

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
April 10, 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 Katie Stein at 7:35 p.m. Chairman Stein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jessica Bowler; Galen Cawley; Greg DeSantis; Seth Klaskin; Happy Marino; Violet McNerney; Emily Rosenthal; Katie Stein

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

2. Executive Session: To discuss the contract of employment for two employees to not be renewed for the following year based upon a reduction in force, upon its expiration at the end of the 2017 – 2018 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action.”

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by DeSantis to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the contract of employment for two employees to not be renewed for the following year, based upon a reduction in force, upon its expiration at the end of the 2017 – 2018 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action.” 7:35 p.m.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

3. Action Item: To add a MOTION to the agenda to accept the resignation of Matt Parthasarthy as a member of the Board of Education

MOTION: by Bowler seconded by Klaskin to add a MOTION to the agenda to accept the resignation of Matt Parthasarthy as a member of the Board of Education.

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

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

4.1. Recognition

4.1.1. National Library Week - April 8-14, 2018

Superintendent Scarice stated that the first National Library Week was sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. This is an opportunity to celebrate the work of our libraries and in particular, the contributions of our Library Media Specialists. In the mid-1950s, research showed that Americans were spending less on books and more on radios, televisions and musical instruments. The first National Library Week was observed in 1958 with the theme "Wake Up and Read!"

National Library Week 2018 celebration which is themed "Libraries Lead" will mark the 60th anniversary of the first event, sponsored in 1958.

Superintendent Scarice, Ms. Dahling-Hench and the Board members thanked the librarians and the library paraprofessionals for their hard work and dedication.

4.2. 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:

The students are looking forward to April break.

Pep rally will take place this Friday.

The Sound of Music play took place this past weekend.

STAR a performance which is student directed and acted is in the works.

Career Fair was a big success. There were over 70 businesses in attendance.

On March 14th a student "walkout" took place. The students also participated in a "lay in" for 3 minutes which is the approximate time it takes someone to purchase a gun. The students have started a group called Violence to Voices to keep the message going and to not be just about one day. A rally is scheduled to take place on the Madison Green on April 20th. PAW meeting is scheduled to discuss what else can be done.

Last week there was a code yellow at DHHS. At 7:18 AM an administrator was notified about the threat at 7:25 AM the student was identified and by 7:26 AM the student was in the principal's office.

6. Superintendent's Report

Thomas R. Scarice

6.1. Balanced Scorecard

Superintendent Scarice stated that he wanted to make sure that the Board is comfortable with the information provided regarding the Balanced Scorecard. Superintendent Scarice stated that he is happy to meet with the board members individually or in small groups to discuss.

Superintendent Scarice noted that the returning Board members have had access to numerous presentations on the Balanced Scorecard approach, which is a methodology for capturing the overall vision and strategy of an organization, in either the public or private sector. First year Board members have been provided with an initial introduction to this approach. Superintendent Scarice noted that the administrators have been working on this for the past year.

The vision statement was adopted by the BOE in August 2013. The vision statement embeds a purpose/mission (i.e. “prepare all learners to make a unique, positive contribution in a complex global society”) and identifies specific student outcomes in bulleted form which provide the basis, in conjunction with academic standards, for all district curriculum documents.

District Theory of Action are belief statements about “how” the district will approach the vision work. This document was adopted by the BOE in December 2014 following a period of development. The belief statements are framed in a “if...then...” form, which is guided by the “Theory of Action”, or also referred as a, “Theory of Change” method.

There are 14 strategic objectives (i.e. P1-P9, T1-T3, R1-R2) which support the stakeholder outcomes (i.e. S1-S3).

The Board members would get updates on the Balanced Scorecards roughly 3x a year. There will, however, be some measures that would be available on an annual basis.

Ms. McNerney asked about adding an item to measure student exit interviews.

Action will be taken at a later date to formally adopt the Balanced Scorecard.

6.2. Other Matters

Superintendent Scarice reported that the current kindergarten enrollment for 2018-2019 is 125 with a projected 138. If the kindergarten enrollment continues to increase there is the potential of having to add an additional kindergarten class.

Superintendent Scarice stated that he would be sending out an enotify tomorrow to parents regarding school district going from six schools to five for the 2019-2020 school year with the closure of Island Avenue School

Island Avenue students will transition to Jeffrey School, and some Jeffrey School students will transition to Ryerson School.

7. Board Members' Comments

No comments were made.

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

8.1. Planning Committee

Members: Jessica Bowler, Chair; Emily Rosenthal, Happy Marino

Ms. Bowler reported on the following:

English Language Learners

Mary Beth Sarr came to talk about the ELL Learners she works with in our District. From 2012 to today the number of students has more than doubled from 17 students to 36 students across all of our schools. Mary Beth works with individuals and groups. Google Docs also allow her to support her students on writing assignments even when she is not with them. The district intervention document has been updated to include English Language Learners. This document is used by teachers in their classrooms especially after the ELL student achieves a Level 4 or 5 and are back in their classrooms without the specific ELL support.

Polson Schedule Changes

Frank Henderson and Becky Frost came to talk about the changes in related arts and study hall one year later. As a reminder the changes and additions to the related arts offerings did not require any additional staff. Overall these changes were a great success. Most kids were able to get their first and second choices and no complaints were made and no student wanted to move or drop their class. Study hall was removed and turned into a 20 minute Pride Period for all students. Learning from year 1 on the related arts choices were to combine some offerings into 1 course – for example Computer Coding and Robotics will be Technology Engineering next school year. This will continue to be an area that Frank and Becky review for Continuous Process Improvements as they learn from each year.

Review building reconfiguration planning timeline

We reviewed the draft timeline and close up view of BoE actions and timelines. We will continue to review and update this over the coming weeks and months.

8.2. Personnel Committee

Members: Matt Parthasarthy, Chair, Violet McNerney, Greg DeSantis

Ms. McNerney reported on the following:

The Personnel Committee met yesterday to discuss the dates and times of the upcoming Teamster negotiation meetings.

8.3. Policy Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal Chair; Violet McNerney, Seth Klaskin

Ms. Rosenthal stated that the committee has not met since the last BOE meeting. Policy #4141 Social Networking will be going back to the Policy Committee and the

full Board on April 24, 2018. Also, Bylaw #9400 – Organization of the School Board will go to the Policy Committee on April 24, 2018 with a minor change.

8.4. Finance Committee

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

Mr. Marino reported on the following:

The Finance Committee reviewed the 2017-2018 budget spending and forecast to date. Of note is the special education spending which may need to be monitored to determine if we should utilize the special education reserve fund. Additionally, areas of commitment and potential savings were identified. The Finance Committee will continue to keep an eye on these areas to determine if any money will be available to be utilized for the ESS position as discussed and approved in prior meetings.

8.5. LEARN Liaison

Emily Rosenthal

No report was given. Next meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2018.

8.6. Facilities Committee

Members: Seth Klaskin, Chair, Galen Cawley, Greg DeSantis

Mr. Klaskin reported on the following:

The Facilities Committee met on March 27th and also hosted a Ten Year Plan (10YP) Workshop for the Board on April 3rd.

At the March 27th meeting, the committee first addressed the 10YP, focusing on the priority ranking method to be applied. The Superintendent and Facilities Director, along with consultant Chip Phillips from Colliers, International, set forth the District's proposed prioritization ranking method. The committee discussed the proposal at length before ultimately adopting it, along with recommendations for how to display the prioritization within the 10YP Document.

The committee then discussed a plan for the upcoming 10YP Board Workshop, with the goal of preparing an agenda and assigning roles to ensure an efficient workshop.

The committee meeting ended with a discussion of the treatment of security within the plan. The committee agreed that security can be discussed publicly in a general sense, but that the Board needs to protect any information that could expose vulnerabilities in a public forum. There is an exception to the FOIA laws for just this purpose and the committee will work with the District and the Board to ensure a balance between the appropriate protection of information that could compromise student and staff security if divulged, on the one hand, and open public disclosure and discussion of information that would not compromise security, on the other hand.

The Workshop on April 3 went very well. General feedback was solicited, and all present were complimentary of the approach, the 10YP Spreadsheet document, and the huge amount of thought and backup data amassed to support the value judgments to be made by the District and the Board. Board members also discussed and understood the need to protect certain sensitive security information from public disclosure. Board

members were invited to spend some time reviewing the line items and the proposed ordering of projects. The goal is for all Board members to have ample opportunity for input over the next couple months, knowing this will ultimately be an adopted Board document subject to a Board vote. As Chair of the Facilities Committee, I invited – and continue to invite – input, ideas, and any questions from Board members as this process unfolds going forward.

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

Mr. Bruce Wilson noted that the Balanced Scorecard is a potentially powerful tool. Mr. Wilson asked that the Board help Tom drive the culture. The Board should let the District know that this is in the front of their minds. Mr. Wilson stated that he applauded the effort and that the District is fortunate to have Superintendent Scarice and Ms. Dahling-Hench moving forward with this.

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

10.1. Bills Payable: \$5,616.00 2016-2017 Budget - \$924,969.52 2017-2018 Budget

10.2. Line Transfers: \$268,424.07

10.3. Budget Expenditure as of April 5, 2018

10.4. Donation: \$2,975.00 from Daniel Hand High School PTO to Daniel Hand High School PE Department for PE classes at all levels and after school sports.

MOTION: by DeSantis seconded by Rosenthal to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Mr. Klaskin thanked the Daniel Hand High School PTO for their generous donation.

11. Action Item: Minutes of the March 20, 2018 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by McNerney seconded by DeSantis to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2018 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; McNerney; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Marino

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

12. Action Item: To approve the minutes of the March 20, 2018 Board of Education Retreat

MOTION: by Cawley seconded by Klaskin to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2018 Board of Education Retreat.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; McNerney; Rosenthal; Stein

ABSTAIN: Marino

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

13. Action Item: To approve the April 2019 Sicily Trip

MOTION: by Planning to approve the April 2019 Sicily Trip

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

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

MOTION: by DeSantis seconded by Rosenthal to schedule Daniel Hand High School Commencement Ceremony for June 25, 2018.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Time of the Daniel Hand High School Commencement Ceremony is yet to be determined. The Commencement Ceremony will take place on the Madison Green.

15. Action Item: To accept the resignation of Matt Parthasarthy as a member of the Board of Education

MOTION: by Bowler seconded by Klaskin to accept the resignation of Matt Parthasarthy as a member of the Board of Education

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

- 16. Action Item:** To add an action item regarding the contract of employment for two employees to not be renewed for the following year, based upon a reduction in force, upon its expiration at the end of the 2017 – 2018 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action.”

MOTION: by Bowler seconded by McNerney to add an action item regarding the contract of employment for two employees to not be renewed for the following year, based upon a reduction in force, upon its expiration at the end of the 2017 – 2018 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action.”

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

- 17. Action Item:** Non-Renewal for 2015–2016 School Year

MOTION: by Bowler and seconded by McNerney that the contract for employment for Lori Grace and Allison O’Brien not be renewed for the following year, based upon a reduction in force, upon its expiration at the end of the 2017 – 2018 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person in writing of this action.”

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

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Mr. Klaskin stated that the Board appreciates all of the teachers and faculty. Mr. Klaskin stated that there is no joy in having to eliminate positions. Mr. Klaskin also stated that the elimination of these positions was not performance based.

- 18. Action Item:** To add a MOTION per the Superintendents recommendation to vote to have June 21, 2018 and June 22, 2018 be half days for the District.

MOTION: by Klaskin and seconded by DeSantis to add a MOTION per the Superintendents recommendation to vote to have June 21, 2018 and June 22, 2018 be half days for the District.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

19. Action Item: To vote to have June 21, 2018 and June 22, 2018 be half days for the District.

MOTION: by Bowler and seconded by McNerney
vote to have June 21, 2018 and June 22, 2018 be half days
for the District.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

20. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

21. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Marino requested that the entire Board review the District security plan.

22. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)
April/May 2018

Mr. Bruce Wilson stated that the next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2018 at noon. There are no items to take action on at this meeting.

23. Action Item: To enter into Executive Session to discuss District Security.

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by DeSantis to
enter into Executive Session to discuss
District Security at 8:40 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

24. Adjournment

MOTION: by DeSantis seconded by Klaskin
to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0