

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
February 07, 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; John Dean; Jean Fitzgerald;; Matt Keller; Seth Klaskin; 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. Recognition: National School Counseling Week - February 6-10, 2017

Superintendent Scarice introduced Jennifer Hawley the Guidance and Counseling Coordinator at DHHS. Ms. Hawley introduced Kyle Heins and Rachel Kilian two of the several counselors being recognized this evening.

Superintendent Scarice stated that National School Counseling Week is celebrated each February to focus public attention on the unique contribution of professional school counselors within U.S. School Systems. National School Counseling Week, sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.

Superintendent Scarice thanked all of the counselors for all of their hard work and dedication on behalf of himself and the Board of Education.

2.2. Dan Grenier: Distinguished Technology and Engineering Professional (DTE)

Superintendent Scarice introduced Dan Grenier and went on to read the letter from ITEEA.

As Chair of ITEEA's Distinguished Technology and Engineering Professional Board it gives me great pleasure to share some excellent news. I am pleased to tell you that you are being recognized for outstanding performance, leadership, and accomplishments in the field of technology and engineering education. This honor is bestowed by a committee of expert peer reviewers who have determined that you have earned one of the highest honors of achievement that may be granted.

This honor, known as the Distinguished Technology and Engineering Professional (DTE) designation is based upon documented evidence of your leadership/management skills, continuing participation in association education programs, and demonstration of leadership in association, community, and personal activities.

The DTE professional program acknowledges the essential principles of adult learning and incorporates both recognition and credit for the work experiences and accomplishments you have earned. You may share this honor as a mark of distinction that is reflective of your success.

We are enthusiastic in providing you with this earned honor and have great confidence in your leadership, knowledge, and passion for technology and engineering education. We thank you for your investment in students, and have a deep level of respect for your unique abilities to inspire, engage and lead learners toward their future.

Superintendent Scarice noted that Dan will receive his recognition at the Teacher Excellence General Session of the ITEEA conference in Dallas, Texas in March.

Superintendent Scarice congratulated Dan on being recognized for his outstanding performance, leadership, and accomplishments in the field of technology and engineering education.

2.3. Public Participation

Mr. Robert Hale made the following comments:

At your last meeting, you approved, without much public discussion, a budget for 2017-2018 of \$56,919,205. A 2.58% increase.

Since approving the budget two significant items impacting both the revenue and expenditures components of the budget have occurred.

On the revenue side, the high probability of zero dollars from the ECS grant program. This is a net reduction of \$300,000 for the 2017-2018 budget.

On the expenditures side, the possibility of the State shifting one third of the Teachers' Retirement costs to local districts. Based on a retiring teacher's salary of \$70,000 (a conservative number) the yearly retirement compensation would be \$52,500. One third of that compensation is \$17,498.25. If Madison has 100 (again a conservative number) retired teachers, the exposure to Madison would be \$1,747,825. I want to emphasize these numbers are only my estimates and are not based on actual data. These are only my reasonable assumptions.

On the revenue side, I think this is a done deal. On the expenditure side I believe this is a possibility.

Walter Lippman a 25 year resident of Madison.

Mr. Lippman brought some concerns to Superintendent Scarice as well as the Board of Education. Mr. Lippman's first question was regarding drug testing for school employees. Superintendent Scarice stated that he had looked into this prior to the meeting and spoke with the District's legal representative and reported that it is not legal to perform drug

testing according to the Department of Labor. Mr. Lippman made note that some of the signs around Brown School appear to be vandalized. Mr. Lippman also asked about the security measures taken at the schools.

3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Aidan Hughes and Emily Baker (Aidan Hughes did not attend the meeting)

Ms. Baker reported on the following:

The Library Media Center is now known as the Library Common. There are now three areas for students to use; silence/studying, collaboration on group projects/discussions and a socializing section. The library is open until 4:00PM Monday-Thursday and until 3:00 on Fridays.

2017 freshman class had their freshman orientation tour.

UConn grades are due.

The underclassmen's course selection was handed in.

January 31st started the second half of the school year.

Practices are still taking place for the upcoming musical the end of March. The students are currently building the set. The students are being taught how to use the machines which will allow them to building the sets on their own.

4. Superintendent's Report

Thomas R. Scarice

Superintendent Scarice made note of the delayed start on February 7, 2017. Superintendent Scarice stated that it was tough call to make but based on the information he was given he felt it was the safest call to make for the buses and student drivers.

4.1. Social Studies Curriculum Renewal Update (on file)

John Harris

Mr. Harris reported on the following:

Curriculum in progress: Grades 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, and high school electives anticipated for completion in June. The Social Studies Curriculum will go to the full Board to be voted on at the June 20th Board of Education Meeting.

What's new - highlights:

K-12: Universal focus on inquiry & exploring authentic problems in interdisciplinary ways

Samples:

Grade 2: How do changes to Main St. reflect changes to our town?

Grade 6: Why did agriculture develop in Eurasia and not elsewhere?

Grade 7: Can Israel be both Jewish and Democratic?

Grade 12: What, if anything, should be done about the gender wage gap?

Grades 2 & 3: Students will be engaging with historical evidence and interpreting history for themselves; introduction to the same historical thinking skills used throughout their time in Madison

Grades 6, 7, 9: Now a unified, three course arc Progression of thinking, rather than repetition
Development of common language around thinking and communication skills

Grade 10/12: Electives that allow students to pursue own interest More excitement around course selection than ever Increased # of students electing to take more than required amount of credits
Broader range of experiences and insight will enrich understanding of US History in Grade 11

Big struggles:

Resources at elementary level often present a “mythologized” version of history; don’t lend themselves well to inquiry. Will need to continue to curate/adapt resources as necessary, heavy reliance on LMC/literacy coaches for this Alignment with ELA curriculum - teachers are craving this.

Artifacts:

6/7/9 Global Studies Arc

Hess Cognitive Rigor Matrix: Grade 9

Student work sample: Grade 11 Civics

PBA: Grade 2 - The Class Sees America

PBA: Grade 6 - Education Action Symposium

PBA: Grade 10 - Bringing Pro Sports to CT

Grades 6, 7, 9:

6, 7, 9 “arc” built around trying to understand the inequalities/large-scale problems faced by humanity. “If the questions don’t matter to the kids, why should we expect them to take anything other than the path of least resistance?” Here is a vision for a student’s experience in Madison:

A 6th grader comes into social studies after a k-4 experience built around learning about her community and the state, and a 5th grade experience built around the origins of the United States. She comes in with an awareness of the rights, privileges, and benefits that come along with living in America in 2016. As she looks outward in 6th grade, let’s challenge to her begin thinking about how and why the quality of life for so many around the globe differs so much from in the United States (comment on how these incorporate the ancient history the teachers had been using here, students will learn the broadest patterns of world history):

Hunger: Even the poorest Americans don’t face the prospect of dying from the lack of food, yet roughly 1 billion people lack regular access to sufficient calories.

Water: Most Americans take access to clean water and sanitation for granted (though Flint makes us question this), but 2 billion people a year are exposed to water with fecal matter.

Education: Universal access to free public school in America, but hundreds of millions are illiterate in other parts of the world

After grappling with concrete, tangible problems in 6th grade, she begins to think about more philosophical problems in 7th grade – why, in other parts of the world, do people live under undemocratic forms of government? Why do people lack freedoms we take for granted? Why do people lack basic human rights (Here, students do deep inquiries into 20th century world history and modern topics)?

Finally, in 9th grade, she is asked to evaluate her own worldview and contend with the question: what is the common good? This culminates in an understanding that perhaps people around the world do not want to be like us, and that our solutions, for any number of reasons, might not be good solutions in other cultures/societies (this course takes a chrono-thematic approach, and explores competing ideas in different eras of modern world history in order inform students worldview on contemporary problems)

After 9th grade, she is exploring new disciplines (economics, psychology, philosophy) or applying multiple disciplines to explore some intrinsically interesting topics (Modern Middle East, Sports in American Culture, Modern World Cultures (this is the World Traveler course)) – we are not preparing the kids for Global I and II, but to continue to grapple with the problems they face in 6, 7, 9th grade with new ways of thinking!

4.2. Other Matters

Superintendent Scarice reported that a meeting took place earlier today with Collier. The upcoming milestones were discussed. Next month the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectman will receive a formal presentation. Superintendent Scarice also stated that enrollment projections are also being looked at.

Superintendent Scarice stated that Dan Hanson was impressed by the Education Specification in the District.

Superintendent Scarice noted that there will be more details going forward.

Ms. Fitzgerald stated that this does not mean the plan is going forward. The District is just gathering all of the details.

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

Mr. Cawley reported on the following:

6th grade will move to the current 5th grade model with a 2 teacher team model. The only change 6th grade science and social studies will be a different mix of students (not just HR cohort).

Addition of PEP for 6th grade next year.

Electives:

In lieu of study hall students will be able to choose another option (extra bands, strings, broadcasting songs (instead of musical theater for 5th grade only) , art sculpture (6th grade only), computer coding (6th grade only), wellness for life, PE every day or to keep study hall).

DHHS Science Program of Studies:

Discussed current curriculum track and redoing it to honor new standards

Eliminate tracking and parent overrides from middle school to high school

Kirk Samuelson showed the committee the new model and pathways and there will be several more opportunities for all students.

Increase in student choices

6.2. Personnel Committee

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

Mr. Dean stated that negotiations will begin with NAGE on February 28, 2017. The MAESS contract is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2017. Hopefully a new contract will be in place prior to then.

6.3. Policy Committee

Members: Katie Stein Chair; Seth Klaskin, Matt Keller

6.3.1. Policy #5090.3.1 - Student Dress (Third Reading)

6.3.2. Policy #4111.1 - Reference Checks (Second Reading)

6.3.3. Policy #4121 - Substitute Teachers (Second Reading)

6.3.4. Policy #5100.9.4 - Physicals for School Athletics (Second Reading)

6.3.5. Policy #5120.2.1 - Head Injuries (Second Reading)

Ms. Stein reported that Policy #5090.3.1 - Student Dress is up for third reading and will be voted on later in the meeting.

The following policies are being presented for second reading.

Policy #4111.1 - Reference Checks

Policy #4121 - Substitute Teachers

Policy #5100.9.4 - Physicals for School Athletics

Policy #5120.2.1 - Head Injuries

6.4. Finance Committee

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

No report was given. Finance Committee had not met since the last Board of Education Meeting.

6.5. LEARN Liaison

Katie Stein

No report was given. LEARN meets again Thursday.

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: \$15,850.00 - 2015-2016 Budget and \$298,694.18 - 2016-2017 List of Bills

8.2. Line Transfers: \$21,964.39

8.3. Budget Expenditure as of February 1, 2017

8.4. Donation: \$1,099.95 from G&B Photography in Enfield, CT to Island Avenue Elementary School for commission for school pictures - to enhance school education/curriculum.

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

AYES: Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keller; Klaskin; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Atty. Klaskin thanked G&B Photography for their generous donation.

9. Action Item: Minutes of the January 24, 2017 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Stein seconded by Cawley to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2017 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keller; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Klaskin

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

10. Action Item: To cancel the April 18, 2017 Board of Education Meeting

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Cawley to cancel the April 18, 2017 Board of Education Meeting

AYES: Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keller; Klaskin; Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

The April 18, 2017 Board of Education Meeting is being cancelled due to a Budget Public Hearing taking place that evening.

11. Action Item: To approve Policy #5090.3.1 - Student Dress

MOTION: by Policy to approve Policy #5090.3.1 - Student Dress

AYES: Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keller; Klaskin; Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

12. Old Business

No new business was discussed.

13. Future Agenda Items

No future items were discussed.

14. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)
February/March 2017 Calendars

15. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean seconded by Klaskin to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

AYES: Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keller; Klaskin; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Approved at the 4/4/17 BOE Meeting
LF