

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
January 23, 2018
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 Alison Keating at 7:34 p.m. Chairman Keating led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jessica Bowler; Galen Cawley; Alison Keating; Seth Klaskin; Happy Marino; Violet McNerney; Emily Rosenthal

Katie Stein entered the meeting at 7:44 p.n.

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

2. Action Item: To add Executive Session to the agenda

MOTION: by Bowler seconded by Klaskin to add Executive Session to the agenda.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating; Klaskin
Marino; McNerney; Rosenthal

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

3. Action Item: To enter into Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation

MOTION: by Bowler seconded by Klaskin to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Pending Litigation at 7:35 p.m.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating; Klaskin;
Marino; McNerney; Rosenthal

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

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

2.1. Recognition: State Champions in football, boys soccer and girls field hockey

Superintendent Scarice noted that the District's athletic program experienced a great deal of success this past fall. Three of our varsity programs won the state championship in their respective sports. Superintendent Scarice asked the coaches and captains of the football, boys soccer and girls field hockey to introduce themselves to the Board. Each of the coach spoke about their team and how proud they are of their players. The

Board members congratulated the players and coaches on their successful year

2.2. Public Participation

No comments were made.

5. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report Emily Baker and Ryan Tomicic

Emily and Ryan reported on the following.

Students are in the middle of the scheduling process. The teachers have done a great job explaining course options.

The 2022 class (current 8th graders) had a presentation on the scheduling process that takes place at DHHS.

Mid-year celebration will take place this Friday.

Student leadership meeting was held last week. The focus was on ways to change the stressful environment when its exam time.

Show Boat will take place on February 23rd.

Orchestra will take place on January 31st with free admission.

6. Superintendent's Report Thomas R. Scarice

6.1. International Service Learning Peru, 2019

Josh Hibbard and Kristin Mancini and Anthony Salutari

Superintendent Scarice stated that a few years ago the District revisited the topic of international field trips for students. Following 9/11, many districts abandoned the practice of international field trips. Since then, the international field trips have been widely supported by our faculty, students, parents, and the Board, and they have been very successful.

Josh Hibbard and Kristin Mancini presented the Board with an overview of the International Service Learning Peru, 2019. They stated that this would be a service trip and somewhat more rustic than the Districts traditional trips. EF would be the Tour Company and any student who has completed Spanish 3 could attend. It is a 10 day trip. It would be a maximum of 24 students with the ideal being 20. It will be a 6 student to 1 chaperon ratio. There are pricing benefits to be taken advantage of if booked by mid-February. Mr. Hibbard and Ms. Mancini asked the Board to add an agenda item for tonight to vote on this trip.

6.2. 2018-2019 Superintendent's Recommended Budget: Discussion

Superintendent Scarice: Moving on – the next item is the Admin Team – the Superintendent's recommended budget – it's an opportunity for discussion, it is an action item on the agenda later

on this evening. I would be happy to turn it over to the Board members or I can make a couple of comments before.

I just want to be very clear that the holy trinity of the Board is policy, the superintendent, and the budget and when the budget is adopted, I will honor that with fidelity. I'll defend that budget as we go through the Board of Finance, the Board of Selectmen and the community for our public hearings. I gave a rather prolonged series of comments at the Finance Committee meeting which I will only just abbreviate for purposes of this meeting.

I think that public boards are at their strongest when processes are very clear, open and out there and I certainly want this to be a kind of learning experience. I think that as a new Board coming together and working forward probably for a few more budgets and bigger decisions down the road, that we do our best to get as much out there in questions and concerns and affirmations and comments and so forth. I feel that hasn't been the opportunity that we have had. And moving forward, I think we can fix that. I think that is easy to fix. I just want to note that we have the educational leaders, and I consider an incredible team of experts, in the room who are ready to implement whatever is approved by the Board, but I also believe that speaking on behalf of that team's recommendations I just want to make a couple of comments. We certainly would love the opportunity, if there is a reduction in the budget that was recommended, to make a recommendation to the Board. We certainly feel capable and strong enough and I bet at 7:30 tomorrow morning that the whole team would be right in this room with the same exact processes that we put in place to try to make some hard decisions early for the Board. And that is the history of 6 budgets that I have done with the Admin Team. We feel the best thing we can do is take the budget assumptions and try to do the heavy lifting up front because that is the hard part. I see some other approaches where the easy part is given it all that Board and let the chips fall. We haven't done that and we won't do that and that is our commitment. But we would love to have an opportunity to rethink that if there is definitely, going forward, a reduction which we understand is the case. That said, the two programs that I know we feel very strongly about based on our recommendations is the expansion of our literacy program and having that coach there because of the type of work we are doing and getting into the high school and the work there that needs to be done, but also as we expressed, building on the success of the ESS program which what we had a presentation in December which Dr. Battaglia gave. The success we are seeing with the kids there...being able to start earlier. We certainly feel we can meet the needs of being reasonable in the economic times and we feel the budget came in at a very reasonable number already. But if there's a reconsideration for that number, we certainly feel we can do some good work for the Board, on behalf of the Board. That said, I will wrap it up by saying whatever the Board adopts we are going to implement with fidelity and I am going to swing as hard as I can in representing that to the community, to the subsequent boards and do everything I can to make sure those pass and whatever the Boards wishes are we are going to implement and do the great work that we always do. So on behalf of the Admin Team and myself, I just wanted to make a couple of comments there and open up.

Mr. Klaskin: My understanding is that in the past, as a time-honored tradition, whenever the Board has reviewed the Superintendent's recommended budget – it has been a dual-process through the Finance Committee and also the Board as a whole because the Finance Committee cannot act on behalf of the Board – it just has to bring motions to the Board and the Board relies on the committee's structure to get information so that it can have an informed vote. But in the past, most often, if not always been the case since I have been on the Board, that when recommendations have come from either the Finance Committee, or from the Board as a committee of the whole, to cut back or to offer suggestions for cutting on the superintendent's recommended budget, that the superintendent be given an opportunity to consider the line items of concern, to reconsider the budget recommendations, and to come back with a new recommendation that might either adopt the recommendations of the Board, or may address the

concerns of the Board, or may offer cuts in other areas, and that's been at the discretion of the Superintendent. I, for one, would like to see that continue because I don't feel, even with our acumen in financial matters, that we should be supplanting the judgement and the educated experience of the administrators and the superintendent, and we should allow them to shape the budget with our recommendations and requests for revisions.

Superintendent Scarice: I think both have happened in the past in fairness. I think there have been times, and I don't have exact examples, but a program may have felt like it was a hot button issue so it may have been dialed back. But I think by and large, I would always advocate that the folks who are here live this every single day and who I believe know what's best in their buildings that we have a chance to kind of re-prioritize that. I would always advocate for that but I do recognize and fully believe in the Board of Education's right to take action. It's your budget, it is not mine after tonight, it's your budget and then I act on behalf to advocate for your budget. And, I will say my colleagues around the region would love to have a Board that owns their budget, and I never have to worry about that. I am very, very grateful for that.

Ms. Rosenthal: I would like to second what Seth said and curious if it is possible if we are set on a certain amount of increase for the budget if we were to say can you do some moving around if you would have the time to do so and bring something back to us? I know it would take time but I would support and I know this is important to the district and if this is what your recommendation is can we revisit it.

Superintendent Scarice: From a technical perspective, and I am going to look at Stacy, we would need to call a special meeting.

Ms. Nobitz: I would think so due to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance next Tuesday.

Superintendent Scarice: Is that by charter next Tuesday?

Ms. Nobitz: No, it is be the adopted calendar.

Superintendent Scarice: What's the charter, do you know?

Ms. Nobitz: A certain timeframe, but based on the calendars both approved by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance and you all, it's by January 30.

Superintendent Scarice: Which is next Tuesday, so we would need a special meeting. So the answer is technically yes, pragmatically, we would get together and do that.

Ms. McNerney: Does that give you enough time?

Superintendent Scarice: I think the team would do what we can. Certainly to do that but it would also be incumbent upon the Board meeting which I know is a challenge.

Ms. Marimo: The only thing I would like to say is in addition to the comments - I think that what you are talking about would have to be approved by the Board as a whole, so that is a separate issue than the one we are discussing tonight, voting on tonight. And then in terms of the 2 programs, I think you do have Board support of those programs, and nobody was advocating removing them entirely, it was just a postponement. So I think it's important for everybody to understand it was purely looking at a postponement given were we are this year.

Ms. Bowler: To piggyback onto that, not to belabor. But it felt like we had the conversation two weeks ago at this Board meeting where we talked about those were the two items in jeopardy of being cut – and yes they were going to be postponed and not off the table. And I guess I’m surprised to hear now that people want to go back. Because I didn’t hear that conversation two weeks ago when we were at the Board meeting.

Mr. Klaskin: This people was not at that Board meeting.

Ms. Bowler: I’m just a little surprised.

6.3. Other Matters

Superintendent Scarice stated that 3 residents of Madison will be participating in this year’s winter Olympics.

Superintendent Scarice noted that furniture replacement will be taking place at Jeffrey and Ryerson in 2019.

7. Board Members' Comments

Ms. Stein stated that she attended the Board of Selectman meeting last night. Ms. Stein stated that the presentation from the LEAD students on the Bi-Annual student survey findings was wonderful and eye opening.

Mr. Klaskin noted that VIBE competition started last weekend and DHHS almost swept winning all categories.

Mr. Klaskin noted that the VIBE Cabaret took place on January 7 and thanked everyone for their contributions and support for the fundraiser that will help VIBE to travel to Show Choir Nationals in March.

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

8.1. Planning Committee

Members: Jessica Bowler, Chair; Galen Cawley, Katie Stein

Ms. Bowler reported on the following:

Balanced Scorecard:

Superintendent Scarice, Ms. Dahling-Hench and the team are continuing to work on this behind the scenes and Superintendent Scarice and Ms. Dahling-Hench will be bringing this to the full Board of Education in February.

We reviewed the strategy map and the 14 objectives that will respond to the stakeholder outcomes. We drilled down on one of the objectives today with Superintendent Scarice and Ms. Dahling-Hench – Stimulate Innovative instructional methods – so we could see how the process has been laid out.

The operational definition for each objective answers these three questions –

1 – Why is it important?

2 – How are we going to accomplish it?

3 – What are we trying to accomplish?

The initiative objective matrix demonstrates that our strategic initiatives serve numerous objectives and shows where things inter-connect for our district.

Each initiative has a one page charter and shows the milestones and the status of those milestones – not started, in progress, complete, etc

This balanced score card really puts a system and process in place to allow us to circle back on all of the initiatives of the district.

We look forward to reviewing it with you all at the next meeting.

International Service Learning Trip to Peru, 2019:

Josh Hibbard, Kristin Mancini and Anthony Salutari came to speak about a proposed trip to Peru for Summer 2019.

This would be a service trip and somewhat more rustic than our traditional trips.

EF would be the Tour Company and any student who has completed Spanish 3 could attend. It is a 10 day trip. There are pricing benefits to be taken advantage of by 1/26 and 1/31 so I am asking that we add an agenda item for tonight to vote on this trip.

I would like to move that we add an agenda item to vote on the Peru Service Learning Trip to Peru summer 2019.

World Language Curriculum Implementation Update:

Kristin Mancini spoke to us about the 16 world language classes that are now being piloted at the high school. The feedback from the teachers so far has been very positive. Edits are being suggested to the curriculum – mainly adding links and additional information that they have learned now that they have taught this to actual students. Allowing the curriculum documents to be living documents as was the intent.

Benefits are being seen now that everyone is teaching from the same documents and curriculum – the teachers are collaborating and communicating more about lesson planning, common assessments, grading and even visiting each other's classrooms.

10 Year Capital Facilities Plan Discussion:

Mr. Bill McMinn and Superintendent Scarice clarified that what they are working on with Colliers is the 10 year CIP or Capital Projects Plan which includes –

MEP – mechanicals, engineering and plumbing

Architecture

Security

Storage

Athletics (Track, Polson Turf)

School Libraries

This plan will come to planning and the full board March 6th or March 20th for review and comments. This is to stay on track to approve before the June 30th CIP deadline.

We also discussed the Planned and Cycled Maintenance 10 year plan which would include –

Floors and Carpets
Painting
General Building Maintenance
Furniture replacement plans

The goal for this plan is for planning and the full board review in September so that we can see the plans prior to creating the budget assumptions.

8.2. Personnel Committee

Members: Matt Parthasarthy, Chair, Seth Klaskin, Violet McNerney

No report was given.

8.3. Policy Committee

Members: Seth Klaskin Chair; Emily Rosenthal, Violet McNerney

8.3.1. Policy #4170 Restraint and Seclusion (Second Reading)

8.3.2. Policy #5200 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 (Nondiscrimination) (Second Reading)

8.3.3. Policy #6080.21.1 English Learner Students (Second Reading)

Mr. Klaskin stated that the Policy Committee met earlier this evening. The two topics on the agenda were the following:

2018-2019 School Year Calendar

There were a few minor changes to the calendar. The calendar will go back to the Planning Committee on 2/13/18 and then to the full Board that evening.

Facilities Committee: Discussion

It was brought to the attention of the Policy Committee that there were some members uncomfortable with the process of adding a Facilities Committee. Mr. Klaskin thanked the Board for their feedback. Mr. Klaskin stated that the process may take longer than anticipated. The Policy Committee will continue to work on making the decision of adding the additional Committee.

Ms. Keating made note of the above listed policies that they are being presented tonight for second reading.

8.4. Finance Committee

Members: Happy Marino, Chair; Galen Cawley, Matt Parthasarthy

Ms. Marino reported on the following:

The finance committee met tonight and voted unanimously to recommend a 2018-2019 budget of \$58,103,711 which represents a 2.08% increase over 2017-2018.

8.5. LEARN Liaison

Emily Rosenthal

No report was given. Ms. Rosenthal stated she will be attending her first meeting in a couple of weeks.

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

No comments were made.

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

10.1. Bills Payable: \$1,995.85 2016-2017 Budget and \$505,226.96 2017-2018 Budget

10.2. Line Transfers: \$35,214.96

10.3. Donation: \$5,000.00 from J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School PTO to J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School for classroom furniture, classroom rug in 2nd grade, speakers for assemblies and T-shirts for 4th grade PBA.

10.4. Donation: \$1,508.00 from Island Avenue Elementary School PTO to Island Avenue Elementary School to fund field trips.

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

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating;

Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Mr. Klaskin thanked J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School PTO and Island Avenue Elementary School PTO for their generous donations.

11. Action Item: Minutes of the January 9, 2018 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Bowler seconded by Stein to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2018 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating;

Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Rosenthal; Stein

ABSTAIN: Klaskin

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

12. Action Item: To approve the removal of used books and equipment (Ref. Policy #3260) (on file)

MOTION: by Marino seconded by Bowler to approve the removal of used books and equipment.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating;

Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

13. Action Item: To approve the 2018-2019 Budget

MOTION: by Finance Committee to approve the 2018-2019 Budget

AYES: Bowler; Keating; Marino; McNerney;

NAYS: Klaskin, Rosenthal, Stein

ABSTAIN: Cawley

MOTION CARRIED: 4-3

Mr. Klaskin stated that he was opposed to the budget with the reduction of the literacy coach and the ESS positions for the budget year in discussion. Mr. Klaskin stated that both of these are extremely important programs.

14. Action Item: To add an action item for the Peru Service Learning Trip to Peru summer 2019.

MOTION: by Planning Committee to add an action item for the Peru Service Learning Trip to Peru summer 2019.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating;

Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

15. Action Item: To approve the Peru Service Learning Trip to Peru summer 2019

MOTION: by Planning Committee to approve the Peru Service Learning Trip to Peru summer 2019

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating;

Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

16. Old Business

No new business was discussed.

17. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Marino asked that there be a presentation to the full Board regarding the potential Facilities Committee.

18. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)
January/February 2018

19. Adjournment

MOTION: by Bowler seconded by Klaskin to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating;
Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Approved at the 2/13/18 BOE Meeting.