

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
November 30, 2021
7:30 PM
Polson Library & 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
 - 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance

The public meeting of the Madison Board of Education was called to order by Chair Seth Klaskin at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Klaskin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Seth Klaskin, Galen Cawley, Emily Rosenthal, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Cathy Miller, Steve Pynn, Maureen Lewis, Mary Ann Connelly, Jen Gordon.

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; T. J. Salutari, DHHS Principal, Heather Dobson, Human Resources Director, Kelly Spooner, Ryerson Principal, several Ryerson staff members.

2. ESPN Recognition – Ryerson Elementary School

Kelly Spooner, Ryerson Principal thanked administration and Board members for the opportunity to celebrate Ryerson for its distinguished Unified Sports Program and recognized those staff members in attendance. Mrs. Spooner talked about specifics of the program prior to and during COVID.

Motion added to change order of agenda

MOTION: By Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Rosenthal to rearrange the agenda to move the Student Representative Report to #3 and move Executive Session to #9.
AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Infantine-Vyce, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

3. Board of Education Student Representative Report
Isabelle Vagell and Lucy Fritzinger

Isabelle reported Trimester 1 exams are occurring this week, with Trimester 2 starting next week. Fall theater performance of Clue, spring musical Rent. Chorus will be performing December 20th, Jazz Band & Chamber Ensemble December 21st. Field trips starting again.

Lucy reported on the fall sports season noting football is in the first round of playoffs at St. Joe's in Bridgeport. Many of the players received all league awards. The girls swimming team had an amazing season and are state champions in their class (now back to back years). Winter sports began a few days ago.

Both Lucy and Isabelle welcomed the newly elected Board of Education members.

4. School / Community Session
4.1. Public Participation

Public comments can be heard on the meeting recording posted on the district website.

5. Superintendent's Report
Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

Dr. Cooke provided the following:

- The implementation of the Screen and Save program is currently on hold.
- Vaccination Clinics were well attended for students ages 5-11. Second shot clinics are scheduled for Friday, December 3 and Friday, December 10. Dr. Cooke thanked Heath Director Trent Joseph and Griffin Health for making the vaccine clinics possible.
- Enrollment Projections - the District has again refreshed its enrollment projections which will be shared with the board and the public soon.
- The School Development Plans will be presented at an upcoming board meeting.

6. Board Member Comments

Chair Klaskin noted that he and Dr. Cooke have attended various meetings (Newcomers Club and Economic Development Commission to name a few) to help promote the school renewal plan and address questions from the community, as well as last week's Board of Selectmen meeting. The Board of Selectmen voted to advance the plan to the Board of Finance for its consideration, as well as the plan to purchase the Janssen property on Mungertown Road. It has long been planned that the Janssen property purchase is specifically intended to serve the town by providing the property on which to build the proposed new elementary school.

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

No comments.

8. Board of Selectmen Liaison
Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy not in attendance – no report.

9. Action Item: Motion to enter into Executive Session

9.1. Discussion of information contained in FERPA-protected records regarding a student

9.2. Discussion of NAGE contract

MOTION: By Rosenthal, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to enter into Executive Session to discuss information contained in FERPA- protected records

regarding a student and the NAGE contract. The Board invites Mr. Salutari to join in the FERPA discussion and Heather Dobson to join in the NAGE contract discussion.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Infantine-Vyce, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Motion added to exit Executive Session: Vote passed unanimously (9-0) to exit Executive Session and re-enter Regular Session.

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

10.1. Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Steven Pynn, Chair; Catherine Miller, Jen Gordon

Dr. Infantine-Vyce reported on the October 19 committee meeting. Mrs. Dahling-Hench gave a presentation of the Easy CMB Fall 20-21 results for grades K-8. The universal screener was divided by grade with data given by percentile, noting especially the 50th percentile numbers. It was noted that Foundations is working well and that 3rd Grade showed great growth with excellent numbers at the 50th percentile (78-82%). An extra classroom was added at Jeffrey in 1st grade to decrease class size for targeted tier instruction, an interventionist was added and data teams are meeting regularly. It was noted that grades 3-8 performed better than lower grades and there is more work to do to combat pandemic related setbacks.

Ms. Frost gave a presentation on the prep work being done for Social Emotional Screening. Madison is a pilot cohort to use the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (or DESSA mini) screener. We are awaiting training in DESSA protocols. Mrs. Dahling-Hench hopes the first administration of the DESSA mini will be in February, pending further state guidance.

It was noted by Dr. DeSantis that we should be prepared to see our typical winter dip, especially in first grade. It was also noted by Mrs. Dahling-Hench that professional development in fluency work will occur in March 2022.

Mr. Pynn provided a report on tonight's Curriculum Committee Meeting. Three presentations were given this evening. Mr. Salutari discussed the Program of Studies, focusing on course descriptions to be better aligned with classroom instruction. Mr. Pynn noted the considerable work by the entire staff on this fifth ideation currently still in draft form. Shifting of level two classes to level one has taken place, based on an examination of the rigor of those classes, as well as one instance of a shift from level one to level two, based on that same examination. Efforts have been made to make some underutilized classes more attractive.

Mr. Salutari also talked about the process of preparing for a site visit from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges in 2024. DHHS is currently accredited and approximately halfway through the two-year selection process. The entire faculty is engaged in this comprehensive process. Of particular note is that NEASC has significantly changed the standards and process, with many more indicators and 32 principles of effective practice that must be met to earn accreditation.

The final presentation addressed a school externship and counseling plan which would involve converting a current DHHS counselor to a career and college counselor, thereby increasing externship presentations to students with a more personal exploration of career pathways. Mr. Pynn

noted the enthusiastic support of this direction by board members with a request for future presentations.

10.2. Facilities Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal, Chair; Steven Pynn, Galen Cawley

No report – the committee has not met.

10.3. Finance Committee

Members: Galen Cawley, Chair; Diane Infantine-Vyce, Emily Rosenthal

Mr. Cawley reported the committee met this evening and made a motion to approve the budget calendar and bring to the full board, noting the Town referendum is scheduled for May 16. The Finance Committee will meet again on December 14. Budget assumptions were reviewed. Dr. Cooke provided information supporting the inclusion of a math coach for grades 7-9, supporting our advanced placement program and increased support for English Language Learners. Mrs. Dahling-Hench noted COVID paused our curriculum writing cycle which we plan to restart for K-12 Wellness, as well as Art, Music and Theater. The committee talked about technology and the progress made with Smart Boards. The length of AP courses was discussed – how many are two trimesters as opposed to three, and how many students do not take the exam. The committee entertained questions from the public regarding money allocated to the education of boys as to how to treat girls, as well as the self-defense classes offered for girls at DHHS and the cost of an alternative education.

10.4. Personnel Committee

Members: Maureen Lewis, Chair; Catherine Miller, Mary Ann Connelly

No report – the committee has not met.

10.5. Policy Committee

Members: Diane Infantine-Vyce, Chair; Maureen Lewis, Jen Gordon

No report – the committee has not met; however, Dr. Infantine-Vyce noted there is a policy on the agenda for approval this evening - #3240 Non-Resident Admission and Tuition Fees.

10.6. LEARN Liaison

Mary Ann Connelly

No report.

11. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2021 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: By Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Gordon to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2021 Board of Education meeting as amended.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Infantine-Vyce, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Klaskin, Gordon

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

12. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2021 Board of Education Organizational Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: By Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Gordon to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2021 Board of Education Organizational meeting.
AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Infantine-Vyce, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

13. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2021 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: By Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Gordon to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2021 Board of Education meeting as amended.
AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Infantine-Vyce, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

14. Action Item: Motion to approve Policy #3240 Non-Resident Admission and Tuition Fees

MOTION: By Infantine-Vyce to approve Policy #3240 Non-Resident Admission and Tuition Fees.
AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Infantine-Vyce, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

15. Action Item: Motion to approve donation in the amount of \$1,775 from an anonymous donor to a band member

MOTION: By Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Gordon to approve a donation in the amount of \$1,775 from an anonymous donor to a band member.
AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Infantine-Vyce, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

16. Action Item: Motion to approve NAGE contract, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024

MOTION: By Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Miller to approve the NAGE contract, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Infantine-Vyce, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

17. Future Agenda Items

18. Meetings/Dates of Importance

19. Adjournment

MOTION: By Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Connelly to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 p.m.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Klaskin, Lewis, Infantine-Vyce, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

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.