

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
October 20, 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 Vice-Chair Galen Cawley at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Cawley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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, 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

Members of the public spoke regarding the loss of a student last week at DHHS, COVID and the full return to school at Hand, the mental health of the students, as well as the responses from the high school and district. Mrs. Rosenthal shared a thank you letter received from 4 parents of the fencing team at DHHS commending Mr. Salutari, Mr. Bodner and Mrs. Whitcher for their support and comfort not only for the team, but the entire student body.

3. Board of Education Student Representative Report

Isabelle Vagelle and Eric Dillner

Isabelle spoke to the loss of a student at Daniel Hand last week, noting the profound impact it has had on the entire student body. Isabelle also talked about the response from the administration and the discussions that have occurred during PAW group meetings. "Wellness Wednesday" is currently under consideration. Class officer elections are now complete.

Eric reported that SAT & PSAT exams went smoothly. A new student homepage pilot is currently underway, serving as a new way to access and receive information. A poll of the senior students regarding the Sr. Picnic resulted in a 60% yes vote and Eric spoke to the possible variations. The National Honor Society is now completely virtual and is wrapping up this week.

4. Interim Superintendent's Report

4.1. School Reopening Update

Dr. Paddyfote reported students, teachers, support staff, administrators and the Facilities Department have all done an exceptional job ensuring that our students and staff are healthy. Our mitigation factors since the opening of school have been effective and models of instruction have been working well. Dr. Paddyfote shared comments from the school principals with regard to how their school has done since the change on October 8.

5. Board Members' Comments

Dr. Infantine-Vyce commented on the district gradually bringing things back, such as the ability of students buying lunch.

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

6.1. Curriculum and Student Development

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

Mr. Cawley reported the committee met last week at which time Mrs. Witcher reviewed the DHHS achievement report and Mrs. Dahling-Hench reviewed the baseline data collection for Grades K-8.

6.2. Communications Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal Chair; Greg DeSantis

Mrs. Rosenthal reported the committee has not met but provided the following update. All emails, questions and comments submitted to the Board via the website, individual board members or the board secretary are shared with the entire Board of Education as well as the superintendent. Mrs. Rosenthal reviewed two pieces of parent communication – 1. in support of the return to school full time and the mental health impact of continuing in hybrid and 2. thanking the district for the support of the entire community after the death of a DHHS student. We also heard from a student group regarding a school project for to support the additional funding to hire dedicated bilingual staff to assist ELL students. We encourage the public to reach out to the Board of Education as well as attend our board meetings.

6.3. Facilities Committee

Members: Tom Pellegrino, Chair, Galen Cawley

No report – the Facilities Committee has not met.

6.4. Finance Committee

Members: Happy Marino, Chair Galen Cawley, Tom Pellegrino

Mrs. Marino reported the committee met this evening and discussed the budget calendar and guidelines which have been reviewed and include input from Dr. Cooke. Mr. Dahling-Hench addressed curriculum support pieces and proposed new positions. A budget meeting will be held on December 7, coinciding with Dr. Cooke's first day in the district. Mr. Sickel reviewed technology requirements. The committee also discussed contractual obligations.

6.5. Personnel Committee

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

Dr. McNerney reported the Madison Board of Education and the AMA have come to a tentative agreement on October 6. The Personnel Committee, with the assistance of the Board attorney and HR Director Heather Dobson, successfully negotiated an agreement with the Board's approval and vote, unanimously agreed to some changes in the administrators' contract.

6.6. Policy Committee

Members: Greg DeSantis Chair; Violet McNerney, Emily Rosenthal

Dr. DeSantis reported the committee met this evening and unanimously agreed on the following:

- A first reading of the following policies on November 10:
 1. Policy #4118.14 - Disabilities
 2. Policy #5200 - Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504
 3. Policy #5120.3.5 - Automatic External Defibrillator
 4. Policy #1150 - Smoking
 5. Policy #1160 - Possession of Deadly Weapons or Firearms
- Rescission of the following policies (as recommended by Shipman & Goodwin):
 1. Policy #1000 - School-Community Relations Program
 2. Policy #1312 - Public Complaints
 3. Policy #1316 - Conduct on School Property
 4. Policy #1350 - Relations with Law Enforcement Officials
- The committee reviewed proposals to amend Policy #9400, Organization of School Board, #9410, Board Organizational Meeting, and #9420, Board Officers. After discussion, the committee recommended unanimously that the BOE revise these three policies, #9400, #9410, and #9420 with first readings tonight, with the modification as proposed, and unanimously recommended by the committee that board officers be permitted to serve two consecutive one-year terms in a position before reaching the term limit. This will require a motion.

MOTION: by DeSantis, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to consider a first reading this evening for Policies 9400, 9410 and 9420.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

A discussion ensued.

6.7. LEARN Liaison

Diane Infantine-Vyce

Dr. Infantine-Vyce provided the following update:

- Members were informed that in compliance with Governor Lamont's Executive Order No. 7B, an audio recording of LEARN's monthly virtual board meetings will be made and posted on the LEARN website until further notice and can be found via the following link [http://www.learn.k12.ct.us/about us/board of directors/board of directors 2020-2021](http://www.learn.k12.ct.us/about_us/board_of_directors/board_of_directors_2020-2021)
- Goodwin University has been designated a Local Educational Association, allowing it to have access to Title I funding.
- Dr. Infantine-Vyce reviewed the Covid-19 cases and moves to virtual learning throughout the LEARN facilities.
- Jack Cross, LEARN's Director of Innovation & Development, is designing a potential regional technology consortium to assist districts with sharing technical staff.

- The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) approved the Ocean Avenue LEARNing academy roof project.
- A roundtable discussion took place concerning the challenges & opportunities regarding the pandemic, particularly the lack of substitutes.
- Contact tracing has proven difficult outside of the classroom due to less social distancing and less wearing of masks at sporting events.

6.8. Board of Selectmen Liaison
Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy was not in attendance – no report

7. Action Item: Motion to approve the donation to cover the cost of a clinician to work on/learn non-classical techniques in the chamber ensemble (approximate value \$1,250).

MOTION: by McNerney, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the donation to cover the cost of a clinician to work on/learn non-classical techniques in the chamber ensemble (approximate value \$1,250).
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Marino, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

8. Action Item: Motion to approve the donation of N95 masks from Mr. Raymond Watt & Bridget Newton for distribution to the Madison Public Schools health offices for direct clinical use (approximate value \$4,320).

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Marino to approve the donation of N95 masks from Mr. Raymond Watt & Bridget Newton for distribution to the Madison Public Schools health offices for direct clinical use (approximate value \$4,320).
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Marino, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

9. Action Item: Motion to approve \$1,500.00 donation from Hand Music Boosters to the DHHS school music program to purchase specialty music masks and bell covers for all instruments.

MOTION: by Pellegrino, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the \$1,500.00 donation from Hand Music Boosters to the DHHS school music program to purchase specialty music masks and bell covers for all instruments.
AYES: Cawley, DeSantis, Infantine-Vyce, McNerney, Marino, Miller, Pellegrino, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

10. Action Item: Motion to approve the Minutes of the October 6, 2020 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Pellegrino, seconded by Miller to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2020 Board of Education meeting (as amended).

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

11. Old Business

12. Future Agenda Items

13. Meetings/Dates of Importance

14. Executive Session (anticipated)

Convene for the purpose of discussion of confidential document with respect to collective bargaining with the Association of Madison Administrators (AMA)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Miller to convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of a confidential document with respect to collective bargaining with the Association of Madison Administrators (AMA)

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

15. Possible Action Item

Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Madison Board of Education and the Association of Madison Administrators (AMA)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Pellegrino to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Madison Board of Education and the Association of Madison Administrators (AMA)

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

16. Adjournment

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by DeSantis to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

“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.”