskin, Marino

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

11. Action Item: Minutes of the July 11, 2017 Board of Education Retreat

MOTION: by Keating seconded by Stein to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2017 Board of Education Retreat.

AYES: Cawley; Fitzgerald; Keating; Keller; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Klaskin, Marino

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

12. Action Item: Minutes of the September 5, 2017 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Marino seconded by Keller to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2017 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Cawley; Keating; Keller; Klaskin; Marino; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Fitzgerald

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

13. Old Business

Ms. Fitzgerald noted that this would be Matt Keller's last Board of Education meeting. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that the Board will miss his sense of humor and intelligence and that Matt really elevated the work of the Board. Ms. Fitzgerald thanked Matt and stated that he will be missed.

Ms. Fitzgerald also stated that the Board of Education works harder than any other Town Board and do the work of 100 people.

14. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were discussed.

**15. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)
September/October 2017 Calendars**

16. Adjournment

MOTION: by Stein seconded by Marino to adjourn the meeting at 8:10_p.m.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0