Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
May 03, 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 7:34 p.m. Chairman Fitzgerald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jessica Bowler; Galen Cawley; 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.

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

2.1. Recognition:

2.1.1. National Nurses Week - May 6-10, 2016

In honor of National Nurses Week, May 6 – 12, Superintendent Scarice introduced school nurses Stephanie Bulyk from Ryerson, Karen Owen from Polson, Millie Gentile from Island Avenue, Dashana Kyttle from TCLC and Maura Cutler from Jeffrey. Superintendent Scarice gave a brief history of National Nurses Week and thanked the nurses for the important role they play in the district.

2.2. Public Participation

No comments were made.

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

Mr. Hughes reported that freshman orientation is scheduled for May 20. Plans include a pep rally, wearing of class colors, and possible tug-of-war.

Ms. Calvert reported that the Star & MADE theatre groups will be performing. These groups are run by students whereby a student is chosen to write and direct a play. This year, Star's performance will focus on abuse & violence between teenagers and MADE will resurrect a prior Star play regarding teen drinking and will be appropriate for middle school students. Ms. Calvert also reported that the senior class trip will be to the Roger Williams Zoo.

4. Superintendent's Report
Thomas R. Scarice

Superintendent Scarice introduced Art Sickle, Director Admin. Services and Manager of Food Services, and Rita Boland, District and Town Webmaster. Mr. Joe Barraco, Director of Food Services, and Mr. Tom O'Donnell, Chartwells' Regional Director were present as well. The school lunch program, and the option to no longer participate in the program, was discussed during the Planning Committee this evening.

4.1. School Lunch Program - Arthur Sickle

Mr. Sickle spoke to the district's participation in the National School Lunch Program and the Connecticut Health Foods Certification Program. While the intent of the program(s) is admirable, they are extremely restrictive. Mr. Sickle reviewed the District's responsibilities, and discussed the proposed changes at each level. The District is proposing only a few modest changes to the elementary school food service program, while Brown Middle School will be offered additional a la carte items, scratch baked items, and grade level appropriate portion sizes. The majority of the change would occur at Polson and Hand, including the same changes as at the K-6 level. A base meal will continue to be available; however, additional "packages" will be offered, portion sizes will increase, and breakfast options will be expanded. All students will be encouraged to select fruits and vegetables, but will no longer be forced to take them. In addition, the District would maintain the free & reduced lunch program.

Mr. Sickle anticipates that by no longer participating in the National School Lunch Program, the district will incur less waste and student participation would improve with the implementation of a more creative menu, guided by the Wellness Policy.

4.2. Special Education Program Update - Elizabeth Battaglia

Superintendent Scarice spoke to the special education program analysis that was conducted through LEARN and introduced Dr. Liz Battaglia, Special Education Director, who provided an update to the Planning Committee this evening.

Dr. Battaglia provided background information on the study and discussed how the information was gathered, the guiding essential questions, and the systems of practice. Dr. Battaglia reviewed out placement costs as compared to other districts and reviewed the commendations as well as recommendations outlined by LEARN. Although enrollment has declined, the district has had an increase in students with special educational needs.

4.3. Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Update

Report will be given during the Financial Committee Report

4.4. Other Matters - none

5. Board Members' Comments

Mr. Klaskin congratulated VIBE, the DHHS Show Choir, and recognized they are amongst they placed within the top 5 in the National Finals in Chicago at the end of April.

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 items from the April 19, 2016 Planning Committee meeting.

School Utilization Study

The Planning Committee reviewed the School Utilization Study and decided to pause this work briefly until the ECS funding issue has been decided by the Legislature and the three boards have worked together to address any potential shortfall in funding. The tri-board meeting scheduled for May 3rd has been postponed and will be rescheduled as soon as we reengage with this work.

Polson Middle School Roof project

The Polson Middle School roof project is on time and on schedule. The solar piece continues to be looked at along with 6 other town buildings.

School Lunch Program

Art Sickle presented a proposal regarding the National School Lunch Program and Madison possibly deciding to come off of this program for next school year. We feel that this would allow us to increase choices at our cafeterias, make menu improvements and therefore increase participation. Through this process we will try to maintain pricing but some increases will be seen mostly at Walter C. Polson Middle School and Daniel Hand High School. Whole Grain and healthy options would still be available but would allow us to go back to regular portion sizes and bring back items like soup. Either way, Chartwells would still be our service provider and partner moving forward as they were the only company to respond to the recent RFP.

Ms. Bowler reported on the following items from the May 3, 2016 Planning Committee meeting.

Special Education Program Update

Dr. Battaglia discussed the sped program this evening. We will be implementing a program for students with emotional needs at Jeffrey Elementary beginning with the 2016/2017 school year.

Textbook Adoption

Mrs. Dahling-Hench spoke about the textbook requiring approval, *Java Methods*, which is one of only a few books on the approved list for helping students prep for the AP exam. Another new textbook for algebra will also require approval.

6.2. Personnel Committee

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

Mr. Dean reported that progress is being made with MAESS; two meetings have occurred since the last board meeting and two more meetings are scheduled for this month.

6.3. Policy Committee

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

6.3.1. Policy #4118 - Tenure (Third Reading)

6.3.2. Policy #4112.8/4212.8 - Nepotism: Employment of Relatives (Third Reading)

Ms. Keating reported the Policy #4118 – Tenure and Policy #4112.8/4212.8 - Nepotism: Employment of Relatives are being presented tonight for third reading. A motion to approve the Policies will take place later in the meeting.

6.4. Finance Committee

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

Ms. Mead reported that ECS Funding was the topic of conversation. The Finance Committee met with Superintendent Scarice and decided no action will be taken on the 15/16 budget; however, action will be taken to modify the 16/17 budget. We know that as a result of the diminished ECS funding, cuts are inevitable. The committee took action to recommend modifying 16/17 budget and a motion will be proposed later in the meeting.

6.5. LEARN Liaison

Liaison: Katie Stein

No report was given.

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: $797.13 2014-2015 Budget and $731,233.54 - 2015-2016 Budget

8.2. Line Transfers: $128,972.07

8.3. Budget Expenditure as of April 27, 2016

8.4. Donation: $1,441.40 to J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School from Box Tops for Education for school resources.

8.5. Donation: $1,500.00 to Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School from Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School PTO for the grade 6 field trip to Lake Compounce.

MOTION: by Alison Keating, seconded by Seth Klaskin to approve the Consent Agenda.
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Klaskin; Marino; Mead; Stein
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

9. Action Item: Minutes of the April 5, 2016 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Galen Cawley, seconded by John Dean, to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Klaskin; Marino; Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Mead
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

10. Action Item: Minutes of the April 5, 2016 Board of Education Retreat

MOTION: by Alison Keating, seconded by Seth Klaskin, to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2016 Board of Education Retreat.
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Klaskin; Marino; Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Mead
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

11. Action Item: To approve Policy #4118 – Tenure

MOTION: by Policy Committee to approve Policy #4118 – Tenure
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Klaskin; Marino; Mead; Stein
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

12. Action Item: To approve Policy #4112.8/4212.8 - Nepotism: Employment of Relatives

MOTION: by Policy Committee to approve Policy #4112.8/4212.8 - Nepotism: Employment of Relatives
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Klaskin; Marino; Mead; Stein
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

13. Action Item: To modify 2016-2017 Board of Education adopted budget

Mr. Klaskin and Ms. Stein expressed their concern about removing any funds from the carefully drafted budget that had already been approved unanimously by the Board of Selectmen, but they also acknowledged the difficult state of fiscal affairs we are facing as a state. In agreeing to reduce the schools budget as a good faith act of the Board of Education to cooperate under these circumstances, to the benefit of the town, they appealed to members of the Board of Selectman and Board of Finance present to commit to a pro rata return of any funds to the district that are left untouched by the state's ultimate reduction in ECS funding to the town."

MOTION: by Finance Committee to modify 2016-2017 Board of Education adopted budget, including a $300,000 reduction, for a total recommended budget of $55,486,204.
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Klaskin; Marino; Mead; Stein
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

14. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

15. Future Agenda Items: National School Lunch Program Participation action item for May 17, 2016 Agenda.

16. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)
May-June calendars attached.

17. Adjournment

MOTION: by John Dean, seconded by Alison Keating, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.
AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Dean; Fitzgerald; Keating; Klaskin; Marino; Mead; Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Approved at the June 7, 2016 BOE Meeting
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