

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
August 23, 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 Ms. Jean Fitzgerald at 7:40 p.m. Ms. Fitzgerald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jessica Bowler; Galen Cawley; Jean Fitzgerald; Alison Keating; Seth Klaskin, Katie Stein

Also present: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Bill McMinn, Director of Facilities; Heather Dobson, Director of Human Resources; Arthur Sickle, Director of Administrative Services and Stacy Nobitz, Director of Finance.

2. School / Community Session - 7:40 p.m.

2.1. Public Participation

No comments were made.

3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report
Aidan Hughes and Emily Baker (not in attendance)

Report not given.

Chairman Fitzgerald reviewed the sequence of events which will occur regarding the school utilization study. Options will be reviewed during this initial meeting, more discussion will occur during the next board meeting, a joint board meeting will be scheduled with the three boards, and the Board of Education will reconvene the beginning of October to vote on the option. Once chosen, a construction manager will be hired to oversee the project.

4. Superintendent's Report
Thomas R. Scarice

Superintendent Scarice reviewed the following priority items relevant to the Capital Improvement Plan:

4.1. Priority CIP Projects

- Renovations & upgrades to electrical system at Brown.
- Removal of oil tank at Polson.
- Immediate and long-term need if Brown becomes a 3-5 school: extend parking.
- CIP program is 5 years and beyond.

4.2. Brown Middle School Projects

As mentioned before, if Brown becomes a 3-5 school, parking will have already been addressed. As a result of a meeting between Mr. Bill McMinn, Director of Facilities, Ms. Julie Phelps, Brown Middle School Principal, and Ms. Kathryn Hart, Jeffrey Principal, it was determined the playground and 8 classrooms would require modification to be appropriate for the 8 & 9 year old population and a conference room would be necessary. Suitable furniture and fixtures would be required as well.

4.3. Other Matters

Superintendent Scarice noted it has been 2 years this fall that the District has been engaged in the school facilities study. Superintendent Scarice reviewed the options and associated costs, which are dependent on a number of moving parts.

Option 1 – close Island and TCLC and keep Jeffrey and Ryerson which results in K-2 at Jeffrey and Ryerson, 3-5 at Brown and 6-8 at Polson.

Option 2 – close all 3 elementary schools & TCLC, build a new PK-2 school.

Superintendent Scarice compared the approximate operating cost and potential savings, as well as the construction costs of each option. Mrs. Nobitz discussed the estimated annual debt service associated with each option and the resulting difference in the Town's mil rate.

Superintendent Scarice spoke to further considerations:

- It is assumed TCLC would move to one of the schools in the event of renovation or to the new school if construction was chosen.
- Transportation issues were discussed at the Planning Committee meeting and Mr. Sickie spoke to the possibility of either adding buses or adjusting bell times to remain within the District's limit of a 45 minute bus ride. A discussion ensued between Mr. Klaskin and Mr. Sickie regarding the possibility of a reduction in buses due to fewer schools and the need for less routes. This can only be determined over a period of time.
- Staffing models may need reconfiguring.

- The length of time to build; need to figure time for a Town referendum, State reimbursement process & filing, etc.
- Polson – the building requires much in the way of mechanical, electrical and plumbing fixes, which are not factored into the options under consideration.
- The need for a construction manager to manage the project. Mrs. Nobitz referred to Guilford and Clinton, both of which advised of the need to hire a consultant to represent us who will oversee the process and meet regularly with the construction manager, building committee, and contractors. This would be an experienced person in the field who is knowledgeable about the process as a whole.
- The possible sale of the Island Avenue property of \$2.95 million, with an annual tax revenue of \$91,000. If Option 2 is chosen, and all elementary schools are closed, the District needs to consider the sale and annual tax revenue of those properties.
- The transition plan to renovate, as opposed to new construction, will look much different and would involve moving K-2 students multiple times during their elementary years.

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:

Planning Committee report from 8/9/2016:

Polson Roof Update -

90% done - the last piece that needs to be finished is the perimeter trim.
The grass restoration will be done in the Late Fall Overall a successful project - on budget and schedule

CIP Plan - we reviewed the projects for 2016/2017 as well as the 5 year plan.

School Utilization Study Update - work continues to go on behind the scenes with the Administrative Team and we will resume with the Full Board on September 6th.

Athletic Coaching Positions - we will be adding 4 stipend coaching positions - boys swimming, girls volleyball, and boys and girls soccer - this will allow us to avoid cuts at the Freshman level , have adequate coverage in the pool as well as align soccer coaching to our other sports

Enrichment - We will begin this program this year for grades 3-6 in a small, pilot capacity. Mr. Ginsburg will cover this in his current role so no additional FTE required.

Enrollment - we continue to watch this especially the K numbers at Ryerson

Planning Committee report from 8/23/2016:

The Polson Roof project is completed - the Final Inspection will occur in the next couple of weeks.

The weights were returned to Polson as of 8/16/2016.

CIP Projects - We reviewed and finalized the Priority Projects for 2017 and the 5 year plan.

School Utilization Study Update - We reviewed the options with the costs associated with them - this was the first time the board has reviewed these and we will continue to review these over the next few meetings.

>

>

LaSage Property update - The town is in negotiations for this piece of land

6.2. Personnel Committee

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

No report was given.

6.3. Policy Committee

Members: Katie Stein, Chair; Seth Klaskin, Matt Keller

No report was given.

6.4. Finance Committee

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

Mrs. Nobitz reported the District is closing the year with approximately \$500,000, as a result of freezing funds due to the State reduction funding during the budget process. We agreed that if we returned at least \$300,000, the Board of Finance would replenish the budget for 1 year. We are also looking for a replenishment of our Special Ed Fund and will be asking the Board of Finance for a replenishment into that fund of \$180,000.

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: \$263,511.26 2015-2016 Budget; \$711,672.01 2016-2017 Budget.

8.2. Line Transfers: \$114,604.00 (2015-2016 year end); \$372,795.82 (2016-2017).

8.3. Donation: \$10,000.00 from Ryerson PTO to Ryerson Elementary School for student resources.

Mr. Klaskin thanked the Ryerson PTO for the tremendous donation.

MOTION: by Bowler seconded by Stein to approve the consent agenda.

AYES: Bowler, Cawley, Fitzgerald, Keating, Klaskin, Stein

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

9. Action Item: Minutes of the July 19, 2016 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Cawley to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Bowler, Cawley, Fitzgerald, Keating, Klaskin, Stein

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

10. Action Item: Exempting beverages for events.

Superintendent Scarice touched on the significant changes to the food program and the positive feedback.

Mr. Sickie advised the board since the District is no longer participating in the National School Lunch program, it cannot participate in the CT program. Beverages are governed by State legislation so we must abide by restrictions that are in place regarding the sale of beverages during the school day. The Board can, however, exempt the sale of other beverages at specific events.

MOTION: by Keating, seconded by Stein to allow the sale to students of beverages that do not comply with CT General Statute 10-221q (2012), on school grounds provided that (1) such sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, (2) such sale is at the location of such event, and (3) such beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store.

AYES: Bowler, Cawley, Fitzgerald, Keating, Klaskin, Stein.

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

11. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

12. Future Agenda Items

No future items were discussed.

13. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

Convocation: August 30, 2016, 8 a.m., DHHS

First day of school: September 6, 2016

Board of Education Meeting: September 6, 2016, 7:30 p.m., Hammonasset Room

14. Adjournment

MOTION: by Bowler seconded by Keating to adjourn the meeting

AYES: Bowler, Cawley, Fitzgerald, Keating, Klaskin, Stein

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Approved at the 9/6/16 BOE Meeting

WB