

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
March 22, 2016
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 7:30 p.m. Chairman Fitzgerald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jessica Bowler; Galen Cawley; John Dean; Jean Fitzgerald; Alison Keating; Seth Klaskin; Katie Stein

Also present: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

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

Ms. Calvert did not attend the Board meeting.

Mr. Hughes reported on the following:

Ms. Calvert is currently at the spring musical rehearsal. The spring musical begins March 31, 2016.

Spring sports are currently underway. The winter sports for Daniel Hand High School finished strong.

The show choir just returned from the semifinals which took place in Orland, FL.

4. Superintendent's Report

Thomas R. Scarice

4.1. Social Studies Curriculum Pilot Innovation: "Better Citizen Project" 8th Grade Social Studies Curriculum Lead Paul Coppola, 8th Grade Social Studies Staff, 8th Grade Students

The following teachers were in attendance Paul Coppola, Ben Pelletier and Ashley Joiner.

Last night, Mr. Coppola, Mr. Pelletier and Ms. Joiner along with seven of their Polson students, presented at the Board of Education meeting. They were asked to fill the board in on the kind of work we are trying to do with assessment in our new social studies units.

Mr. Pelletier talked about the importance of mixing content with 21st century skills and the need for students to be able to show they can apply what they are learning. The students were extremely vocal that this type of assessment, one where they are asked to solve a problem that is found in the real work of the discipline, one that gives them choice in how to demonstrate their understanding, was hugely motivating for them. The students spoke about how the things they commit to memory from their notes for a test is often forgotten by the following week. Having to actually do something with their new learning made the work much more relevant for them.

Our new Grade 8 History assessments are designed with the belief that students should engage authentically with the material. Instead of merely memorizing, students should be asked to connect what they are learning with their lived experiences. Instead of regurgitating information, students will use their new-found knowledge in their daily lives. And instead of forgetting everything they were “taught,” students will retain and build upon their comprehension of the subject matter.

4.2. School Utilization Facilities Study

Superintendent Scarice stated that the 7th Public Forum will take place on March 30, 2016. The tour portion of the forum will be held from 6:00PM-7:00PM with the Public Forum portion from 7:00PM-8:30PM. The Public Forum will be held at Walter C. Polson Middle School

A Tri-Board meeting to review the Study will be held at the May 3, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.

The appraisals for Island Avenue Elementary School and the LaSage Property as well as a Test Plan for a new school on the Ryerson Site – where the fields currently are currently in the working stages

4.3. Other Matters

5. Board Members' Comments

Atty. Klaskin stated that VIBE attended the semi-finals in Orlando, FL this past weekend. Atty. Klaskin noted that DHHS went away with five trophies as well as the title of Grand Champions. Atty. Klaskin also noted that it is undecided if they will be attending the National Finals which will be held at the end of April in Chicago.

Atty. Klaskin stated that it has been a joy watching them this season. Atty. Klaskin congratulated Ron Soja as well as the students on a job well done.

Johan Levine who is a member of VIBE as well as the Board of Education cameraman stated that the event was very cool. He also stated that Mr. Soja told the VIBE choir that if they won the title of Grand Champions he would dye his hair; and he did.

Atty. Klaskin stated that DHHS VIBE Choir is currently second in the country.

Ms. Fitzgerald stated that she attended the Madison Youth and Family Services - M.A.D.E. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that it was a phenomenal conversation dealing with more than just drugs and alcohol but also stress. They discussed reducing stress at home, school, amongst peers, etc. Superintendent Scarice stated that changes are being made in small stages to help students in dealing with their stress. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that students found it helpful last year during testing time when therapy dogs were brought in as a form of relieving some stress for students. Ms. Stein stated that it's helpful for the students to have the tools necessary to deal with stress.

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

6.1. Planning Committee

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

Ms. Bowler reported on the following:

Polson Roof

The Planning Committee reviewed the bids for the Polson Roof Project.

The committee has selected a company and the project will move forward without the solar piece at this time. Work will start on or about June 20, 2016 and there will be about a 30 day construction time period

School Utilization Facilities Study

The school utilization facilities study was discussed during the Superintendent's report.

Polson Start Time Review

The planning committee met on 3/8/2016 and reviewed aligning the Brown and Polson start times as an initial proposal to look at avoiding early bus pick-ups for 12 and 13 year olds not because of chatter, Facebook posts or rumors. This is based on the fact that we have 12 and 13 year olds waiting in the dark for their buses at 6:30 AM on Green Hill, Route 1 and Route 79.

The planning committee had additional questions and concerns after the March 8, 2016 meeting and we asked Superintendent Scarice and the administration for additional information on the following:

- DRG B Start times
- Clarification of AM supervision
- Clarification of the issues around start times for Polson athletes
- Clarification of the fitness center and gym access for DHHS students
- And a few other issues

Based on the BoE member's comments, the administration looked at an 8:00 AM start time and a 2:38 PM dismissal which answers all of the BoE member's concerns

addressed to date and will create later bus pick-up times for the Polson students which is the goal.

Ms. Bowler asked the Board to review the additional information that was sent out today by Superintendent Scarice and reach out to Ms. Bowler with any additional questions they may have.

Ms. Bowler also stated that she will also reach out over the next two weeks to every board member to ensure that all concerns have been addressed.

Ms. Bowler stated that as a Board they will vote on the revised Administration's recommendation of the 8:00AM Polson start time for the 2016/2017 school year at our next meeting on April 5, 2016.

Overview: Special Education Program Analysis – LEARN Report –

This is the first in a series of meetings the committee will have to review the MPS Special Education Report from Learn on our district's Special Education Program. The final report was issued in February 2016. A summary was sent out to all Board Members. If any Board Members want to review the entire report they are asked to make an appointment with Liz Battaglia.

6.2. Personnel Committee

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

Mr. Dean reported that contract negotiations with The Madison Association of Educational Supportive Services (MAESS) will begin next Monday. Mr. Dean also stated that this is the final negotiation for the season.

6.3. Policy Committee

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

6.3.1. Policy #5090.7 – Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, Inhalants, and Performance-Enhancing Substances (Third Reading)

6.3.2. Policy #5120.3.4 – Managing Student Food Allergies and Glycogen Storage Disease (Third Reading)

Ms. Keating reported that Policies #5090.7 and #5120.3.4 are being presented for third reading and will be voted on later in the meeting.

Ms. Keating also noted that the following policies - Policy # 4118 – Tenure and Policy #4112.8/4212.8 – Nepotism: Employment of Relatives went the Policy Committee this evening and now being presented to the full Board for first reading.

Policy #4118 – Tenure

Changes to this policy were suggested by CAFE when they reviewed the district's policies in November 2013. At that time, they suggested the policy be replaced, noting specifically that tenure is achieved, not "granted".

Policy #4050 – Nepotism: Employment of Relatives

This policy is being update to more clearly define both employment arrangements and relations. At the time of CABE’s policy audit, it was suggested the policy be recoded (4112.8/4212.8) and specifically that this covers both certified and non-certified personnel.

6.4. Finance Committee

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

No report was given.

6.5. LEARN Liaison

Liaison: Katie Stein

Ms. Stein reported on the following:

Terry Contant, LEARN Science Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator presented on the next generation Science Standards.

Eileen Howley reported on the legislative session items currently being discussed (i.e. Regional Calendar and State Tests being uncoupled from teacher evaluations)

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

Mr. Bob Hale talked about the Board of Selectmen asking for special appropriations, from the Board of Finance, to use part of the undesignated fund balance to offset the mill rate. In addition, to offsetting the mill rate, they asked for additional funds to help fund the CIP.

Mr. Bennett Pudlin talked about the fact that the Board of Finance approved the Board of Selectmen’s recommended budget to go to referendum, unchanged.

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

8.1. Bills Payable: \$469,923.55 - 2015-2016 Budget

8.2. Line Transfers: \$42,361.49

8.3. Donation: \$2,347.00 - 3rd and 4th grade spring field trips to the Eli Whitney Museum and Mystic Seaport for students of Island Avenue Elementary School from Island Avenue Elementary PTO.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Atty. Klaskin thanked the Island Avenue Elementary School PTO for their generous donation.

9. Action Item: Minutes of the March 8, 2016 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Cawley to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Fitzgerald

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

10. Action Item: To approve Policy #5090.7 – Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, Inhalants, and Performance-Enhancing Substances.

MOTION: by Policy Committee to approve Policy #5090.7 – Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, Inhalants, and Performance-Enhancing Substances.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

11. Action Item: To approve Policy #5120.3.4 – Managing Student Food Allergies and Glycogen Storage Disease

MOTION: by Policy Committee to approve Policy #5120.3.4 – Managing Student Food Allergies and Glycogen Storage Disease.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

12. Action Item: Schedule Daniel Hand High School Commencement Ceremony (Ref. Policy #6030)

MOTION: by Bowler seconded by Klaskin to schedule the Daniel Hand High School Commencement Ceremony for June 10, 2016

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Daniel Hand High School Commencement Ceremony has been scheduled for June 10, 2016.

The last day of school for the entire District is scheduled for June 10, 2016.

13. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

14. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were discussed.

15. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

March/April Calendars

16. Adjournment

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Approved at the 4/5/16 BOE Meeting
LAF