

Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
August 11, 2015
7:00 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 7:05 p.m. Chairman Fitzgerald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jessica Bowler; Jean Fitzgerald; Alison Keating; Cindy Mead; Robert Ruggiero; Bruce Wilson

Also present: Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; students; and community members.

Seth Klaskin entered meeting at 7:15 p.m.

2. School / Community Session - 7:00 p.m.

2.1. Public Participation

No comments were made.

3. Superintendent's Report

3.1. Enrollment Update

Ms. Dahling-Hench reported that enrollment has been steady and that there were five new students enrolled today.

Ms. Dahling-Hench reported that Governor Malloy announced in an August 6, 2015 press release that in lieu of taking the SBAC, juniors will be taking the SATs.

3.2. Other Matters

Mr. Sickie reviewed the process and history of problems related to the Food Service Contract Amendment. These problems resulted from the USDA review of the State of Connecticut program. He reminded the board that the Amendment was previously approved by the Board at their June 16, 2015 meeting, pending State of Connecticut approval. The State required a number of changes that resulted in further negotiations with Chartwells. Mr. Sickie felt the changes were significant enough to bring the Amendment back to the Board for review and approval.

The changes and their impact were discussed. One significant change was the USDA requirement that the agreement remain a “breakeven” scenario rather than a “stop-loss”. Mr. Sickle identified additional price increases that would be necessary to meet this requirement. Those increases will impact a la carte sales as well as premium meals at the high school. The price increase on the basic reimbursable meal at the high school will remain limited to the \$0.25 increase stated in the version of the Amendment previously approved by the Board.

The other significant concern discussed was related to a matter still being reviewed by the State and USDA. Mr. Sickle explained that the District’s original agreement with Chartwells included an investment in the District’s kitchen and serving line equipment totaling \$105,000. He explained that food service management companies routinely include, investments in their proposals that they believe will improve the program, hopefully promoting participation and increase revenue. The common practice is to charge back the cost of the investment to the program, on a straight line depreciation basis over five (5) years. It was determined by the USDA that this practice should not be permitted.

Mr. Sickle clarified that our original contract with Chartwells broke the investment down further into two parts, the first part was \$80,000 which was to be depreciated. The remaining \$25,000 was contributed by Chartwells and would not be billed back to the program unless all four (4) of our optional renewals did not occur, in which case the repayment would be pro-rated.

The USDA and State have agreed to waive the issue of the investment for purposes of this Amendment due to time constraints. The District will unfortunately be required to go back through the procurement process during this school year for a new agreement for the 2016-17 school year. Mr. Sickle reminded the Board that 49 Districts, including Madison, were experiencing similar problems and delays as a result of the USDA review process, and all 49 will be required to re-bid this year for next.

Mr. Sickle reported that late this afternoon, the State identified that it is not clear if the \$25,000 portion of the investment can be ignored this year; they need clarification from the USDA. Unfortunately, that ruling had not been issued prior to this Board meeting, which is why the action on this item will request approval of the Amendment with the understanding that the Superintendent be allowed to modify the Amendment at his discretion to account for this issue, if necessary. (The concern being that the \$25,000 may have to be paid back to Chartwells this fiscal year from the LEA budget, not the Food Service Fund.)

4. Board Members' Comments

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

5.1. Planning Committee

Members: Cindy Mead, Chair; Bill Clorite, Jessica Bowler

Ms. Mead reported that the Planning and Policy Committee had a joint meeting prior to this evenings Board meeting. Ms. Mead stated that the minor changes were agreed upon unanimously.

5.2. Personnel Committee

Members: Bob Ruggiero, Chair, Alison Keating, Jessica Bowler

Mr. Ruggiero reported that negotiations with the teamsters is close to being finalized.
Mr. Ruggiero stated that negotiations with the teachers' contract will be next.

5.3. Policy Committee

Members: Bruce Wilson, Chair; Seth Klaskin, Bob Ruggiero

Mr. Wilson reported that the Homework Policy #6154 was submitted by the administration and that there were a few minor changes which will be voted on later in the meeting.

5.4. Finance Committee

Members: Bill Clorite, Chair; Cindy Mead, Chris Puricelli

No report was given.

5.5. LEARN Liaison

Liaison: Alison Keating

No report was given.

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

No comments were made.

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

7.1. Bills Payable: \$40,789.90 - 2014-2015 Budget \$61,072.21 - 2015-2016 Budget

7.2. Line Transfers: \$2,635.91

MOTION: by Mead, seconded by Bowler
to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Bowler, Fitzgerald, Keating, Klaskin,
Mead, Ruggiero, Wilson

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

- 8. Action Item:** Approve minutes of the July 21, 2015 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9).

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Bowler
to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2015 Board
of Education Meeting
AYES: Bowler, Keating, Klaskin, Mead,
Ruggiero, Wilson
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Fitzgerald

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

- 9. Action Item:** Approve minutes of the June 2, 2015 Board of Education Retreat.

MOTION: by Wilson, seconded by Bowler
to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2015 Board
of Education Retreat.
AYES: Bowler, Fitzgerald, Keating, Klaskin,
Mead, Ruggiero, Wilson
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

- 10. Action Item:** Approve minutes of the June 10, 2015 Board of Education Retreat.

MOTION: by Keating, seconded by Wilson
To approve the minutes of the June 10, 2015
Board of Education Retreat.
AYES: Bowler, Fitzgerald, Keating, Klaskin,
Mead, Ruggiero, Wilson
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

- 11. Action item:** Approve minutes of the June 23, 2015 Board of Education Retreat.

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Wilson
to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2015
Board of Education Retreat.
AYES: Bowler, Fitzgerald, Keating, Klaskin,
Mead, Ruggiero, Wilson
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

- 12. Action Item:** To add Homework Policy #6154 to the agenda.

MOTION: by Bowler, seconded by Wilson
to add Homework Policy #6154 to the agenda.
AYES: Bowler, Fitzgerald, Keating, Klaskin,
Mead, Ruggiero, Wilson
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

13. Action Item: To waive the three reading of Homework Policy #6154 and to vote to approve Homework Policy #6154.

MOTION: by Policy to approve Homework Policy #6154.

AYES: Bowler, Fitzgerald, Keating, Klaskin, Mead, Ruggiero, Wilson

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

14. Action Item: To add action item to authorize the Superintendent to execute amendment number one to the Chartwells agreement.

MOTION: by Wilson, seconded by Mead to add action item to authorize the Superintendent to execute amendment number one to the Chartwells agreement

AYES: Bowler, Fitzgerald, Keating, Klaskin, Mead, Ruggiero, Wilson

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

15. Action Item: to approve and authorize the Superintendent to execute Amendment Number One to the agreement between the Madison Public Schools and Compass Group USA, Inc. by and through its Chartwells Division, dated July 1, 2014. The Superintendent is authorized to execute Amendment Number One, dated August 11, 2015 as presented, or with modifications at his discretion, pending final approval by the State of Connecticut. It is understood that modifications may be required by the USDA and or the State of Connecticut, which could impact the LEA budget in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. If there is a substantial impact to the agreement, Ms. Fitzgerald will be notified.

MOTION: by Bowler, seconded by Wilson to approve and authorize the Superintendent to execute Amendment Number One, to the agreement between the Madison Public Schools and Compass Group USA, Inc. by and through its Chartwells Division, dated July 1, 2014. The Superintendent is authorized to execute Amendment Number One, dated August 11, 2015 as presented, or with modifications at his discretion, pending final approval by the State of Connecticut. It is understood that modifications may be required by the USDA and or the State of Connecticut, which could impact the LEA budget in the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

AYES: Bowler, Fitzgerald, Keating, Klaskin, Mead, Ruggiero, Wilson

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

16. Action Item: To add the acceptance of the resignation of Chris Puricelli.

MOTION: by Wilson, seconded by Mead
to add acceptance of the resignation of Chris
Puricelli.
AYES: Bowler, Fitzgerald, Keating, Klaskin,
Mead, Ruggiero, Wilson
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

17. Action Item: To accept the resignation of Chris Puricelli and declare the position vacant.

MOTION: by Mead, seconded by Wilson
to accept the resignation of Chris Puricelli and
declare the position vacant.
AYES: Bowler, Fitzgerald, Keating, Klaskin,
Mead, Ruggiero, Wilson
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

18. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

19. New Business

No new business was discussed.

20. Future Agenda Items

No future items were discussed.

21. Meetings / Dates of Importance

September 1, 2015 Board of Education Meeting @ 7:30 pm

September 15, 2015 Board of Education Meeting @ 7:30 pm

22. Adjournment

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Wilson
to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.
AYES: Bowler, Fitzgerald, Keating, Klaskin,
Mead, Ruggiero, Wilson
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Approved at the 9/1/15 BOE Meeting
LAF