

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
March 10, 2020
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 7:32 p.m. Chair Stein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Kirk Barneby, Galen Cawley, Greg DeSantis, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Violet McNerney, Catherine Miller, Tom Pellegrino, Emily Rosenthal, Katie Stein

Superintendent Scarice asked all in attendance to remain standing while he spoke about Dave D'Alessio, Polson Science Teacher who recently passed away.

2. Action Item: To enter into Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Matter

MOTION: by DeSantis, seconded by Pellegrino to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

AYES: Barneby, Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

3. School / Community Session - 7:50 p.m.

3.1. Recognition

3.1.1. Connecticut Board of Education Member Appreciation Month

The CT Association of Boards of Education annually designates March as Board Member Appreciation Month. At each Board member's seat is a small token of appreciation; Superintendent Scarice thanked the Board for their support as well as the time, energy and commitment it takes to serve on the Board.

3.2. Public Participation - none

4. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report Jacqueline Sandor and Eric Dillner

Eric Dillner reported that the Hand hockey team beat Guilford Monday night 7-0. Eric expressed his disappointment over the decision of the CIAC to cancel all remaining winter tournaments in light of the COVID 19 virus.

Jackie Sandor reported on this past weekend's VIBE classic held at Hand – 6 states were represented with over 2,000 competitors. Katie Stein thanked the custodial staff who went above and beyond, cleaning every 2 hours – wiping down surfaces, disinfecting bathrooms, etc.

5. Superintendent's Report

Thomas R. Scarice

5.1. MAD for the EARTH – Fran Brady

Fran Brady, former Chair of the Conservation Committee and current chair of BYO Madison, gave a brief presentation regarding the April 25th event, MAD for the EARTH, which represents the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. This year's theme is Climate Action. Mr. Brady reviewed the agenda and asked for assistance promoting the event.

5.2. District Responsiveness to COVID-19 Virus

Superintendent Scarice provided an update on the COVID-19 Virus and acknowledged Trent Joseph, Town of Madison Health Director, Stephanie Lesnik, Madison Public Schools' Nurse Supervisor and Dr. Karen Goldberg, Madison Public Schools' Medical Advisor, who have met with the administrative team multiple times. Following are current protocols in place:

- Travel advisory to/from level 3 countries – voluntary self-quarantine.
- Building cleaning practices have increased drastically.
- Student announcements & hand washing campaign posters have been posted in all buildings.
- Buses are being wiped down at the end of morning and afternoon runs, as well as cafeterias.
- The governor declared a public health state of emergency yesterday. All events that would draw 100 or more people will be cancelled.
- The CIAC has cancelled all sporting events.
- Field trips have been cancelled; replacement trips will be planned for underclassmen. Florida trip is to be decided and we are working with the travel companies on behalf of the parents regarding reimbursements.

Admin Council will meet tomorrow with the Town's emergency preparedness team. The Whole Child Wellness Team is putting together information for parents on how to talk to children about what is happening. We will be discussing closures in broad terms. With regarding the school year calendar, the State is not bending on the minimum 180 instructional day requirement. Every effort must be made to make up cancelled days. Superintendent Scarice reviewed information received by the State Department of Education, as well as the current district calendar. Assistant Superintendent Gail Dahling-Hench gave a presentation detailing what both a short-term and long-term closures would entail.

Dr. Infantine-Vyce shared with the BOE a concern from a parent of a Polson Middle School student. The parent was made aware by her child that a teacher at Polson had recently traveled to a level 3 country (Italy) and was self-quarantining at home, but had previously come to school to teach. The parent was upset that the information was shared with the students of the teacher, but the parents were not directly informed.

5.3. Other Matters

Superintendent Scarice spoke about the challenge of parent conferences with the change at Brown to an intermediate school model and two teacher teams. Since October 1, teachers have conducted 650 parent conferences which have taken place in a number of ways – early release days, by phone, before school, after school, and possibly a few Face Times. Superintendent Scarice commended the Brown teachers for their efforts, stating they have been outstanding.

6. Board Members' Comments

Dr. Infantine-Vyce reported that she had been asked about bathroom use at the high school with regard to students that are gender transitioning. Superintendent Scarice stated the district follows the parameters of the Executive Order issued by Governor Malloy in 2017 which stated citizens would have access to the bathroom to which gender they identify with. Superintendent Scarice noted there are private bathrooms on both the first and second floors of the high school available for student use as well.

Dr. Infantine-Vyce, reporting as a Polson parent, stated everyone at Polson did an outstanding job on Monday with regard to passing of teacher Dave D'Alessio', and the way in which students and staff supported one another.

Katie Stein reported she had been invited by Keelin Virgulto, DHHS Jr., to give the welcoming address and join in on a panel discussion for Women's History Month, the topic of which is the suffrage.

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

7.1. Curriculum and Student Development

Galen Cawley, Chair, Greg DeSantis, Catherine Miller

Mr. Cawley reported the committee met on February 25 and covered the following

- Art Curriculum work presented by Bill Sommer
- Detailed look at history of 1st Grade ELA Program going back to 2010/2011.

7.2. Communications Committee

Emily Rosenthal, Chair, Greg DeSantis, Kirk Barneby

Mrs. Rosenthal reported the committee met this evening; focus was on the school facilities renewal plan and communication and outreach. Mrs. Rosenthal reported Zoe Roos, district Communication Specialist, has done an outstanding job putting together a timeline leading up to the October 6 Referendum. Four public informational sessions have been scheduled – March 30 at Ryerson; April 20 at Jeffrey; June 1 at Polson and one in September, TBD. Ms. Roos has put together information around the ramifications of a yes or no vote and has compiled a list of frequently asked questions.

7.3. Facilities Committee

Tom Pellegrino, Chair, Kirk Barneby, Galen Cawley

Mr. Pellegrino reported the committee met on February 25 and provided the following information:

- Bill McMinn gave an update on summer work, including flooring projects at Brown Intermediate School.
- Bill and Superintendent Scarice talked (conceptually) about the Green Hill property and what a new school could look like.
- Bill is currently assessing contracts for turf field management vendors.

The committee will meet again on March 19.

7.4. Finance Committee

Kirk Barneby, Chair, Galen Cawley, Tom Pellegrino

No report.

7.5. Personnel Committee

Violet McNerney, Chair, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Catherine Miller

No report.

7.6. Policy Committee

Greg DeSantis, Chair, Violet McNerney, Emily Rosenthal

Mr. DeSantis reported there is one policy brought forth tonight for a first reading:

- Policy #1140 - Distribution of Materials

And five policies brought forth for a second reading:

- Policy #1210 - Parent-Teacher Organizations
- Policy #1325 - Advertising and Promotion
- Policy #1330 - Community Use of School Facilities
- Policy #1340 - Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property
- Policy #1360 - School Volunteers

A discussion took place regarding the recommendation to rescind Policies 1210 and 1325.

7.7. CIP Committee

Katie Stein, Kirk Barneby

The committee has not met.

7.8. LEARN Liaison

Diane Infantine-Vyce

Dr. Infantine-Vyce reported LEARN met on February 13 and will be meeting this week as well, and provided the following:

- The February 13 meeting took place at the Ocean Avenue Learning Academy. LEARN shared the proposal for renovation of the 2nd floor of the Academy, gave a tour and an informational presentation.
- Legislative Update: reviewed RESC Alliance proposal for a State-wide database and interactive tool for specialized student transportation.
- The Dual-Language & Arts Middle School will be closed in June as they have been unsuccessful finding a place to house the school.
- CT River Academy received the Magnet School of Distinction award.
- A grant application for funding the RESC Alliance proposal was approved.

7.9. Board of Selectmen Liaison
Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy was not in attendance this evening.

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

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

9.1. Budget Expenditure as of March 5, 2020

9.2. Line Item Transfers: \$84,193.68

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

AYES: Barneby, Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNeerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

10. Action Item: Minutes of the February 11, 2020 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Barneby, seconded by DeSantis to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2020 Board of Education meeting.

AYES: Barneby, Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNeerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

11. Old Business

12. Future Agenda Items

13. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

14. Adjournment

MOTION: by DeSantis, seconded by Barneby to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

AYES: Barneby, Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

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