

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
September 25, 2018
7:30 PM
Town Campus Hammonasset Room**

MEETING MINUTES

“Full documentation of these proceedings can be found through on demand video located in the Meetings/Minutes section of the district website”

1. The public meeting of the Madison Board of Education was called to order by Chair Katie Stein at 7:34 p.m. Chairman Stein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Galen Cawley; Greg DeSantis; Seth Klaskin; Violet McNerney; Tom Pellegrino, 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. School / Community Session - 7:30 p.m.

- 2.1. Public Participation

No comments were made.

3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Ryan Tomicic and Jacqueline Sandor (Jacqueline did not attend the meeting)

The pep rally, senior picnic and home football game recently took place and everyone enjoyed themselves.

College planning is taking place tonight and is also scheduled for other dates.

4. Superintendent's Report

- 4.1. District Reconfiguration Update

Superintendent Scarice stated that we are on schedule for the upcoming tasks in the reconfiguration of the District. Parents can expect a comprehensive list of the transition activities for students and parents for the upcoming year to be shared this week. In addition, we are on schedule to share the new elementary District boundaries the week of October 1. This information will go out to parents next week. Staffing and programming continue to be perhaps the most significant focus of the administrative team as we aim to finalize recommendations by the end of October.

4.2. Strategic Plan/Balanced Scorecard Update

The administrative team recently completed the first “strategy review meeting” at our last administrative council meeting. Elements of the entire plan will be reviewed biweekly by the administrative team.

4.3. Other Matters

No other matters were discussed.

5. Board Members' Comments

Ms. Stein stated that the LEARN Liaison will be done on a rotating basis. Ms. Stein passed out a sign up sheet for each member to pick a date that they will be available to attend the LEARN meetings.

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

6.1. Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Galen Cawley, Chair; Emily Rosenthal; Kirk Barneby

Mr. Cawley reported the following:

The Curriculum Committee met this morning. I would like to begin by acknowledging my predecessor, Jessica Bowler, who is a tough act to follow. She made it look much easier than it actually is, because of the depth and breadth of her knowledge of the school system. I miss Jessica as a colleague.

Instrumental Music

The current arrangement for Grade 4 provides 40 minutes of instruction, 1 day per week. Concerning Grade 5, 28% of the students opted out of music last year by the solitary selection of Theater as an elective.

The new arrangement keeps the 40 minutes of instruction in Grade 4, 1 day per week and also adds 40 minutes per day for a 30 day period specifically for Instrumentals. All of Grade 5 students will also get the program described above. The administration is researching options to add an instrumental sectional for 5th graders. The instrumental music teachers collaborated on this plan and reached a consensus that it met their top three desired outcomes for all students, in terms of the following criteria:

- a) Inspiration: Growth Mindset - Excited about music
- b) Future Choices - I can have my individual growth contribute to playing music with others
- c) Technical - To be able to play and read rhythms.

The proposed plan adds more minutes for all students in general music and foundations in instrumentals and enables broader participation among all 5th graders. It is developmentally appropriate for 4th graders. As indicated above, sectionals are still being examined.

Exhibits - "Madison Public Schools - Grade 4 & 5 Instrumentals"
- Video of Louisville Leopard Percussionists

Safe schools professional development tool

The administration has conducted an extensive review of the State of Connecticut's mandatory training requirements on safety issues. It is a heavy compliance load. Safe schools is an online, self-paced training platform that enables teachers, staff, and administrators to more efficiently meet the requirements of their professional responsibilities. A chief virtue of this online system is that administrators are able to monitor performance and completion rates.

Update on Social / Emotional work

Becky Frost chairs this committee of more than 50 people. She gave an impressive report detailing its progress. Specifically, she talked about the three tiers of support and emphasized the success of the responsive classroom for all students, and restorative practices for those children in Tier 2 who need extra support.

The district's commitment to our students' social and emotional health was graphically illustrated by a chart showing increasing levels of staff participant hours devoted to professional development.

Curriculum revision and summer curriculum work

Ms. Dahling-Hench and her team are working hard to make this a seamless experience for students through the district's reconfiguration.

6.2. Communications Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal, Chair; Greg DeSantis, Kirk Barneby

No report was given. The first meeting will be held on October 9, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

6.3. Facilities Committee

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

Mr. Klaskin reported the following:

September 20th a Tri-Board meeting took place and was well attended. The meeting was mainly a Q&A regarding the 10 Year Master Plan.

Annual Report of the Madison Board of Education Facilities Committee September 25, 2018

Background:

In the 2017-2018 academic year, the Board of Education acted unanimously to adopt a Board Bylaw Amendment to create the *ad hoc* Facilities Committee (Committee). The charge of the committee is to serve as the committee of jurisdiction for all facilities-related matters, to adopt measures to be put to a Board vote, and to report back to the Board regularly on matters considered by the committee. The Committee was specifically charged with such duties as working with the district administration to develop a draft Ten-Year Master Facilities Maintenance Plan, a draft annual Five-year CIP Plan, and reporting annually in September to the Board on the activities and accomplishments of

the Committee over the past year. The negotiated status of the Committee included an automatic sunset provision to occur at the end of October 2020, unless the Board determines beforehand to continue the Committee's status in some form moving beyond that sunset date.

This document is the first Annual Report of the Facilities Committee. It will cover the accomplishments of the Committee since its inception, as well as existing and anticipated challenges and opportunities for the Committee to address in the new academic year and beyond.

Accomplishments:

- Formation, population, and normalization of the Committee – Once approved by the Board adoption vote, the Committee came together very quickly and established a regular meeting schedule.
- Committee adopted standing Agenda line items for a Superintendent Report, Director of Facilities Report, and Board Finance Committee Liaison Report at each regular meeting and established a Committee Member Liaison to the Board Finance Committee. The Director of Facilities Report has been an opportunity to address timely matters on which the Board will need to vote or matters of interest for the Committee's and Board's information. It has been an opportunity for representatives of the Board to provide input into the Director's work, while also receiving specific information on how the Director accomplishes his work. Allowing the Director freedom to report on matters of his choosing has fomented strong relations between the Committee and Director Bill McMinn, while he has been cooperative in responding to specific requests of the Committee, as well.
- Unanimous Board adoption on June 19, 2018 of Committee's recommended Ten-Year Master Facilities Maintenance Plan – The Committee held a workshop to introduce the Board to the draft Plan, then received, reviewed, and responded to Board member input prior to finalizing the draft for adoption. As part of this process, the Committee adopted a new automated tool that Director of Facilities McMinn developed with the assistance of our consultant, Colliers International, for the efficient documentation, versioning and planning of facilities maintenance.
- Committee organized and held a Tri-Board Meeting to introduce the Town Boards of Selectmen and Finance, as well as the public, to the consequential Ten-Year Master Facilities Maintenance Plan, to urge community input and inter-board collaboration.
- Unanimous Board adoption on June 19, 2018 of Committee's recommended Five-Year CIP Plan – The Committee introduced the draft CIP Plan to the Board, solicited input, considered the input, and then moved adoption of the CIP Plan. The Plan was adopted as proposed in final draft form.
- Close collaboration with the district and the Board's Facilities consultant, Colliers International, to employ best practices in facilities planning.
- The Committee took cognizance of and started to address a facility deficiency highlighted by the ongoing school reconfiguration project – The R.H. Brown Middle School lacks sufficient outdoor play space and accommodations and will require an appropriate Outdoor Play And Learning (OPAL) facility as it transitions into an Intermediate School. The Committee has met with representatives of the school committee formed to study this matter and to recommend best educational practices for the implementation of an appropriate OPAL facility. This work will continue into this new academic year and has already planned a public event at Brown School on October 2, 2018 to gather community input on the plan presented by the Brown School Playground Committee. The Facilities Committee included the full cost of the project as

proposed by the Brown School Playground Committee for purposes of setting a placeholder for the CIP program.

- Committee has been receiving updates and continually considering facility matters impacting school and school community security. The Committee prioritized school and school community security in its Ten-Year Master Facility Maintenance Plan that was adopted by the Board.
- The Committee considered a green energy-focused concept involving creative new use of sustainable solar energy. More study is needed on the rough concept and the Committee will continue to review this matter and others involving potential money-saving green initiatives over time.

Challenges and Opportunities for the Coming Year:

- The excess capacity and aging infrastructure of our school buildings in combination with continuing enrollment decline – The Committee and Board adopted a Ten-Year Master Facilities Maintenance Plan that identifies a demonstrable need for ~\$100,000,000 in Maintenance costs over the 10-year horizon, just to keep the schools as-is. The Committee has sought meaningful collaboration with the Town Boards of Selectmen and Finance to address this problem and looks forward to collaborating with the Board's new Communications Committee to establish opportunities for community response and input into this matter.
- The Committee figures to take a leadership role in organizing plans to further improve facilities alignment and reduce fiscal pressure identified by the Ten-Year Facilities Master Maintenance Plan. The Committee will consider community input and potentially present a range of options for the Board's consideration.
- The Committee looks to continue its work to address a facility deficiency at R.H. Brown Intermediate School – R.H. Brown Middle School is transitioning to an Intermediate School serving 4th and 5th graders. That school has not had a playground or formal outside play area sufficient to meet the physical and social learning needs of its students. In fact, it has only an old macadam surface that presents substantial injury risk and lacks appurtenances necessary to achieve modern educational goals for outside play and learning. The Committee views this transition as an opportunity to finally address that deficiency, and to do so in a way that meets the modern instructional needs of the new distribution of students at the school.
- The Committee will maintain vigilance in continually reviewing facilities-related security (ex., entrances, perimeters, communications and surveillance equipment, etc.), with a view toward recommending security-based upgrades when necessary or prudent.

6.4. Finance Committee

Members: Happy Marino, Chair; Tom Pellegrino; Galen Cawley

No report was given. The next scheduled meeting is for September 26, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

6.5. Personnel Committee

Members: Tom Pellegrino, Chair; Violet McNerney; Happy Marino

The committee met on September 18th. Teacher negotiations are ongoing. The next scheduled meeting is on October 11, 2018.

6.6. Policy Committee

Members: Greg DeSantis, Chair; Violet McNerney, Seth Klaskin

Mr. DeSantis reported on the following:

The 2019/2020 calendar went to the full BOE for a first look at tonight's meeting.

Policy #6163.32 Service Animals & Policy 5120.3.6 Animals in Schools.

First reading on 10/9

Policy #5060 Registration for School.

First reading on 10/9

Policy #5113 Student Attendance.

First reading on 10/9

The Policy Committee agreed to table the discussion of Policies 9610, 9620, and 9630 until the next Policy meeting on October 23, 2018.

6.7. LEARN Liaison

Rotating

Ms. Rosenthal reported the following:

LEARN had its first meeting of the year on September 13th. They reported on the opening of the LEARN magnet schools, and had a presentation on school safety and security. They reminded districts of their role and purpose as our regional educational service center, to increase communication, better meet needs regionally, and help shape our future together.

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

No comments were made.

Violet McNerney exited the meeting at 8:25 PM

Thomas Scarice exited the meeting at 8:27 PM

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

8.1. Bills Payable: \$569,304.33 - 2018-2019 Budget

8.2. Line Transfers: \$29,355.55

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

AYES: Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

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

MOTION: by Rosenthal seconded by DeSantis to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2018 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Cawley; DeSantis; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Klaskin

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

The Board approved the minutes as amended. Amendment was made to Item #3 on the 9/11/18 Board of Education minutes.

11. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

12. Future Agenda Items

Reminder: The next scheduled Facilities Committee will be held at Brown Middle School on October 2nd at 6:00PM for an outside site walk followed by a 6:30PM meeting in Room 230.

13. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

14. Adjournment

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by DeSantis to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

AYES: Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Approved at the October 9, 2018 BOE meeting

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ADA/Human Resources Director Debra Milardo at 203-245-5603 or by email to milardod@madisonct.org at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.”