

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
October 20, 2015
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 7:36 p.m. Chairman Fitzgerald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jessica Bowler; John Dean; Jean Fitzgerald; Alison Keating; Seth Klaskin;
Bruce Wilson

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

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

2.1. Public Participation

No comments were made.

3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Paige Calvert and Aidan Hughes (Paige Calvert – did not attend the meeting)

Mr. Hughes reported that fall sports have begun. Mr. Hughes also stated that the first trimester has ended.

Mr. Hughes stated that the PAW group held a meeting which consisted of the freshman and seniors. Superintendent Scarice stated that he received great feedback from this event. Superintendent Scarice stated that it was an opportunity for the seniors to meet with the freshman to discuss “Wish I had known – how to navigate high school”.

Mr. Hughes stated that PSATs went pretty well.

4. Superintendent's Report

Thomas R. Scarice

4.1. 2016-2017 School Calendar

Superintendent Scarice reported that the 2016-2017 calendar went to the Planning Committee this morning. Superintendent Scarice stated that the 2016-2017 calendar draft will also be brought to the Policy Committee as well as the Administrators. Superintendent Scarice stated that the biggest change to the 2016-2017 calendar would be the students not returning to school until after Labor Day on September 6, 2016. Superintendent Scarice also stated that during the 2016-2017 school year days would be

reduced from 183 to 180. Superintendent Scarice stated that a draft of the 2016-2017 calendar will be posted on the MPS site soon.

4.2. Other Matters

No other matters were discussed.

5. Board Members' Comments

No comments were made.

6. Recognition:

6.1 Board of Education Member Recognition

Bill Clorite, Robert Ruggiero and Bruce Wilson

Opening statement by Jean Fitzgerald on behalf of the Board.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Bill, Bob and Bruce for the more than 18 years of collective service that they have provided the Madison Public Schools. Your hard work affects more than you realize. Your selfless gift of time is priceless.

Your commitment to the Madison Public Schools cannot not be emphasized enough, for without your help, support, patience and sense of humor of the years—and understanding about all those household chores that couldn't get finished-- our schools would not have benefitted from the wisdom, passion and guidance that this trio has provided.

As a Board we collaboratively wrote a few thank you notes to recognize the great work that each of you has provided to the district.

We'll begin with Jessica Bowler sharing the Board's thoughts about Bruce Wilson; continue with Seth Klaskin who will be discussing Bob Ruggiero and finally, Jean Fitzgerald, who will be thanking Bill Clorite.

Ms. Jessica Bowler spoke on behalf of the Board Members regarding Bruce Wilson

Bruce -

Thank you for your two years of service to the Board of Education.

You stepped in when a seat was unexpectedly vacated and you jumped right in with two feet.

I remember at the conclusion of your First Official Board Meeting. I was in the audience as a candidate- Cindy commenting at how impressed she was that you spoke up and actively participated. Historically it had taken new members a few meetings to speak up.

From Day 1 you had a thirst for information around Common Core and Policies. You dedicated a lot of time to getting up to speed on all of the local and national issues, even attending planning meetings when your schedule allowed. Your passion and commitment as Chair of the Policy committee did not go unnoticed.

You always come prepared to the meetings asking thoughtful and thorough questions or making sure we see issues from all angles. I appreciated this as it always generated additional needed conversation amongst the 9 of us before important decisions and votes were made.

We will miss having you here with us. We wish you luck on your Board of Selectman run and look forward hopefully to working beside you in your new role.

Atty. Seth Klaskin spoke on behalf of the Board Members regarding Robert Ruggiero

I just wanted to say a few words regarding my friend, Bob Ruggiero, on the occasion of his retirement from Board Service.

Bob and I were elected to this Board together and served together for 8 years. During that time the Board has been challenged with many important issues; some good and some not-so-good. Bob has helped set the direction of the board through those times and his service has been commendable. From his various perches as a past Vice-Chair, as the Chair of the Personnel Committee, our Liaison to LEARN, the Regional Education Service Center, as a member of the Policy Committee and other various posts, Bob could always be counted upon to add his unique perspective to the board's deliberations. Though his positions were sometimes Machiavellian by design, Bob always kept us on our toes!

Bob brought with him to this position a wealth of experience from a career in education and, especially, special education. That experience will be missed as the board moves forward, though we are fortunate enough to have other professional educators among our ranks.

On a poignant note, during down-time, Bob was always able to entertain us with discussions about historical fiction series on cable. He is a fellow history buff and I will miss our sidebar discussions in which we resolved the world's problems time and again. Then again, perhaps we were just tilting at windmills.

Bob - thanks for your committed service to the board, to the district, to the town, and especially to the students in our charge. Your time commitment over the years is greatly appreciated!

Ms. Jean Fitzgerald spoke on behalf of the Board Members regarding Bill Clorite

Ms. Fitzgerald stated that Bill's commitment to the Board and Town has been tireless over the years. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that Bill did not waiver on his convictions. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that Bill always made us look at things differently. She stated that she appreciated honesty he brought to the table. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that the Madison tax payers as well as the student of Madison very much appreciate all of the time and hard work Bill put into the community.

Mr. Wilson stated that it was a singular honor to serve the Town of Madison. Mr. Wilson thanked Tom and his team for all of the work they have done on Curriculum and Professional Development. Mr. Wilson stated that if there is anyone in the community that is interested in community service they should bring it to someone's attention. Mr. Wilson stated that he didn't regret his decision to do so.

7. Board Members' Comments

No comments were made.

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

8.1. Planning Committee

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

Ms. Bowler reported on the following.

2016-2017 School Year Calendar –

We reviewed the DRAFT 2016-2017 School Year Calendar. We are implementing the Regional Calendar Guidelines next year. We discussed a few possible changes to this draft at planning today and will come back to planning on November 10th for a second review. Overall the calendar looks great with school starting after Labor Day and a better flow for September with minimal other changes.

Facilities Update –

Reviewed the 2016 Summer Lo-Cap Projects –

- Polson Roof – Board of Selectman authorized the hiring of the Architectural Firm we selected – that company is currently investigating the existing structure and starting their work.
- Brown Energy Savings – Bill and his team are investigating options
- Jeffrey School – Boiler Replacement – Plans and specs are being put together - bids will go out this winter.

Facilities Study –

We had a very successful Public Meeting last night – very well attended, we provided babysitting which was used, lots of great questions were asked by the public, was our best showing to date but we would love to see even more people attend and see the options we are looking at or propose a new option we have not thought of yet.

We will continue to get the word out for the next meeting – November 9th – 7-8:30 at Island Avenue School and babysitting will be provided again. We will open the doors early at 6:00PM for tours of the facility before the meeting.

One option was discussed again at Planning this AM and we have asked DRA to create poster for this option for the Island Avenue meeting.

Two K-2 Schools (Island and Jeffrey OR Ryerson and Jeffrey), 3-5 at Polson (with TLC as well), 6-8 at Brown and 9-12 at Hand

Student Enrichment Programming Committee Update –

A committee has formed of 15-18 teachers, administrators, related services and special education staff to look at putting together a Programming Model for grades 3-8 (upper elementary and middle school)

Not a gifted and talented program but a continuum of services for advanced learners and all children with varied interests and aptitudes because every child has gifts and talents

They have had one meeting and have another one November 2nd.

They are working on researching and then designing a draft school wide enrichment model

This will be proposed to the Board of Education for review during budget season.

Once a budget decision is made the committee can finalize their work and the phase in approach for the program

8.2. Personnel Committee

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

Mr. Dean reported that a negotiation with the teachers union is still in process. The next meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2015. If a contract has not been agreed upon the state will send in a mediator on November 12, 2015.

8.3. Policy Committee

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

8.3.1. Policy #5120.3 – Health Services (Third Reading)

8.3.2. Policy #5120.3.3 – Administering Medication (Third Reading)

8.3.3. Policy #6146 Graduation Requirements (First Reading) tabled until the November 17, 2015 Board of Education Meeting

8.3.4. Policy #5113 Student Attendance (First Reading) tabled until the November 17, 2015 Board of Education Meeting

Policy #5120.3 – Health Services and Policy #5120.3.3 – Administering Medication were both approved by the Board.

8.4. Finance Committee

Members: Bill Clorite, Chair; Cindy Mead

No report was given.

8.5. LEARN Liaison

Liaison: Alison Keating

No report was given.

9. Action Item: Table Policy #6146 Graduation Requirements and Policy #5113 Student Attendance until the November 17, 2015 Board of Education Meeting;

MOTION: by Wilson seconded by Bowler to table Policy #6146 Graduation Requirements and Policy #5113 Student Attendance until the November 17, 2015 Board of Education Meeting;

AYES: Bowler, Dean, Fitzgerald, Keating, Klaskin, Wilson

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

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

No comments were made.

The meeting recessed at 8:00 p.m. to honor Bill Clorite, Robert Ruggiero and Bruce Wilson with a reception in the lobby. Robert Ruggiero and Bill Clorite were unable to attend this evenings meeting.

The Board meeting reconvened at 8:12 p.m.

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

11.1. Bills Payable: \$980.32 - 2014-2015 Budget and \$790,399.93 - 2015-2016 Budget

11.2. Line Transfers: \$2,727.80

11.3. Donation: \$3,320.00 from Island Avenue Elementary School PTO to Island Avenue Elementary School for 2015-2016 school year field trips.

11.4. Donation: \$6,000.00 from Island Avenue Elementary School PTO to Island Elementary School for the 2015-2016 cultural arts program for K-4 students.

11.5. Donation: \$1,200.00 from Island Avenue Elementary School PTO to Island Avenue Elementary School for payment for the High-Touch High Tech programs.

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

AYES: Bowler, Dean, Fitzgerald, Keating, Klaskin, Wilson

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

12. Action Item: Minutes of the October 6, 2015 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Wilson seconded by Keating to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2015 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Dean, Fitzgerald, Keating, Wilson

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Klaskin, Bowler

MOTION CARRIED: 4-0

13. Action Item: Make a recommendation to the Town of Madison to further explore the purchasing of the property located on Copse Rd. and the current leased softball field's area, located on Green Hill Road based on fair market value.

MOTION: by Wilson seconded by Bowler to approve recommendation to further explore the purchasing of the property located on Copse Rd. and the current leased softball field's area, located on Green Hill Road based on fair market value.

AYES: Bowler, Dean, Fitzgerald, Keating,

Klaskin, Wilson

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

14. Action Item: Discuss and take action on approving a four (4) year lease for two (2) hands free, battery operated floor cleaners. The yearly cost will be \$17,543.28 and will be leased through MD Stetson.

MOTION: by Bowler seconded by Wilson to approve a four (4) year lease for two (2) hands free, battery operated floor cleaners. The yearly cost will be \$17,543.28 and will be leased through MD Stetson.

AYES: Bowler, Dean, Fitzgerald, Keating,

Klaskin, Wilson

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

15. Action Item: To approve Policy #5120.3 – Health Services

MOTION: by Policy to approve Policy #5120.3 – Health Services

AYES: Bowler, Dean, Fitzgerald, Keating,

Klaskin, Wilson

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

16. Action Item: To approve Policy #5120.3.3 – Administering Medication

MOTION: by Policy to approve Policy #5120.3.3
– Administering Medication.

AYES: Bowler, Dean, Fitzgerald,
Keating, Klaskin, Wilson

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

17. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

18. New Business

Ms. Fitzgerald stated that going forward New Business will not be an agenda item.

19. Future Agenda Items

No future items were discussed.

20. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

October-November Calendars

Action Item: Enter into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendents contract.

21. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean seconded by Bowler to
adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

AYES: Bowler, Dean, Fitzgerald, Keating,
Klaskin, Wilson

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Approved at the November 10, 2015 BOE Meeting

LAF