

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
May 19, 2020
7:30 PM**

BOARD MINUTES

Via Zoom

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

Chair Stein called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

In attendance: Kirk Barneby, Emily Rosenthal, Galen Cawley, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Greg DeSantis, Tom Pellegrino, Violet McNerney, Tom Scarice, Gail Dahling-Hench, Liz Battaglia, Art Sickie, T. J. Salutari, Brian Bodner, Melanie Whitcher, Kathryn Hart, Martha Curran, Frank Henderson, Becky Frost, Kelly Spooner, Zoe Roos, Scott Murphy.

Also: Isaac Lerner & parents; Maryclaire Pantano & mom; Trip Rizzo & parents; Jacqueline Sandor & parents.

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

2.1. Recognition

2.1.1. CAFE Student Leadership Awards

- Jacqueline Sandor & Isaac Lerner - DHHS
- Maryclaire Pantano & Trip Rizzo – Polson

Mr. Salutari presented:

Jacqueline Sandor

A quick review of Jacqueline's transcript will confirm that she is an outstanding student. Taking the easy road has never been an option for Jacqueline as her schedule has always been filled with honors and AP courses. She genuinely enjoys these challenging courses and has excelled academically due to her high level of confidence, organization, and growth mindset. Jacqueline works hard every day with a relentless focus that ensures ongoing improvement. Jacqueline thrives when presented with challenging situations. Her teachers view her as a leader in the classroom and as a role model, who has the ability to make everyone around her better.

In addition to her incredible academic success, Jacqueline is an accomplished student-athlete. She is a member of the field hockey and ice hockey teams. Due to her work ethic, commitment to the team, and level of support she provides her peers, Jacqueline was named Captain of the field hockey team. Her leadership on and off the field was evident while serving in this important role, and led to notable individual and team success. Outside of school activities, Jacqueline clearly values giving back to the community. She is an active member of Habitat for Humanity taking great pride in building homes for those in need. She is also a member of Girls Coach Girls Run where she supports girls while they train for

local 5K races. Jacqueline has also been able to find the time to serve as a legislative advocate for the CT Nurses Association and plans to enter the health care field later in life. Finally, at the school level, Jacqueline is an important member of our Robotics Club where she is in charge of outreach and repairing mechanical issues with our robots. It goes without saying the Jacqueline is a well-rounded young adult. Due to the high level of respect she has earned at the Daniel Hand High School, she was selected to serve as a student representative for the Board of Education for the past two years. No matter the role, Jacqueline represents our school with pride and respect.

Jacqueline is a natural born leader. She is goal oriented, friendly, independent, and driven to be successful. She is always willing to help someone in need due to a level of kindness atypical of people in her age group. Her pleasant personality allows her to interact seamlessly with people of all ages. She is truly a special young lady.

Isaac Lerner

Isaac's teachers appreciate his active participation in classroom discussions and value the fact that he never "sits on the sideline". He is confident when dealing with difficult material and situations and he takes ownership of his learning by acknowledging when he may not understand the material. In these cases, he takes initiative and is a wonderful self-advocate. A noteworthy trait of Isaac's is his willingness to help anyone at any time including his unselfishness when putting others before his own needs.

Isaac has always enrolled in challenging courses that will prepare him to be successful in the college environment and beyond. Over the years, he has added more and more challenging courses to his schedule. He has found Honors Chemistry to be particularly interesting due to its relatability to the real world. Isaac's ability to listen carefully and absorb and process information quickly allows him to be very successful in all the courses he has taken.

Outside of the classroom, Isaac participates in a diverse range of extracurricular activities. Within each of the organizations he is committed to, Isaac strives to obtain a leadership role and better the group. Leadership skills are an innate part of Isaac's personality. Peers and adults are drawn to his quiet confidence and calming personality. Many of his leisurely activities are centered on serving the community and helping others. A few outstanding activities Isaac is involved in include; being a cadet in the Civil Air patrol with the rank of staff sergeant, being a member of the North Madison Volunteer Fire, and being a student representative of the Madison Bike and Pedestrian Advisory committee. Isaac is also a member of the DHHS cross country and indoor and outdoor track teams, as well as a member of the impressive DHHS band.

Isaac is a sincere, tenacious, and intellectual young man. His ability to remain grounded in his strong values and morals, no matter the opinions of others, is noteworthy. Isaac is committed to being successful and to ensuring that he has a positive impact on those around him. His level of maturity and compassion truly stand out among his peers. Isaac is in tune with his surroundings and he is truly a caring citizen of the world.

Mrs. Hart presented:

Maryclaire Pantano

It is not easy to balance life as a middle schooler these days, but Maryclaire Pantano does it all with confidence and a positive attitude. Whether she is working as a student, a performer or a volunteer, Maryclaire demonstrates commitment and character in everything she does. Academically, Maryclaire is a hardworking and engaged student; she never gives less than 100% and gladly helps others whenever she can. It is no wonder that teachers view her as genuine, compassionate, and hardworking, qualities transcending those of the average eighth grader.

In addition to her commitment to her academics, Maryclaire is involved in theater and musical theater where her teacher describes her as “fearless in her performances and also treats each rehearsal and the work of others with the utmost respect.”

Perhaps the most impressive thing about Maryclaire is what she gives back to others. On a daily basis, Maryclaire shows empathy and concern for other students and staff. She is also active in the Excel Club, raising money for different causes. Maryclaire has been a Girl Scout for eight years where she has been involved in many community service projects.

Polson Middle School is fortunate to have Maryclaire Pantano as a member of our community where her uniqueness and kindness is appreciated by all.

Trip Rizzo

“Motivated”, “conscientious”, and “kind”. These are a few of the words mentioned by members of the Polson community when asked to describe Trip Rizzo, a young man well respected, not only by other students, but by faculty and staff. As a student and an athlete, Trip has emerged as a quiet leader in our school.

Trip is a hardworking 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 skill and content of the curriculum, but Trip’s contributions to class go beyond that to include positive peer relations. Trip is kind to others and considers their feelings and perspectives more than most people. He is involved in community service projects through Madison Youth and Family Services. This, coupled with his honesty and integrity, make him well liked by everyone.

Outside of school Trip is involved in hockey and is currently captain of his hockey team. This attests to Trip’s leadership skills in and out of school.

Middle school can be a tumultuous time, but Trip’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.

2.2. Public Participation

None.

3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Jacqueline Sandor and Eric Dillner

Eric Dillner reported the first few weeks of online classes were challenging, but became easier once the surveys went out. AP testing occurred last week and this week.

Jackie Sandor reported the sr. class is curious about school ending a week early and mentioned that financial aid issues have cropped up.

Superintendent Scarice reported that Mr. Salutari has been working on some creative ideas for end of year celebrations and working with the Town as well.

4. Superintendent's Report

Thomas R. Scarice

4.1. Initiation of School Opening Plans

As the state and local towns and cities begin the challenging reopening process, public schools are charged with an enormous task for the fall. In order to begin that process and to maintain a very

smooth leadership transition, Superintendent Scarice reported that the administrative team is forming a broad “school reopening committee” to establish structures and processes to facilitate preparation as soon as individual guidelines emerge from the CDC, the State Department of Public Health, and other critical agencies.

The design of an overarching steering committee, with a number of targeted task force subcommittees, is intended to efficiently disseminate information to the appropriate personnel, to vet protocols and guidelines, and to coordinate with the necessary personnel in the system, as well as with local and state agencies where necessary, among other necessary tasks. The administrative team began the process of establishing a steering committee, along with targeted task force subcommittees last week.

Mrs. Dahling-Hench shared a presentation regarding the work of the District Response Steering Committee, 14 members strong and with two divisions: Infection Control and Activities & Academics.

4.2. Reopening of Central Office

Superintendent Scarice reported the Town offices will begin reopening Monday May 18. In coordinated efforts, Ms. Dobson has worked closely with Town Human Resources Director, Deb Milardo, to ensure that our protocols are in line.

Partial re-entry of Central Office staff is starting on Monday, May 18th. Staff will report to work on a part-time basis based upon a schedule established within the respective departments. Staff will continue to work remotely when not in the office. As of Tuesday, May 26th, the Central Office will be open to the public on an appointment basis.

A list of safety protocols, as well as physical interventions (i.e. protective shield at the receptionist area, the wearing of masks, etc.), has been provided to central office personnel.

After May 26, meetings with the public will be made by appointment only. It will still be recommended that business be conducted with the public by phone or computer if possible. Our receptionist will be in the office from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. to serve in her role as receptionist. Any appointments before or after that time will be met by the staff member arranging the appointment.

4.3. End of Year Recognition and Transition Events

Although graduation is the most prominent topic when assessing end of year activities, there are legitimate transitional and operational meetings that are critical to a successful start next year, in addition to the countless social and recognition events we hold annually in May and June.

For example, students and parents in grades 3, 5, and 8 would ordinarily participate in transition visits, presentations, etc. While we continue to problem-solve the challenge of graduating 279 seniors, and we concurrently look to a comprehensive reopening plan for September, the administrative team is also mindful of the importance of some of the essential transition activities. The team will continue to brainstorm ways to close this gap between now and the end of the year.

Superintendent Scarice reported that he met with Mr. Salutari, Trent Joseph and Sam DeBurra earlier today and all feel confident we will be able to have some type of graduation ceremony that the Town will support, as well as other celebrations.

4.4. Renaming of Wrestling Room

As you all know, we lost a very dear teacher, MPS alumni, and pillar of our community, Dave D’Alessio, a short while ago. A campaign has begun to name the wrestling room in his honor given his years of competing and coaching the team while serving as a highly regarded science teacher.

Kathryn Hart shared the progress of the effort, which originated from staff at Polson. Mrs. Hart referenced Policy #7551 – Naming/Renaming of School Buildings, Components of Buildings and/or School Grounds. A petition was made public which, per board policy, required 100 signatures from Madison residents. That was achieved within a ½ hour, as well as 1,500 additional signatures which were received from students who had moved both out of town and out of state. Mrs. Hart volunteered to be the administrator of the subcommittee which will need to be established – the next step in the process. Melissa Arms, Math teacher at Polson was instrumental in obtaining the 10 letters of recommendation required by the policy. Mrs. Hart also has Dave’s resume which includes his many accomplishments and a letter from a wrestling organization.

4.5. Amendment to Chartwells Agreement

As Art Sickles previously mentioned during the Board Meeting on April 28, we would like to amend our Agreement with Chartwells to extend it for another school year. There are no material changes other than the term of the agreement which will be July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. While it was initially thought that there would be a slight increase in Chartwells fees, the Amendment has been negotiated such that all of Chartwells fees will remain flat for the duration of the one year term.

4.6. Other Matters

Given the status of public meetings, the BOE Retiree Recognition will be presented at the building level this year. Fortunately, the number of retirees is very low this year.

With the assistance of Kelly Spooner & Becky Frost, the district has put together a protocol for cleaning out classrooms, which has been enthusiastically approved by Sam DeBurra, Trent Joseph and Bob Gilhuly.

5. Board Members' Comments

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

6.1. Curriculum and Student Development

Galen Cawley, Chair, Greg DeSantis, Catherine Miller

The Curriculum and Student Development Committee met May 12. The committee discussed curricular work and preparation for Fall 2020, specifically sustaining student engagement and assessment. Mrs. Dahling-Hench provided a progress report on Portrait of a Graduate, a draft of which is anticipated for July 1, as well as the upcoming change to Hand’s Program of Studies, recoding STEM to comply with NCAA regulations. Mrs. Dahling-Hench has reached out to literacy experts Rachael Gabriel and Benjamin Powers for their input on how to conduct student assessments during this time. SAT testing is on pause for the junior class; the College Board is working towards testing occurring in August and/or September. The district has received a Title IV grant for the fall 2020 which will be used for reading intervention for at risk students. Finally, the Wednesday afternoon off-line time for teachers has been well received.

6.2. Communications Committee

Emily Rosenthal, Chair, Greg DeSantis, Kirk Barneby

The Communications Committee met on May 5 and discussed updates on COVID-10 closures and communications. The committee also discussed the budget and the pause on the facilities renewal plan. Zoe Roos provided updates regarding social media. The school lunch program availability is a popular topic on social media as well. Discussed sharing news on the ongoing process of the superintendent search as well as a summer newsletter and updates to the website. The committee will meet again on June 9.

6.3. Facilities Committee

Tom Pellegrino, Chair, Kirk Barneby, Galen Cawley

The Facilities Committee has met twice since the last Board meeting – May 5 and this evening. Bill McMinn provided updates on the ongoing work – plumbing, electrical, carpentry, H-VAC, etc., all of which are well ahead of schedule. Mr. McMinn also spoke about projects that are out to bid – waste water at DHHS and trash recycling, and provided updates on the athletic plans at the Green Hill Campus. The committee convened tonight in executive session to review a real estate transaction.

6.4. Finance Committee

Kirk Barneby, Chair, Galen Cawley, Tom Pellegrino

Mrs. Nobitz discussed possible fuel savings, expenditures, line transfers, possible reimbursements as well as possible surpluses and deficits. A COVID-19 reserve fund is also under consideration.

6.5. Personnel Committee

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

No report – the committee has not met.

6.6. Policy Committee

Greg DeSantis, Chair, Violet McNerney, Emily Rosenthal

No report – the committee has not met.

6.7. CIP Committee

Katie Stein, Kirk Barneby

No report – the committee has not met.

6.8. LEARN Liaison

Diane Infantine-Vyce

No report.

6.9. Board of Selectmen Liaison

Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy provided an update on the process of reopening the town which will begin on Thursday. A Long Term Recovery Committee will be formed to help with the transition of that process, of which education will be a part of. The town is working to get the beaches in order – only citizens will be allowed on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays (with proof of residency and according to social distancing). Referendums have been postponed; the town will work closely with the Board of Ed when the time is right. Mr. Murphy was very complimentary of the online learning process and thanked the teachers and administrators for the work that went into the transition.

Mr. Murphy, who is a liaison for the Madison Youth and Family Services Board, provided feedback received from students regarding the perceived differences between Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 course work. Mr. Murphy also shared his coaching experience with Dave D'Alessio and voiced his support for renaming the wrestling room.

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

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

8.1. Line Items Transfers: 2019-2020: \$212,352.00

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Rosenthal to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

9. Action Item: Minutes of the April 28, 2020 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Pellegrino to approve minutes of the April 28, 2020 Board of Education Meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

10. Action Item: Minutes of the May 5, 2020 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Pellegrino to approve minutes of the May 5, 2020 Board of Education Meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

11. Action Item: Approve Amendment #4 to the Chartwells Agreement originally dated July 1, 2016

MOTION: by Cawley, seconded by Rosenthal to authorize the Superintendent to execute Amendment Number Four to the Chartwells Agreement originally dated July 1, 2016, as presented.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

12. Action Item: Approve donation of chairs for Language Lab at DHHS

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Rosenthal to approve the donation of chairs for use in the Language Lab at DHHS in the amount of \$2,300.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

13. Old Business

14. Future Agenda Items

15. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

16. Adjournment

MOTION: by Pellegrino, seconded by Rosenthal to
adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney,
Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

The Town of Madison does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and the meeting facilities are ADA accessible. Individuals who need assistance are invited to make their needs known by contacting the Town's 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.