

**Madison Public Schools
Policy Committee Meeting
April 27, 2021
6:00 PM
Remote**

MEETING AGENDA

In Mrs. Marino's absence, Emily Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Emily Rosenthal, Violet McNerney

Other Board Members Present: Galen Cawley, Diane Infantine-Vyce

Also Present: Dr. Craig Cooke, DHHS Students Kelly Richard and Katie Beiner, Darcy Fiano

Recorder: Emily Rosenthal

I. DHHS Student Presentation on Dress Code

DHHS Students Kelly Richard and Katie Beiner gave a presentation and a recommendation for a no shame dress code, as part of a civics class assignment where they surveyed and shared student voices. They found that students who identify as female reported being disproportionately impacted by the dress code. They shared anecdotes from students who had felt embarrassed, uncomfortable, degraded or shamed by dress code enforcements. Students reported when they were addressed, coded or were in violation of the dress code that this impacted their confidence. Results from their survey suggested that there might be a lack of regulation regarding how the dress code is enforced, with more people who identify as female being impacted, feeling shame or ridiculed, especially as enforcement is done publicly with negative effects on confidence. There may also be disparities and how the dress code is enforced based on body type. Madison's current dress code was compared to a model policy from Alameda California Unified School district's no shame dress code, which is not as rigid and has much less room for any discrimination, whereas students still have freedom of expression and reasonable boundaries but create an environment of comfort and body confidence. The students shared how no shame dress code could be enforced including teacher training. The committee was appreciative of the presentation from the students, and we will further discuss this in particular, looking at both board policy around dress code and student dress, and how the dress code is described and enforced in the Student Handbooks.

II. Review of Series 2000 Policies Proposed for Rescission

The committee reviewed policies that have been recommended for removal by Shipman & Goodwin which will go for a first reading at the next Board meeting:

- #2230 Workplace Safety Committee
- #2250 Crisis Management

Policy #2260 Administrative Responsibility for Student Placement will be maintained and moved to Series 5000.

III. Review of Policies Proposed for Revision

- #2110 Administration Positions – scheduled for a 1st reading at the next Board meeting
- #5090.3.1 Student Dress – on hold for further discussion
- #9540.10 Public Participation at Board Meetings – scheduled for a 1st reading at the next Board meeting

IV. Public Comment – no comments

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.