

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
October 09, 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. Call to Order / Attendance

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: Kirk Barneby; Galen Cawley; Seth Klaskin; Happy Marino; 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.

Greg DeSantis – via phone

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

2.1. Recognition

2.1.1. The Alex Marino Awards for Outstanding Effort and Attitude

Superintendent Scarice noted that a couple of years ago, Board member Happy Marino, and her husband Paul, generously initiated a special program for a student and staff member that recognizes extraordinary efforts and contributions on the part of one student and one staff member.

Mrs. Kelley Spooner introduced the winners of the award.

Student Recipient for the Alex Marino: Spanning the Universe Award: Bhuvan Bhamidipati

The “Spanning the Universe” award is given to a 4th Grade Student with special needs in recognition of their hard work, positive attitude and contribution to their school community. Additionally, the award is described as follows:

Paraprofessional Recipient for the Alex Marino: Borrowed Wings Award: Krista Fay

The “Borrowed Wings” award is presented to a Special Needs Staff Member in recognition of their extraordinary effort and the immeasurable contribution they have

made to the lives of our children. This award is dedicated to a counselor, coach, teacher, or any other staff member who helps our children reach their potential.

2.2. Public Participation

No comments were made.

3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Ryan Tomicic and Jacqueline Sandor

Senior college visit are taking place.

PSATs will be taking place this Saturday.

4. Superintendent's Report

Thomas R. Scarice

4.1. District Approach to Comprehensive Social/Emotional Programming

Superintendent Scarice, Gail Dahling Hench and Becky Frost reported the following:

School violence, the high stakes testing pendulum swing since No Child Left Behind, and overall societal challenges have all contributed to this focus in one way or another, along with other causal factors.

Since the adoption of the BOE Vision Statement <https://www.madison.k12.ct.us/district/general-information> over five years ago, the district has placed an emphasis on the social and emotional development of each of our students. Beyond the programmatic approaches adopted, a great deal of these efforts are subtle moves that attend to the literature regarding social/emotional wellness, and a sense of physical and emotional safety, all driven by child development theory.

One organizing factor in this approach is the initiation of a district-wide “Whole Child Wellness Team”, comprised of over 40 Madison educators, along with representatives of Madison Youth and Family Services. This team, facilitated by Island Avenue Principal, Becky Frost, is instrumental in leading our social and emotional programmatic efforts.

Our goal is to provide an overarching perspective to the Board, and the entire community, of this work, and in particular, the thoughtful, deliberate pursuit of adopting and growing systemic approaches to the social and emotional development of our students.

4.2. District Reconfiguration Update

Superintendent Scarice stated that as the District continue to make progress on the reconfiguration of the District; we would like to share the most recent developments, particularly progress related to those items that have been captured on the Gantt chart presented to the BOE and community.

4.3. Other Matters

Superintendent Scarice stated that over five years ago the district adopted new evaluation plans for our teachers and administrators. The process begins with a core team of professionals, and is advanced to our Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC) for final submission to the BOE. Evaluation plans are modified regularly to reflect improvements. It has become apparent that the evaluation plan for our Athletic Director does not align with the tasks and responsibilities. This proposed change would focus on the work of the Athletic Director, and no longer attempt to use the building administrator evaluation plan for the athletic director.

The plan will return to the Board for adoption at a future date.

Superintendent Scarice updated the Board on the professional development activities which took place yesterday.

5. Board Members' Comments

Mr. Klaskin thanked the Marino family for the Alex Marino recognition.

Ms. Stein stated that the Board has hosted two tri-board meetings since last June regarding the 10 year facilities plan. Ms. Stein stated that a small tri-board Facilities working group would be established to look at the 10 year plan. Members include:

Board of Education	Kirk Barneby and Seth Klaskin
Board of Selectman	Jean Ferris and Al Goldberg
Board of Finance	Jude Friedman

The TriBoard Facilities Committee seeks to examine the Board of Education 10 year facilities maintenance plan to investigate and/or develop 3-4 alternate proposals and report back to the full tri board by April 1, 2019.

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

6.1. Curriculum and Student Development

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

No report was given. Committee has not met.

6.2. Communications Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal Chair; Greg DeSantis, Kirk Barneby

Ms. Rosenthal reported on the following:

The communication committee met for the first time today. We discussed the objectives and charge for the committee, goals and priorities for our work, methods of communication, and topics for communication. We discussed reconfiguration as a possible first topic for outreach and discussed ways to draft messages and share those messages with the board. We discussed the work of the committee being complementary to outreach and communication from the superintendent and staff, and being from the perspective of the board. Possible methods for communication include website, social media, and newspaper.

6.3. Facilities Committee

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

Mr. Klaskin reported the following:

The Facilities Committee held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 2. The meeting was scheduled to take place at Brown School and the Agenda included a public site walk to inspect the school's outdoor facilities, followed by a presentation of the Brown School Playground Committee of its proposal for an Outdoor Play And Learning environment, called OPAL.

The meeting was publicly advertised, and the members of the Boards of Selectmen and Finance were invited to join us. Although the other boards were not represented, we were happy to have a large contingent of concerned citizens present. The site walk was rained out, but we held a spirited and engaging meeting where the Committee learned a great deal about the thoughts and concerns of the community.

The community was able to learn about the credentials and makeup of the Brown School Playground Committee and its process. That committee included Brown School Principal, Julie Phelps, District consultant Mike Cegan, who works for a firm that specializes in outdoor play and learning environments, and representatives from the District, including members of the Student Wellness Committee. Student polling was conducted to determine the most popular features of an outdoor play and learning area. Surprisingly, a significant proportion of students indicated that they preferred quiet outdoor space, like benches and walking trails, to playscape equipment.

The Brown Playground Committee worked with Mike Cegan to design the Outdoor Play and Learning Area, which includes play areas, trails, an outdoor learning environment, an outdoor learning classroom, and an amphitheater carved into a natural slope. The sitework already started this summer with funds awarded in the current year's CIP Plan that was approved by the town and ratified by Town Referendum. The sitework includes the levelling of uneven surfaces, building retaining walls and appropriate drainage to protect the investment, and the creation of ADA-compliant walkways to allow physically challenged students to benefit from outdoor play.

The Facilities Committee will now take action to determine whether to advance the plan as-is to the full Board, or to vote for an alternate plan to advance to the Board. From there, at least a portion of the Board's recommended plan will become part of the Board's CIP Plan proposal for the coming year. The Board already voted to advance a placeholder amount to the CIP Plan, pending the results of the Board's further deliberations on this OPAL Plan.

Finally, the Facilities Committee voted to add an additional Agenda Item, to discuss the Board's current CIP Plan, as proposed to the CIP Committee to date. The Facilities Committee voted to propose reductions to the current year's CIP Plan, based on the fact that the Boards of Selectman and Finance have agreed to discuss alternate plans to alleviate the problem we face with about \$100,000,000 of school facility maintenance costs to maintain the existing school buildings over the next 10 years. It is understood that such discussions may result in recommendations to the town for alterations to our current schools configuration, which alterations may result in contraction, renovation, or construction of new buildings. The presumed schools impacted may be Polson or

either of the two remaining elementary schools. While the Facilities Committee is wary of advocating the reduction of the current CIP plan, we recognize it would be folly to spend significant sums of money on buildings that may be altered substantially or even decommissioned going forward. So the Facilities Committee voted unanimously to recommend substantial reductions to the CIP Plan, postponing these maintenance costs in FY 2019-2020 and FY 2020-2021, as will be detailed when this matter is addressed on the agenda later this evening.

6.4. Finance Committee

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

Ms. Marino stated that the Finance Committee will give a full report to the Board at the business meeting of the Board which is the first Board meeting of each month.

Discussion took place regarding having a dedicated SRO at the high school/. A questioned was raised about having money in this year's budget to have the dedicated SRO for the high school begin this year. Ms. Marino stated that the finance committee would look into this and that it is approximately \$70,000 a year for an SRO. An action item was added to allow the Finance Committee to look at the budget to see if there are funds available to put an SRO at DHHS for 2018-2019.

6.5. Personnel Committee

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

Teacher negotiations are still ongoing and the next meeting is scheduled for October 11th. The Teamsters meeting is scheduled for November 27th.

6.6. Policy Committee

Members: Greg DeSantis Chair; Violet McNerney, Seth Klaskin

6.6.1. Policy #6163.32 Service Animals & Policy 5120.3.6 Animals in Schools
(First Reading)

6.6.2. Policy #5060 Registration for School (First Reading)

6.6.3. Policy #5113 Student Attendance (First Reading)

6.6.4. 2019-2020 School Calendar

Policies will go to the full board on October 23rd for 2nd reading.
2019/2020 School Calendar will go back to the Policy Committee at their next meeting on October 23rd.

Ms. Marino brought up the idea of changing the April vacation to a March vacation. This was due to likelihood of having snow days in March which could potentially reduces the snow days added to end of the school year.

6.7. LEARN Liaison

Rotating

No report was given. Next meeting is scheduled for October 11th.

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

Tina Garrity of the M.A.D.E. collation attend the meeting tis evening. Stating that the District is very proactive making this subject a priority. Also stating that we need to keep a good relationship with the students and when the kids talk we need to listen. Stating that prevention is key.

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

8.1. Bills Payable: \$61,242.39 2017-2018 Budget - \$249,348.47 2018-2019 Budget

8.2. Line Transfers: \$32,553.15

8.3. Budget Expenditure as of October 4, 2018

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

AYES: Barneby; Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

9. Action Item: Minutes of the September 25, 2018 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Cawley to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2018 Board of Education Meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Barneby, Marino

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

10. Action Item: Discuss and take possible action on Board of Education Capital Improvement Program Recommendations for years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

MOTION: by Facilities Committee to discuss and take possible action on Board of Education Capital Improvement Program Recommendations for years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

AYES: Barneby; Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

A discussion regarding the Board of Education Capital Improvement Program Recommendations for years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 took place.

- 11. Action Item:** To remove items 2-11 from the Athletic CIP improvement list and push them out until 2020-2021.

MOTION: by McNerney seconded by Pellegrino to remove items 2-11 from the Athletic CIP improvement list and push them out until 2020-2021. AYES: Barneby; Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein
NAYS:
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

- 12. Action Item:** In recognition of the Tri-Board efforts underway that may lead to facility reconfiguration, the Facilities Committee moves to amend the discussed items from the previously approved Board CIP Plan for FY 2019-2020 and FY 2020-2021 by shifting the items as discussed. This will have the impact of postponing various identified maintenance items from 2019-2020 until 2020-2021, and accelerating the DHHS Storage item, Line DHHS-008 into 2019-2020, reducing the new CIP Request for FY 2019-2020 to \$1,080,733.

MOTION: by Cawley seconded by Pellegrino. In recognition of the Tri-Board efforts underway that may lead to facility reconfiguration, the Facilities Committee moves to amend the discussed items from the previously approved Board CIP Plan for FY 2019-2020 and FY 2020-2021 by shifting the items as discussed. This will have the impact of postponing various identified maintenance items from 2019-2020 until 2020-2021, and accelerating the DHHS Storage item, Line DHHS-008 into 2019-2020, reducing the new CIP Request for FY 2019-2020 to \$1,080,733.
AYES: Barneby; Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein
NAYS: Marino
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

- 13. Action Item:** To allow the Finance Committee to look at the budget to see if there are funds available to put an SRO at DHHS for 2018-2019.

MOTION: by Klaskin to allow the Finance Committee to look at the budget to see if there are funds available to put an SRO at DHHS for 2018-2019
AYES: Barneby; Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein
NAYS:
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

14. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

15. Future Agenda Items

No future items were discussed.

16. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

17. Executive Session: "Discussion concerning confidential attorney-client information regarding pending litigation and discussion concerning a parent complaint (proposed for executive session)."

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Pellegrino to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a concerning confidential attorney-client information regarding pending litigation and discussion concerning a parent complaint (proposed for executive session).at 10:30p.m.
AYES: Barneby; Cawley; DeSantis; Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Greg DeSantis left the meeting via phone at 10:30 PM

18. Adjournment

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Marino to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 PM.
AYES: Barneby; Cawley; Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Approved at the November 13, 2018 BOE Meeting

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