

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
August 11, 2020
7:30 PM
via Zoom**

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

Also present: JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Art Sickles, Director of Admin Services; Bill McMinn, Director of Facilities; Becky Frost, Jeffrey Principal; Kathryn Hart, Polson Principal; Zoe Roos, Communications Specialist; Scott Murphy, Madison Board of Selectmen.

Action Item: To add a motion to the agenda that the Board of Education has requested from the Boards of Selectmen and Finance a reserve fund to address COVID-related expenditures in the forthcoming school year.

MOTION: by Barneby, seconded by DeSantis to add a motion to the agenda that the Board of Education request from the Boards of Selectmen and Finance a reserve fund to address COVID-related expenditures in the forthcoming school year.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

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

The Board welcomes public comment at our meetings. When speaking, please state your name and address. Comments are limited to three minutes in order to ensure that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak. Please speak on one topic per public comment session. There are two in this meeting. Please do not identify individual staff members or students by name. The Board is happy to hear from our community, but at a business meeting it should not be expected that the Board will respond. Neither public comment period is a time for public discussion. If necessary, the community member will be contacted for follow-up.

Emily Rosenthal, Board Secretary, will time and limit the first public comment session to 45 minutes with 3 minutes per person. Another public comment session will take place later in the meeting.

Mrs. Rosenthal provided the following statement: Before we open for public comment I would like to share the following communication from the Board: in addition to the many emails we received sent directly to the reopening email account, the Board has reviewed questions, comments and concerns from 60 community members over the past week, these were submitted via email directly to the Board secretary or via the Contact the Board button on the district website. We also received a copy of a petition sign by approximately 148 residents requesting the full reopening of the schools. All communications received in the past week were related to reopening. Questions included why we were going with a hybrid reopening, not full in person; concerns for social and emotional health; the amount of screen time associated with distance learning; (concerns about younger learners in particular), teacher safety and PPE; child care support and options for alternative child care arrangements; ongoing communication from the district; the impact of our tax dollars; what distance learning and the associated technology will look like in the fall; the challenges faced by working families & parents; facilities concerns particularly around air conditioning, air flow and ventilation; what recess will look like; before and after care option; enforcement of mask use and types of accessible masks; and sports. I want to assure the public all of these email questions and comments we receive that are submitted to the Board via the website or the Board secretary are shared with the entire Board of Education as well as the superintendent and these questions continue to inform our communications as well as the FAQ's on our website.

2.1. Public Participation

The Board of Education meeting was well attended by Zoom by more than 50 members of the public. Parents voiced their concerns regarding the opening of school via the hybrid model as well as their support in returning to school in person. Individual comments can be heard in their entirety on the district website under Board of Education Meetings and Minutes.

3. Interim Superintendent's Report Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote

3.1. Extended School Year Update

At Dr. Paddyfote's request, Dr. Battaglia provided an update regarding the extended school year. The district surveyed all families whose students qualified for extended school year services and we were able to provide families with the types of services they requested. Over 40 students attended virtually, while 58 students attended in person distributed amongst the TCLC, Jeffrey and Brown. We were able to supply the amount of PPE necessary to keep students and staff safe and had no COVID cases. Families worked with us to make sure they completed self-checks at home and Stephanie Lesnik and the nursing staff were available to answer questions and work with families. Staff were happy to be working face to face with students and students did very well with the new rules of social distancing and wearing of masks. Complimentary comments received from parents and staff.

3.2. 2020 - 2021 School Re-Opening Update

Dr. Paddyfote gave a Power Point presentation which provided background information with regard to school re-opening plans and reviewed the logistics of the hybrid model. Dr. Paddyfote spoke to the challenges of reopening the district, as well as the preparations for

reopening and what the next steps are. Cleaning protocols were reviewed, as well as plans for heating, ventilation and fresh air in the classrooms. The Power Point presentation can be found on the website under MPS Reopening Information.

Chair Stein opened the floor for Board Member questions. Questions and answers can be heard in their entirety on the district website under Board of Education Meetings and Minutes.

4. Board Members' Comments

Diane Infantine-Vyce: no matter what plan we choose, parents will be happy as well as unhappy. This has been a difficult choice and I thank everyone for their hard work. It is important to keep our best face forward for the children so that they do not start with a negative outlook.

Chair Stein thanked the administrators for the thoughtful approach to the plan, reiterating there is no right answer. This is a safe, smart way to begin the back to school process and I'm sure we all agree the best place for our children is in school. The hybrid plan will provide us with the opportunity to be considerate of student and staff safety.

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

5.1. Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Galen Cawley, Chair; Greg DeSantis, Catherine Miller

No report – the committee has not met. Next meeting scheduled for August 18 at 5:30 p.m.

5.2. Communications Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal Chair; Greg DeSantis, Kirk Barneby

Mrs. Rosenthal reported the committee met with evening via Zoom. Discussions included:

- Superintendent Search
- Website consistency across the schools
- Internal process for responding to emails received by the Board
- Communications around reopening
- Parent webinars
- Resume Board Newsletter

5.3. Facilities Committee

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

Mr. Pellegrino reported the committee met on July 28. Bill McMinn reviewed with the committee the work done over the summer and in particular, COVID preparations. Isolation rooms are ready, water bottle filling stations installed, additional sinks at Jeffrey installed, PPE supplies ordered and space modifications throughout the buildings to accommodate social distancing. Discussions have resurfaced around solar panels at DHHS and the committee would like to recommend to the Board to have 2 solar carports installed – one at Polson and one at DHHS. This will be an agenda item, with a motion for the next Board meeting. The committee will review CIP updates at the next regularly scheduled meeting, August 18.

5.4. Finance Committee

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

Mr. Barneby reported the committee met this evening and voted to move to the Board an action item requesting a reserve fund to cover COVID expenses as the school year progresses as well as the funding of the reserve fund once it is established. This fund will assist the district with both the known and unknown expenses related to the virus.

5.5. Personnel Committee

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

No report – the committee has not met.

5.6. Policy Committee

Members: Greg DeSantis Chair; Violet McNerney, Emily Rosenthal

No report – the committee has not met. Mr. DeSantis noted there will be a special Policy Committee meeting Friday, August 14 at 3:30 p.m./

5.7. LEARN Liaison

Diane Infantine-Vyce

No report as there has been no meeting. LEARN did, however, submit their reopening plan which can be found on their website.

5.8. Board of Selectmen Liaison

Scott Murphy

No report – Mr. Murphy left the meeting.

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

Chair Stein asked for audience response, asking that comments be less than 3 minutes. Please refer to the recording of this meeting for audience comments.

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

7.1. Line Transfers: \$37,619.00

7.2. Budget Expenditure as of August 6, 2020

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Additional Motion:

MOTION: by Barneby, that the Board of Education request from the Boards of Selectmen and Finance a

reserve fund to address COVID-related expenditures in the forthcoming school year.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

8. Action Item: Minutes of the July 14, 2020 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by DeSantis to approve minutes of the July 14, 2020 Board of Education meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

9. Action Item: Minutes of July 29, 2020 Special Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #6540.9)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by DeSantis to approve minutes of the July 29, 2020 Special Board of Education meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: McNerney

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

10. Old Business

11. Future Agenda Items

12. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

13. Adjournment

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by DeSantis to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 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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