

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
October 06, 2020
7:30 PM
Remote**

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. Chair Stein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also present: JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Liz Battaglia, Director of Special Education, Heather Dobson, Human Resource Director, Bill McMinn, Director of Facilities; Anthony Salutari, DHHS Principal, Zoe Roos, Communications Specialist.

Various members of the public via Zoom.

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

2.1. Public Participation

Numerous members of the public spoke with regard to the DHHS Football season.

3. Board of Education Student Representative Report

Isabelle Vagell and Eric Dillner

Eric Dillner reported SAT's will take place next week and PSAT's, October 17. Eric noted the new schedule change is a much better experience and it is nice to be away from the computer screen. The majority of fall sports have begun. Past year Sr. class advisors & officers are working together to create a different type of sr. week which will take place end of October/beginning of November.

Isabelle Vagell reported class officer election essays are due tomorrow and student leadership will be meeting soon. Isabelle also reported on the new online announcement system which will be visible on the Chromebook screen. Students are working on new ways to give feedback to teachers and the school day has improved greatly since the start of school; classes flow more like a regular school day.

4. Interim Superintendent's Report

4.1. Staff Recognition – Joshua Hibbard, DHHS World Language Teacher Recipient of University of Chicago Outstanding Educator Award

Dr. Paddyfote provided the Board with background information regarding the award which has been in existence for more than 3 decades, noting that thousands of applications were received nationwide.

Students from the class of 2024 were asked to name an educator whose guidance has helped them along the path of intellectual growth. Mr. Salutari spoke to his experience working with Mr. Hibbard, referring to him as a leader, a mentor and a positive role model.

4.2. DHHS Advanced Placement Course Participation

Mrs. Dahling-Hench referred to survey results and feedback received from both parents and students, particularly high school students, regarding the amount of screen time students are experiencing. Student schedules at the high school were a predominant theme due to the amount of AP courses, as well as ECE courses and honors courses taken. Mrs. Dahling-Hench shared data regarding AP selection, with a summary of AP courses taken last year and this year for 11th graders and 12th graders for this year, as well as participation in the 18 AP courses the district offers. Information was shared with Scott Cochran, Director of Madison Youth & Family Services and Mr. Salutari spoke to the actions taken at the high school with the information provided. Parent surveys will be sent this week with a focus on the online learning experience.

5. Board Members' Comments

Chair Stein welcomed back Happy Marino to the Board of Education. Mrs. Stein also noted she met with First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons and Town of Madison Board of Finance Chair Jean Fitzgerald to begin looking at budgets and the Capital Improvement Plan.

Violet McNerney welcomed Mrs. Marino back to the Board and congratulated Josh Hibbard for his well-deserved award, speaking to her (and son's) own positive experience with Mr. Hibbard.

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

6.1. Curriculum and Student Development

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

The committee has not met – no report. Next meeting is October 15th at 5:30 p.m.

6.2. Communications Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal Chair; Greg DeSantis

The committee met this evening via Zoom. Mrs. Rosenthal reported the press release regarding Dr. Cooke's appointment has been published to a wide audience. The reopening mailbox has been closed with the start of school and inquiries now go directly to the schools. The MPS Facebook account has been verified and Zoe Roos tracks the analytics and followers. Future communications will focus on the 2021-2022 school year budget, the Capital Improvement Plan, buildings and the referendum, and collaboration with the school nurses and Madison Department of Health as we enter the cold and flu season. Role of the board and of the administration, differences between board decisions and operational decisions is also planned for the future. Our next meeting is December 1st at 5:30 p.m.

We do receive emails directly to the reopening account however, the Board also receives questions and comments directly from the public through the "Contact the Board" button on the district website. Mrs. Rosenthal noted that since the last Board meeting, two communications have been received – one that the district should delay the full reopening and one on behalf of the football concerns we hear this evening. Mrs. Rosenthal noted all emails, questions and comments submitted to the Board via the website, as well as the Board secretary are shared with all Board members. Comments help inform the Board as well as FAQ's regarding re-opening.

6.3. Facilities Committee

Members: Tom Pellegrino, Chair, Galen Cawley

Mr. Pellegrino reported the committee began its meeting this evening with an update on the reopening of school. New desks for K-3 elementary classes have been received and repair work is in progress to

the HVAC systems at Hand and Polson. The Committee reviewed the CIP Plan and voted to recommend to the full board a five-year plan, running from 2021-2022 to 2025-2026. The total plan of \$12,202,738 will be submitted upon full Board approval to CIP by October 15, 2020. It was noted that only the first of the five years would be confirmed budget, with the remaining four being provided for planning purposes. By unanimous vote, the 5-year CIP plan was approved by the Committee and will be recommended to the full board. It was further agreed that the Committee would take up review of the remaining years and projects under the \$84.9m plan beginning with its next meeting.

MOTION: by Pellegrino, seconded by Cawley for the Board of Education to consider the Five-Year Facilities Plan recommendations from the Finance Committee

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Marino

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

6.4. Finance Committee

Members: Galen Cawley, Tom Pellegrino

The committee has not met – no report.

6.5. Personnel Committee

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

The Personnel Committee is in the final phases of negotiations and will present their conclusions shortly.

6.6. Policy Committee

Members: Greg DeSantis Chair; Violet McNerney, Emily Rosenthal

The committee has not met. There are policies on tonight's agenda for approval and adoption.

6.7. LEARN Liaison

Diane Infantine-Vyce

No report.

6.8. Board of Selectmen Liaison

Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy was not in attendance this evening.

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

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

8.1. Line Item Transfers as of September 30, 2020

8.2. Budget Expenditure as of October 1, 2020

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Marino
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

9. Action Item: Motion to approve \$1,983.14 donation from Jeffrey PTO to Jeffrey Elementary School for schoolwide subscription to Scholastic Magazine for 20-21 school year

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Pellegrino to approve the \$1,983.14 donation from the Jeffrey PTO to the Jeffrey Elementary School for a schoolwide subscription to Scholastic Magazine for the 20-21 school year

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

10. Action Item: Motion to approve Policy #3541.5 – Transportation

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce to approve Policy #3541.5 – Transportation.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Marino

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

11. Action Item: Motion to approve Policy #5110.4 - Student Discipline

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by DeSantis to waive the readings of Policy #5110.4 – Student Discipline

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Marino

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce to approve Policy #5110.4 Student Discipline.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Marino

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

12. Action Item: Motion to approve Policy #5090.3.1 - Student Dress

MOTION: by Rosenthal to approve Policy #5090.3.1 – Student Dress

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Marino

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

13. Action Item: Motion to approve Policy #5113 - Student Attendance

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to waive the readings of Policy #5113 – Student Attendance
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Marino
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

MOTION: by Rosenthal to approve Policy #5113 Student Attendance
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Marino
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

14. Action Item: Motion to approve the Minutes of the September 22, 2020 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by DeSantis, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2020 Board of Education Meeting.
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Marino
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

15. Old Business

16. Future Agenda Items

17. Meetings/Dates of Importance

18. Discussion concerning information contained in confidential documents related to strategy and negotiations with the MAA (proposed for executive session)

19. Adjournment

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by DeSantis to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m.
AYES: Barneby, Cawley, DeSantis, McNerney, Marino, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal, Stein
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

“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.”