

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
August 27, 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 7:35 p.m. Chairman Stein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Kirk Barneby, Galen Cawley, Greg DeSantis, Seth Klaskin, Tom Pellegrino, Emily Rosenthal, Katie Stein

Also present: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Bill McMinn, Director of Facilities; Scott Murphy, Madison Board of Selectmen

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

2.1. Public Participation - None

3. Superintendent's Report

Thomas R. Scarice

3.1. District Reconfiguration

Superintendent Scarice reported the district reconfiguration plan is in its final stages. Over 3,000 boxes were labeled and moved during the summer and almost one-quarter of the district's professional teaching staff has been reassigned to a new grade level, school or classroom. All bus routes and the entire network has been reconfigured. K-3 classrooms have been painted and carpeted. This two-year process will wrap up with the opening of school on September 3.

3.2. School Opening

As of last Friday, there are 2,629 students enrolled to begin school on September 3, grades PK-12. Jeffrey kindergarten stands at 4 sections of 19 students, one student below the class size guideline of 20 and Ryerson currently has 5 sections of 16 or 17 each. We continue to monitor kindergarten enrollment closely.

New bus routes have been established and published. Bus drivers did a dry run last week, which involved a lot of new routes. We have shared this information via our new communications processes, resulting in a good number of “hits” on our app.

A video regarding the student performance dashboard will be going out tomorrow and a security video will be going out on Friday. Superintendent Scarice addressed the enhancements to safety and security:

- “PAL” (Personal Alarm Locator) will be piloted at the high school by mid-September.
- See It, Say It, Send It app will be rolled out next week; parents will have access this Friday.
- School Resource Officers are now assigned to each campus.
- The administrative team was trained last week with the “ALICE” approach (active shooter training). The Town is working closing with us and the goal is to have the entire Town/school district trained by the end of this year.

Superintendent Scarice spoke to the types of stories that will be showcased as part of our communications efforts. Sarah Conroy, DHHS graduate, produced a film as part of last year’s independent study project, which has been selected for a fall film festival in New York.

3.3. Other Matters

Location changes to the following meetings:

- September 10 – Brown Intermediate School
 - 6:30 p.m. – Communications Committee
 - 7:30 p.m. – BOE meeting
- September 24 – Jeffrey School
 - 5:30 p.m. – Finance Committee
 - 6:30 p.m. – Policy Committee
 - 7:30 p.m. – BOE meeting

4. Board Members' Comments

Kirk Barneby stated he was impressed with the new playground at Brown. Superintendent Scarice added that Mr. Henderson plans to conduct an official opening ceremony for all students and staff on September 4.

Chairman Stein reported the Board retreat occurs tomorrow, August 28, 2019, from 6-9 p.m. in the Hammonasset Room. Bob Rader from CABA will be facilitating and dinner will be served.

Convocation takes place this Thursday, August 29 beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the high school. Chair Stein encouraged the Board to attend, if possible.

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

5.1. Curriculum and Student Development

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

Galen Cawley provided the following. Preliminary SBAC results, showing improvements in grades 3 & 4 were reviewed at the August 20 Curriculum & Student Development Committee meeting. The Easy CBM training course and grade 4 STEAM courses were discussed. Addressed issues for points of discussion regarding student growth and reviewed State-mandated changes to graduation requirements

beginning with the graduating class of 2023 (which will be addressed through the Policy Committee). Exploring efficacy of teachers; more to come.

Greg DeSantis requested that a proposal for expectations be on record; most usefully discussed as part of our setting of plans for the Board of Education retreat.

5.2. Communications Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal Chair; Greg DeSantis, Kirk Barneby

No report – next meeting September 10, 2019 at Brown.

5.3. Facilities Committee

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

Seth Klaskin provided the following report:

- At tonight's Facilities Committee meeting, the committee reviewed the 2020-2021 CIP Plan that was approved at the August 20 meeting for recommendation to the Board this evening.
- Discussed the Brown school K-5 feasibility study that our consultant, Colliers International, is undertaking with Bill McMinn to determine what it would require to update the Brown school.
- Solar car ports
- Excellent presentation from Stacy Nobitz, Town Finance Director, regarding the cost of finance models for school facilities renewal.

Next meeting scheduled for September 5, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

5.3.1. Presentation and Discussion: 2020-2021 Board of Education CIP Plan

The Board discussed the need for a second version of the CIP Plan to be created with the intent of including facilities renewal that may potentially be part of the four school model. Mr. Klaskin expressed the need to be clear on the details of the CIP Plan prior to going to referendum. It is anticipated presentation of the plan by the Facilities Committee will occur at the next Board of Education meeting.

5.4. Finance Committee

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

Kirk Barneby reported the fiscal year end was finalized at tonight's Finance Committee meeting and no line item transfers in excess of \$10,000 were required. Audit will occur in November. Based on Stacy Nobitz' report, roughly \$139,000 will be returned to the town, which we will request go back into the reserve fund for special education. Seth Klaskin suggested placing some into a facilities renewal fund. Superintendent Scarice spoke to statutory requirements. Discussions continue regarding macro level guidance for help with budget construction.

5.5. Personnel Committee

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

Tom Pellegrino reported no conclusion was reached during the August 14, 2019 MAESS negotiations. This will now go to arbitration. Mr. Pellegrino added there has been a resurgence of discussions regarding teamsters in lieu of arbitration.

5.6. Policy Committee

Members: Greg DeSantis Chair; Violet McNerney, Seth Klaskin

Greg DeSantis reported three policies at various stages of reading are included in tonight's packet:

- Policy #5060, Registration for School for a first reading. Policy is being updated to reflect the actual registration procedure.
- Policy Non-Resident Admission and Tuition Fees (second reading)
Board Policy #9450 - Board Committees (second reading)

Superintendent Scarice anticipates the Non-Resident Tuition Policy will be adopted at the next Board of Education meeting and we are working to develop a marketing plan around the policy. Adoption of this policy would affect September 2020 registration.

5.7. LEARN Liaison

Rotating - No report.

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

Scott Murphy from the Madison Board of Selectmen provided the following report:

- A number of resignations from various boards and commissions were received at last night's Board of Selectmen meeting. Of particular note, Mark Casparino submitted his resignation and will be replaced by Justin Murphy.
- An update from the Conservation Commission included a report from 2 DHHS juniors who gave a presentation regarding invasive plants.
- The Board discussed a special appropriation of \$147,000 for lighting on the Tuxis walkway.
- The Town Charter will be scheduled for review, as it has not been since 2013. Seven people will be nominated to oversee the process. This may involve hiring a town manager.
- The Academy School Design Committee will remain active.

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

7.1. Line Transfers: \$474,790.42

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Barneby to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Barneby, Cawley, DeSantis, Klaskin, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

8. Action Item: Minutes of the June 4, 2019 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Barneby, seconded by Rosenthal to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2019 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Barneby, Cawley, DeSantis, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Pellegrino
MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

9. Action Item: Minutes of the August 13, 2019 Board of Education meeting. (Ref. Bylaw 9540.9)

MOTION: by DeSantis, seconded by Barneby to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2019 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Barneby, DeSantis, Klaskin, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Cawley

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

10. Old Business

11. Future Agenda Items

12. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

13. Adjournment

MOTION: by Barneby, seconded by Klaskin to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

AYES: Barneby, Cawley, DeSantis, Klaskin, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

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