

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
December 01, 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 7:32 p.m. Chairman Fitzgerald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: John Dean; Jean Fitzgerald; Alison Keating; Seth Klaskin; Happy Marino;
Cindy Mead; Katie Stein

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

Galen Cawley entered the meeting at 7:34

2. Action Item: Enter Executive Session

MOTION: by Dean seconded by Mead to enter Executive Session to discuss the proposed Agreement between the Madison Board of Education and the Madison Education Association (MEA) 7/1/16 – 6/30/19 at 7:34 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

The Board adjourned executive session at 7:46 p.m.

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

3.1. Public Participation

No comments were made.

4. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report Paige Calvert and Aidan Hughes

Ms. Calvert and Mr. Hughes reported on the following.

Trimester 2 began yesterday. Ms. Calvert stated that during Trimester 1 testing it was great having yoga, coloring and therapeutic dogs offered to the students. Ms. Calvert stated this was the greatest thing in her 12 years at Madison Public Schools.

The play MASH will take place this week Thursday-Saturday.

Winter sports are currently underway.

5. Superintendent's Report Thomas R. Scarice

5.1. Other Matters:

Superintendent Scarice noted that discussions took place during the Planning meeting to cancel a three country trip which included Paris in April 2016 was discussed during the Planning meeting to cancel the trip. The motion to cancel the trip will take place later in the meeting. Superintendent Scarice stated that a presentation of an alternative trip for April will take place during the December 15, 2015 BOE meeting.

Superintendent Scarice noted that with Congress slated to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act the NCLB Act could become null and void by August 2016. Superintendent Scarice stated that this is great news for Connecticut schools. Superintendent Scarice also stated that the next legislative meeting should be interesting.

Superintendent Scarice stated that there was only one technical change made to the Program of Studies which was a course title change to the sophomore English course.

Superintendent Scarice stated that Dr. Liz Battaglia had presented to the Board about a month ago and that Special Education is well underway on how to improve the programs. Dr. Battaglia will return in January to update the Board.

5.2. School Utilization Study Update (on file)

Paul Moore of DRA and Brian Wetzel of CES attended the BOE meeting to address any questions the Board may have regarding the study. Mr. Moore stated that he hopes the options are narrowed down so that there can be a better understanding of the cost involved.

Superintendent Scarice stated that the next Public Forum is scheduled for December 8, 2015 at Ryerson Elementary School. Superintendent Scarice stated that the 4th graders will provide a tour of the facility beginning at 6:00pm with the Public Forum beginning at 7:00pm.

Superintendent Scarice stated that the District is at turning point as far as the mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection are concerned. Superintendent Scarice also stated that any existing conditions at any of the facilities will eventually have to be addressed.

Ms. Fitzgerald thanked Paul Moore and Brian Wetzel for attending the meeting.

6. Board Members' Comments

Superintendent Scarice asked Ms. Stein and Mr. Cawley about the experience they had at the high school during their tour.

Ms. Stein stated that she toured the high school while exams were taking place. Ms. Stein stated that she was thrilled and interested in the student's engagement. Ms. Stein also stated that was impressed with the space especially the space for art classes. Ms. Stein also stated she met with members of central office and found it very helpful and informative.

Mr. Cawley stated he felt the same as Ms. Stein. Also, stating that he was very impressed with the leadership as well as the variety of courses offered to the students at Daniel Hand.

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

7.1. Planning Committee

Members: Jessica Bowler, Chair; Cindy Mead, Galen Cawley

Ms. Mead filled in for Ms. Bowler and reported on the Planning committee which met earlier this evening.

In Ms. Bowler's absence Ms. Mead noted that the committee discussed cancellation of the upcoming international field trip to Paris which is planned for April 2016. Ms. Mead noted this is due to the safety of the students. Ms. Wood stated that a discussion occurred regarding changing the trip from Paris to Quebec. This would help avoid a financial loss to the parents and students due to the cancellation of the Paris trip. Ms. Mead stated this would be voted on later in the meeting. Ms. Mead also stated that going forward it will be made mandatory to have insurance added to the cost of trips.

Ms. Fitzgerald stated that the Board has the ability to cancel a trip due to political climate.

Ms. Mead stated that the Polson Roof Building Committee met to review the plans and design, solar, schedule and overall review of what we need to do. The Roof Committee approved an amendment to allocate existing funds for structural engineering report.

Ms. Mead reported on planning for DRA. There are three reports Enrollment, MEP (mechanical, electrical and plumbing), and an architectural (envelope and building with options) as well as long term (10 plus years assessment).

Mr. McMinn stated that there was a resolution for equipment leasing that would need to be signed by Ms. Fitzgerald, Board Chair. This would state that the Board of Education designates Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools, as an authorized signer of the Lease Purchase Agreement, by and between the Madison Board of Education and Government Capital Corporation. Mr. McMinn stated that the equipment would be used at Daniel Hand High School as well as at Walter C. Polson Middle School.

7.2. Personnel Committee

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

Mr. Dean reported that at 5:30pm today a three year contract was ratified between the Madison Board of Education and the Madison Education Association (MEA) effective: 7/1/16 – 6/30/19. Mr. Dean stated that there is a motion later in the agenda to be voted on.

7.3. Policy Committee

Members: Alison Keating, Chair; Katie Stein, Seth Klaskin

Committee has not met.

7.4. Finance Committee

Members: Cindy Mead, Chair; Alison Keating, Jessica Bowler

The committee will be meeting December 3, 2015 to discuss budget assumptions and budget timelines.

7.5. LEARN Liaison

Liaison: Katie Stein

Ms. Keating reported on the following:

Matthew Bonin, from Cohn Reznick, presented a summary of the draft audit for the fiscal year 2014-2015. Mr. Bonin reviewed the scope and reporting requirements of the audit and indicated LEARN had an "unqualified clean" audit with no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. There was one significant deficiency found relating to the National School Lunch Program which was in its first year. He indicated this was a small issue and that employees have corrected the process moving forward.

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

No comments were made.

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

9.1. Bills Payable: \$12,733.90 - 2014-2015 Budget and \$559,538.76 - 2015-2016 Budget

9.2. Line Transfers: \$46,218.32

9.3. Budget Expenditure as of November 23, 2015

MOTION: by Mead seconded by Keating to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Marino; Mead; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

10. Action Item: Minutes of the November 17, 2015 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Keating seconded by Cawley to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2015 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Marino; Mead; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

11. Action Item: Approve the Program of Studies

MOTION: by Planning Committee to approve the Program of Studies.

AYES: Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Marino; Mead; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

12. Action Item: To approve equipment leasing

MOTION: by Planning Committee to approve the equipment leasing.

AYES: Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Marino; Mead; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

- 13. Action Item:** Proposed Agreement between the Madison Board of Education and the Madison Education Association (MEA) effective: 7/1/16 – 6/30/19.

MOTION: by Mead seconded by Dean approve the Agreement between the Madison Board of Education and the Madison Education Association (MEA), effective: 7/1/16 – 6/30/19.

AYES: Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Marino; Mead; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Atty. Klaskin reentered the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

- 14. Action Item:** Add to agenda an action item to empower the Superintendent to make a decision regarding an alternate itinerary for an originally scheduled trip to Paris during April 2016 break.

MOTION: by Planning Committee to add an action item to the agenda to empower the Superintendent to make a decision regarding an alternate itinerary for an originally scheduled trip to Paris during April 2016 break.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

- 15. Action Item:** To empower the Superintendent to make a decision regarding an alternate itinerary for an originally scheduled trip to Paris during April 2016 break.

MOTION: by Planning Committee to empower the Superintendent to make a decision regarding an alternate itinerary for an originally scheduled trip to Paris during April 2016 break.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

16. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

17. Future Agenda Items

No future items were discussed.

18. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)
December-January Calendars

19. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean seconded by Keating to
adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Approve at the December 15, 2015 BOE Meeting
LAF