

Madison Public Schools Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 23, 2022, 7:30 PM
Hammonasset Room / Zoom
10 Campus Drive
Madison, CT 06443

Subject to Approval

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order / Attendance

The public meeting of the Madison Board of Education was called to order by Chair Seth Klaskin. Mr. Klaskin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent

2. School / Community Session

2.1. Public Participation

Susan Yankee, mother of former Board of Education Student Representative Eric Dillner, expressed her concern regarding ADA accessibility within the new school building. Ms. Yankee spoke to Public Act 19-84 which states the School Safety Infrastructure Council shall revise the school safety infrastructure criteria for school building projects. Ms. Yankee asked the Board to place someone in special education on the new school building committee.

3. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

Dr. Cooke provided the following. The first day of the 2023 school year is rapidly approaching. Buses have been practicing runs and teachers have returned to their classrooms. New teacher orientation occurred today.

Two days of professional learning for our school administrators occurred last week, with day one including teacher leaders. Human Resources has been very busy – last week we had a number of unfilled paraprofessional positions, with up to 15 as of today. The paraprofessional job market has been a difficult one and is a common theme statewide. The admin team has been working diligently to shift paras as needed.

Our Board of Education retreat is currently scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, beginning at 5 p.m. in the Hammonasset Room.

COVID protocols for the 22-23 school year are similar to how we ended the 21-22 school year, moving to masks optional, which follows the CT State Department of Education recommendations. Staff and students are welcome to wear masks if they so choose. We do have COVID tests available for distribution and the current isolation period for testing positive is 5 days (which will continue). Return to school can occur on day 6 but it is recommended to wear a mask

for 5 days thereafter. We will continue to not contact trace but will take any steps necessary to protect the school community and will watch local hospitalization rates. We will continue to report cases to the State on a daily basis as they are reported to us and will update the website accordingly.

Each summer, we work to improve school security. This is a topic of discussion at each administrative meeting. This summer, major changes occurred at the front entrances of Polson and Brown. Double entry doors allow office staff to view and converse with visitors before entering the building. Increased site lines from school offices to the outside and our new visitor management system (Raptor) have enhanced security. Dr. Cooke presented a slide which detailed changes in security staffing, as well a slide delineating salary and benefit costs for armed security officers, and start-up costs.

Dr. Cooke also spoke to the addition of air conditioning in the district, noting he does not anticipate early release at this time due to excessive heat. He did, however, encourage parents to watch phones & messages in the event of unforeseen circumstances (i.e. power outages). The Facilities Committee and the Board discussed supporting the town's intention to donate a small portion of the Jansen property to the Madison Land Trust.

4. Board Members' Comments

Chair Klaskin noted the Board of Education retreat is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, the focus of which will be how the Board can take its work to the next level. Information will be emailed in advance.

Dr. Infantine-Vyce would like to hear updates from the new athletic director and Dr. Cooke noted he would like to hear about the academic achievements of our athletes by team. Cathy Miller suggested our student athletes, possibly team captains, present to the Board. Steven Pynn commended the enhancement of security regarding external threats in the district but would like to have a larger conversation about student safety and well-being. Mary Ann Connelly suggested this be discussed at the September 27 retreat. Chair Klaskin noted this will be an agenda item.

5. Audience Response to Information Presented (Ref. Bylaw #9540.10) - None

6. Board of Selectmen Liaison Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy was not in attendance this evening.

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

7.1. Curriculum and Student Development

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

The committee has not met. Next meeting scheduled for September 6.

7.2. Facilities Committee

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

The Facilities Committee met this evening and was given an extensive update from Tecton Architects regarding the Brown building project. The presentation will be shared on the district website. Looking ahead, public workshops will be planned to gather community input and a "share an idea" book will be distributed to students for their input as well. At the

request of the chairs of the Boards of Selectmen and Finance, the CIP will again be reviewed for possible reductions. A special Facilities Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 30 beginning at 4 p.m. by Zoom. Bill McMinn spoke to the donation of a piece of land adjacent to Neck River, abutting the Land Trust property. The Town would like to build a storage area adjacent to the Facilities Department building.

7.3. Finance Committee

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

The committee has not met. Next meeting scheduled for September 20.

7.4. Personnel Committee

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

Maureen Lewis reported that MAESS negotiations are ongoing.

7.5. Policy Committee

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

Dr. Infantine-Vyce reported the committee met this evening and will be bringing the following policies to the September 6 Board meeting for a first reading:

- #6030 School Calendar
- #1150 Prohibition Against Nicotine and Cannabis Use
- #5120.3.3. Administration of Student Medications in the Schools
- #9460 Advisory Committees

Policy #4112.8 Nepotism and Policy #7551 Naming/Renaming of School Buildings will require further discussion and return to the next Policy Committee agenda.

7.6. LEARN Liaison

No meetings have occurred over the summer.

7.7. Town American Rescue Plan Funding Committee

Emily Rosenthal reported meetings have occurred and applications are being received. Mrs. Rosenthal reiterated that funding is intended to assist small businesses, non-profits and recovery efforts for the Town due to COVID.

7.8. Town Marijuana Advisory Committee

Mary Ann Connelly reported no meetings have taken place this summer.

8. Action Item: Discuss and take possible action on the addition of Armed School Security Specialists

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Gordon to approve the new positions of Armed School Security Specialists.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Gordon to approve the Superintendent to request a special appropriation for the 2022-2023 School Year to fund the positions of Armed School Security Specialists.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

9. Action Item: Motion to approve the \$10,000 donation to Jeffrey Elementary School from the Jeffrey PTO

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Miller to approve the \$10,000 donation to Jeffrey Elementary School from the Jeffrey PTO.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

10. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2022 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Rosenthal to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2022 Board of Education meeting.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

11. Old Business - none

12. Future Agenda Items - none

13. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

14. Adjournment

MOTION: by Gordon, seconded by Connelly to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Gordon, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, 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 ADA/Human Resources Director, Debra Ferrante, at 203-245-6310 or by email at ferranted@madisonct.org at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.