

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
May 21, 2019
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; Greg DeSantis; 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. Recognition

2.1.1. CAFE Student Leadership Award

Daniel Hand High School – Kaitlyn Sandor & Ryan Tomicic

Walter C. Polson Middle School – Brooke Istishin & Reece Scott

The CAFE Student Leadership Awards Program is designed to honor Connecticut High School and Middle School students who exhibit exemplary leadership skills. Two students from each school, in a CAFE member district, are eligible to receive the CAFE Student Leadership Award. The CAFE Student Leadership Awards Program was recently expanded to include 7th and 8th grade students along with high school students who exhibit exemplary leadership skills.

Frank Henderson made the following statements:

Reece Scott - Walter C. Polson Middle School

“Diligent,” “helpful,” and “compassionate.” These are a few of the words mentioned by members of the Polson Community when asked to describe Reece Scott, a young man well respected, not only by other students, but by faculty and staff. As a student, a peer helper, and an athlete, Reece has emerged as a quiet leader in our school.

Reece is a diligent student who sets the standard for conscientious work. Whether something comes easily to him or presents a challenge, he approaches each task with the same level of focus and determination. Teachers appreciate his attitude toward learning the skills and content of the curriculum, but Reece's contributions to class go beyond that to include positive peer relations. He is kind to others and considers their feelings and perspectives more than most people. Perhaps this ability to empathize is what makes him so effective as part of the Peer Helper program. Here, students are trained to provide support, advice, and decision-making assistance to peers, and Reece is an integral part of the program's success at Polson. That, coupled with his honesty and integrity, makes him well liked by everyone.

It's not easy moving across the country to enter seventh grade as a stranger to students who have known each other for years, but Reece did just that, and he did it successfully. Moving to Madison from, St. Louis, Missouri the summer before his seventh grade year, he brought with him his love for skiing, golf, and basketball. In fact, Reece played on the Polson basketball team, as well as on a travel team outside of school, successfully balancing both with his schoolwork and activities.

Middle school can be a tumultuous time, but Reece's integrity, concern for others, and commitment set him apart as a role model for all. We are lucky to have him as a member of our Polson community.

Brooke Istishin - Walter C. Polson Middle School

The term "well rounded" is often overused in this day and age, but Polson eighth grader Brooke Istishin exemplifies the word perfectly. She excels in academics, sports, the arts, and humanity, and she does so with humility and grace.

Academically, Brooke is an exceptional student, something that is proven by more than the high honors she has maintained through middle school. In class, she is quietly competent, excelling in the work with diligence and persistence. She never gives less than 100% and gladly helps others whenever she can. It's no wonder that teachers describe her as genuine, compassionate, and hardworking, proof of her character, which transcends that of the average eighth grader.

Brooke is involved in the arts in and out of school. At Polson, she is a member of the orchestra where she plays cello, and as a member of the advanced theatre class, she earned the lead in our spring production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Outside of school she continues her cello studies and dances. With all this, she is a volleyball player, too, thus proving her ability to master many interests and balance the time it takes to participate in them.

Perhaps the most impressive thing about Brooke, however, is what she gives back to others. She is active in the Excel Club, raising money for different causes. She has helped with the Leprechaun 5 Miler, and set up the Surf Club Easter Egg Hunt. She has made meals for the Eddy Shelter in Middletown. In short, she has made a difference. But Brooke is also a believer in advocating for what you believe in, so she has attended

multiple marches such as the March for Our Lives and the National Women's March. She knows you're never too young to make a difference in the world, no matter how large or small your "world" is.

Polson Middle School is fortunate to have Brooke Istishin as a member of our community where her leadership and kindness is appreciated by all.

Brian Border made the following statements on behalf of Anthony Salutari:

Kaitlyn Sandor - Daniel Hand High School

Kaitlyn is a one of a kind student who has taken the most rigorous courses offered at Daniel Hand, and has not only completed them, but has mastered them. She is a leader involved in many activities both inside and outside of the classroom and brings an immeasurable addition to every single class and activity that she is part of.

From an academic standpoint, Kaitlyn sets high expectations for herself and is consistently successful in achieving these expectations. A perfect example of this is Kaitlyn self-teaching herself AP Statistics so she can excel on the nationwide AP Statistics test. As a senior Kaitlyn is enrolled in a math class at Wesleyan University where she goes two days a week and sits in on a college lecture. Throughout high school Kaitlyn has been a wonderful self-advocate focused on taking classes to prepare her for the future. In her years at Daniel Hand, Kaitlyn has taken every honors and AP class that fit in her schedule and has never received a grade lower than an A in these most challenging classes. Kaitlyn is ready for any academic challenge and will thrive in any learning environment. She is viewed as a leader, model student, and someone who cares significantly about her education.

Outside of the classroom, Kaitlyn is involved in a plethora of activities. She is a four year member of the girl's varsity ice hockey team and plays a major role in the Robotics Club and their success in their competitions. Robotics is something Kaitlyn takes great pride in and she is the Co-Captain of the Apple PI Robotics Team, Captain of the Daniel Hand VEX Robotics Team, Co-President of the Daniel Hand Hacking Club, Coach of FIRST Lego League Robotics and a member of the Math Team where she placed first at the Greater Middlesex County Math League. Kaitlyn is involved at the Sestan Lab of Neuroscience at Yale where she worked with bioinformatics and cultured kidney cells.

Kaitlyn is a model student and extremely active outside of the classroom. Her peers, teachers, and members of the community view her as a true leader. Her high level of success in the classroom, while competing on the ice, and in her numerous extra-curricular activities is a direct result of her drive to succeed and her commitment to the goals she has set for herself.

Ryan Tomicic - Daniel Hand High School

A quick review of Ryan's academic transcript will clearly confirm that he is an outstanding student. He has taken many of the most challenging courses offered at Daniel Hand High School. His success in these courses has been impressive and is a direct result of a focused work ethic and commitment to his studies.

Although Ryan excels academically, he has numerous strengths that extend beyond the classroom. He is actively involved in community service and participates in a variety of extra-curricular activities. He is a talented performer who also has interests in many other areas. As a performer, Ryan has excelled in lead roles in several of our theater productions. Many of his other interests focus on helping others and include; a member of National Honor Society, the President of our Debate Team, and an elected Class Officer. He is a good listener and an effective communicator who demonstrates respect for others opinions even when they differ from his own. Ryan values the relationships he has developed with many members of the community. Due to the reputation Ryan has earned, he was selected and has been serving as a student representative for the Board of Education. In all these important roles, he represents our school with pride and respect.

Outside of the school setting, Ryan has dedicated a great deal of time to Boy Scouts and impressively earned Eagle Scout status in 2018. He is a confident young man who is focused on his success. His commitment to academics, theater, and extracurricular events is impressive. The interpersonal and leadership skills he has developed over his years in high school are commendable. He earned the respect of both the faculty and student body. Ryan is a driven young adult who has had a positive impact on the entire school community.

Ryan's academic performance, leadership, and involvement as an important member of our school community are clearly strengths. With that being said, his interpersonal traits including positive character, compassion, perseverance, makeup an overall personality that truly make him a special young man.

2.2. Public Participation

No comments were made.

3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report Ryan Tomicic and Jacqueline Sandor

Jaqueline and Ryan reported on the following:

Last Wednesday was the final band concert and art show of the school year

Orchestra Concert will take place tomorrow at 7:30pm

Underclassmen awards are this Friday

The band has been practicing to march on Memorial Day

May 29th Tiger Tracks – unified track program

May 29th Chorus Concert

May 30th National Honor Society 7:00pm

Spring sports are in the SCC and state competitions

This past Friday there was a play “Dangers of Nicotine Addiction” the new sound system was used and it was great. The play received positive feedback

AP English presentations are scheduled for tomorrow

June 1st senior prom

An assembly will be held prior to the prom regarding aggressive driving

The senior trip will be held this Friday to Six Flags

4. Superintendent's Report Thomas R. Scarice

4.1. Reconfiguration Update

Superintendent Scarice noted that the reconfiguration is on schedule. The fall focused on operations, winter on staff and administration and currently the work is being focused on the students/parents

As a side note to the Board Superintendent Scarice noted that neighboring districts have had problems with closing a school. Madison's transition has been smooth. Approximately 70 students will be going from Ryerson to Jeffrey May 30th Mrs. Spooner is holding an event for K-2 students that will be attending Ryerson

Superintendent Scarice stated that he is proud of the staff and leadership teams.

The next stage will be the upcoming move of the books, furniture and supplies.

4.2. Renaming of Brown Middle School for the 2019-2020 School Year

Superintendent Scarice stated that the Board will need to take action on the renaming of Brown Middle school between now and the opening of the school year.

4.3. Other Matters

Superintendent Scarice noted that an E-notify will be sent to all parents via email regarding the following:

Strategic Plan
Alumni Study

Superintendent Scarice stated that the District is currently working on an anonymous reporting app. Superintendent Scarice noted that the District has come to an agreement of parameters with a vendor which will be a great tool in two way communications. There is more information to come.

5. Board Members' Comments

No comments were made.

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 on the following:

The curriculum committee met on May 8th and 17th.

The committee met to hold a vertical review with K-12 emphasis on grades 1,3,4,8 and the high school in context of how are our kids learning to read, how to assess them, how do we know

when they are progressing as well as how they are struggling. This was in the context of the scientific research based intervention. Mr. Cawley thanked all the teachers that attended and who gave great examples and shared their passion of teaching.

6.2. Communications Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal Chair; Greg DeSantis, Kirk Barneby

Ms. Rosenthal reported on the following:

The communications committee meets next on Monday, June 10. In our ongoing conversations about community outreach, messaging, sharing news with a wider population and in partnership with members of the economic development commission, the idea of a professional communications staff person was brought up. In exploring the idea, we found that more and more districts are employing such a person to coordinate communications for the district, including websites, print materials, social media, press inquiries and more; time-consuming work that now falls on busy administrators. We have discussed the possibility in committee and have been supportive of the idea, and a recent staffing change makes this possible without any additional funding. Tom can provide more details on this opportunity that we believe will help our district-wide communications and be a more efficient use of our resources and administrative time.

6.3. Facilities Committee

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

Mr. McMinn noted that a contractor has been set up for the playground. Mr. McMinn also stated that they had a very successful contractor bid for the site work. He also works with a contractor who does the actual playground installation off of the state bid list. Funds will be available in July and the playground will be complete by September 1st ahead of scheduled and within budget.

Mr. McMinn stated that he met with the track contractor today and the schedule has been finalized. By the end of the month of July the track will be resurfaced. No activities will be held there and Polson gym will be closed as well during the track being resurfaced.

The Board and the town approved the budget for the storage shed which is on the agenda later in the meeting to take action. Four local contractors have been selected and will go for the lowest price and are scheduled to get done this summer. This allow for expansion of the stage for academics.

Mr. McMinn stated that they are ready for the move. The new furniture is coming and the old furniture will be removed. The furniture being removed will be donated to Food for the Poor

6.4. Finance Committee

Members: Kirk Barneby, Chair, Happy Marino, Galen Cawley, Tom Pellegrino

Mr. Barneby reported that Stacey gave further updates on the account balance. Mr. Barneby stated that there is a deficiency in the special education and legal areas. There are sufficient funds in other areas and it is expected to cover the deficiency with line items transfers from other areas where there is a surplus.

6.5. Personnel Committee

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

The committee has not met since the last BOE meeting. The next scheduled committee meeting is for June 6th with MAESS.

6.6. Policy Committee

Members: Greg DeSantis Chair; Violet McNerney, Seth Klaskin

The committee was scheduled to meet this evening. The meeting was postponed due to a Tri-Board committee meeting scheduled for this evening. Next meeting scheduled or May 30th at 6:30PM.

6.6.1. Policy #6090.1 - Home Visits by Social Workers (Second reading)

6.6.2. Policy #3090 - Financial Records and Reports (Second reading)

6.6.3. Policy #3140 - Line Item Transfers (Second reading)

6.6.4. Policy #9540.8 - Voting Method (Second reading)

6.6.5. Policy #3110 - Paying for Goods and Services (proposed removal - Second Reading)

The above mentioned Policy will move to third reading and to take action at the June 4th BOE meeting.

6.7. LEARN Liaison

Rotating (Kirk Barneby)

The focus was on measurement of academic performance and building a longitudinal database to monitor student progress. The students of the Maritime Academy scored very high on the standardized testing. Other programs did not score as well.

There is a question of why there is a high level of absenteeism by students who were accepted by a lottery system and are not showing up at school. Is it due to a lack of transportation or is there are pother factors.

Riverside Academy is working with local businesses is introducing an advanced manufacturing programs as part of the curriculum.

A decision to offer a living curriculum program writing processes now needs to be made.

6.8. Tri-Board Working Group for Board of Education Facilities

Kirk Barneby; Galen Cawley; Al Goldberg, Jean Ferris; Jude Friedman; Bennett Pudlin

Mr. Barneby reported the following.

The Tri-Board Working Group presented to all three Boards earlier this evening.

Two options were recommended for further consideration to be handed over to the facilities committee for their continued work with Bill McMinn and Collier to develop the option/options that will advance to the CIP.

Ms. Stein thanked the Kirk Barneby and the committee for their work over the last 7 months.

Mr. DeSantis voiced his appreciation and thanked the committee for their hard work and dedication.

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: 2018-2019 - \$666,107.92

8.2. Line Transfers: \$12,759.87

8.3. Donation: \$3,000 from Brown School PTO to Brown Middle School

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Ms. Rosenthal thanked the Brown School PTO for their \$3,000 donation to Brown Middle School.

9. Action Item: Minutes of the May 7, 2019 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by DeSantis seconded by McNerney to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2019 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Barneby; Cawley; DeSantis; McNerney; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Pellegrino

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

10. Action Item: Move to waive the standard RFP process and authorize the Director of Facilities to award the DHHS Storage Shed project based on a three-bid market contest. The Facilities Committee further recommends that the Board vote to authorize the Director of Facilities to forward to Schumack Construction Company a May 15, 2019 Memorandum awarding the project to that company, as authority to initiate that project.

MOTION: by the Facilities Committee to move to waive the standard RFP process and authorize the Director of Facilities to award the DHHS Storage Shed project based on a three-bid market contest. The Facilities Committee further recommends that the Board vote to authorize the Director of Facilities to forward to Schumack Construction Company a May 15, 2019 Memorandum awarding the project to that company, as authority to initiate that project

AYES: Barneby; Cawley; DeSantis; McNerney;
Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

- 11. Action Item:** Move to authorize the disposal of furniture utilizing a carry-away shipping container service offered through the nonprofit company Food For The Poor Inc.

MOTION: by the Facilities Committee to move to authorize the disposal of furniture utilizing a carry-away shipping container service offered through the nonprofit company Food For The Poor Inc.
AYES: Barneby; Cawley; DeSantis; McNerney;
Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

12. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

13. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were discussed.

14. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

15. Adjournment

MOTION: by Barneby seconded by DeSantis to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.
AYES: Barneby; Cawley; DeSantis;
McNerney; Pellegrino; Rosenthal; Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

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