

Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
October 18, 2016
7:30 PM
J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School – Cafeteria

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order / Attendance

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 - 7:35 p.m.

2.1. Public Participation

3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Aidan Hughes and Emily Baker

Both Aidan and Emily expressed their appreciation for the October break. Emily commented she felt the PSAT was good practice, the perfect length and was able to complete the test. Date for The Pink Panther Strikes Again is November 21.

4. Superintendent's Report

Thomas R. Scarice

Superintendent Scarice deferred to Mrs. Dahling-Hench.

4.1. Standardized Testing Report

Gail Dahling-Hench

Mrs. Dahling-Hench spoke to the Spring 2016 State assessment results which were presented to the Planning Committee earlier today. Mrs. Dahling-Hench discussed the Smarter Balanced Assessments in their second year of administration and how the ELA reporting has changed since inception. Test results should be reviewed with caution as they have large Measurement Error bands in many indicators and the communication in reporting student achievement goals is vague. The purpose of tests should be considered and the design of the measurement to determine possible misuse of any information. There is no relationship between the SBAC & the SAT. Mrs. Dahling-Hench also reported that the Science CMT & CAPT tests are based on old standards and will be sunset soon. New Science Standards has been adopted by the state in 2015 and the district is developing curriculum based on the Next Generation Science Standards.

4.2. Other Matters

Superintendent Scarice discussed the potentially dangerous occurrence last Friday in the vicinity of Ryerson and Brown schools, commending the district for the way in which the situation was handled. Ryerson's SRO Officer Rosati and Brown's SSO Officer DeGoursey were present in their respective schools and working together with Kelly Spooner and Julie Phelps, as well as teachers and staff members, maintained a normal, calm school day. The Country School and the Clinton superintendent were alerted to the situation as well. The Madison Police Department instructed us to avoid a particular area of town and Art Sickle and Magda Grayson found a way for the buses to avoid that area. Athletic buses were affected as well. All drivers were made aware of the situation and in Mr. Salutari's absence, Mr. Bodner and Ms. Schneider kept things running smoothly. Students remained in the buildings and buses were held until we were given the go ahead from Officers Race & Drumm. Our goal was to first and foremost ensure all students were safe and maintain normalcy as we quickly relayed information to parents. At the end of the day, students were unaware of what had occurred. The district's drills and procedures work and Superintendent Scarice stated he received a great deal of positive feedback, as well as some constructive feedback.

5. Board Members' Comments

Chair Fitzgerald provided the following:

On behalf of the board and the superintendent, I would like to update the public on where we are in terms of the school utilization study. As a reminder, the purpose of this study was to address declining enrollment, the condition of our facilities and to ensure that our facilities support the instructional vision of our district. At the last Board retreat on October 4th, the Board decided, in conjunction with the superintendent and with input from the Boards of Selectmen and Finance, and the public, that we will be seeking an in-depth study of a two-elementary school district. This decision is based on three criteria: parity amongst the elementary schools, project cost and school location. Within this model, we will also be looking at Polson renovations and reviewing the optimal location for our pre-K program. The next phase that we will be entering into will include, but not be limited to, a geotechnical study, an environmental review, a wetland review, civil/drainage/utilities analysis, a traffic review, hazardous materials testing review and an updated enrollment study. We will also be looking at a site plan test fit and we will get a better understanding of the required scope of the interior work needed to complete the project. We are looking forward to beginning the next phase of this process in November.

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

6.1. Planning Committee

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

Planning Committee met this morning. Ms. Bowler reported on the following:

- School Utilization Facilities Study
- Standardized Testing
- Preview of Program of Studies considerations
 - The Committee took an initial look at the changes which will affect the class of 2021. Mr. Salutari will be attending the next planning meeting to discuss this further.
- 2017-2018 District Calendar

The draft 2017-2018 district calendar was reviewed. The committee made some changes/suggestions. A second draft will be reviewed at the next planning committee meeting.

6.2. Personnel Committee

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

Nothing to report.

6.3. Policy Committee

Members: Katie Stein Chair; Seth Klaskin, Matt Keller

6.3.1. Policy #1340 – Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property
(Third Reading)

6.3.2. Policy #6080.22 – Homebound/Hospital Instruction
(Third Reading)

6.3.3. Policy #6146 – Graduation Requirements (see lines 71 & 72)
(Third Reading)

In addition to the third reading of Policy #1340, Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property and #6080.22, Homebound / Hospital Instruction, Ms. Stein reported on the following policies discussed at today's Policy Committee meeting:

#6146, Graduation Requirements - the physical education requirement for seniors has been changed from 1.50 credits to 1.25 credits, eliminating the need to fulfill a .25 elective credit outside of school classes. In addition, the mathematic standard has been changed to read "meeting the state benchmark".

#6070.2, Curriculum – this policy is being revised to include all subjects within the prescribed course of study, with the exception of England Language Arts which will remain a stand-alone policy due to more prescribed intervention requirements.

6.4. Finance Committee

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

The Finance Committee met earlier this evening. Ms. Keating reported that the early retirement incentive is currently on hold. The 2017-2018 budget calendar was approved and will be sent to the Board. Budget assumptions will be presented at the November 15th board meeting, to be approved December 6th.

MOTION: to add as Item #14 the approval of the request for a special appropriation to replenish the external placements for the special education fund, \$180,000. Motion by Jean Fitzgerald.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

6.5. LEARN Liaison

Katie Stein

Ms. Stein reported that Dr. Eileen Howley presented news from the Legislature and shared the English Language Acquisition and Language Enhancement grant application from the CSDE.

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

No response.

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

8.1. Bills Payable: \$144,928.76 2016-2017 Budget

8.2. Line Transfers: \$45,375.78

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

9. Action Item: Minutes of the October 4, 2016 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Cawley to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Keller

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

10. Action Item: Minutes of the minutes of the October 4, 2016 Board of Education Retreat.

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Keating to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2016 Board of Education Retreat.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Keller

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

11. Action Item: To approve Policy #1340 – Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property

MOTION: by Policy Committee to approve Policy #1340 – Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Keller; Klaskin; Marino; Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

12. Action Item: To approve Policy #6080.22 – Homebound/Hospital Instruction

MOTION: by Policy Committee to approve Policy #6080.22 – Homebound/Hospital Instruction
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Keller; Klaskin; Marino; Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

13. Action Item: To approve Policy #6146 – Graduation Requirements

MOTION: by Policy Committee to approve Policy #6146 – Graduation Requirements
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Keller; Klaskin; Marino; Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

14. Action Item: To approve the 2015-2016 request for a Special Appropriation to replenish the External Placements for Special Education Reserve Fund, \$180,000.

MOTION: by Bowler to approve the 2015-2016 request for a Special Appropriation to replenish the External Placements for Special Education Reserve Fund, \$180,000.
AYES: Bowler, Cawley, Dean, Fitzgerald, Keating, Keller, Klaskin, Marino, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

15. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

16. Future Agenda Items

No future items were discussed.

17. Meetings / Dates of Importance

October and November 2016 Calendars

18. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Bowler to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0