

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 7, 2023 7:30 PM

Town Campus Hammonasset Room/Zoom
10 Campus Drive
Madison, CT 06443

Subject to Approval

Meeting Minutes

Video documentation of these proceedings can be found in the Meetings/Minutes section of the website.

I. Call to Order / Attendance

The public meeting of the Madison Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Seth Klaskin at 7:31 p.m. Mr. Klaskin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Galen Cawley, Mary Ann Connelly, Seth Klaskin, Maureen Lewis, Catherine Miller, Steven Pynn, Emily Rosenthal

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

II. School / Community Session

No members of the public spoke.

III. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Lucy Fritzinger and Eli Ackerman

Eli reported that there is a band concert on Feb. 15 and the DHHS Cheerleading team recently won the SCC Championship. Lucy reported that playoffs for many winter sports start soon. She shared that underclassmen have nearly completed the course selection process for next year. She said the process was successfully completed almost entirely online for the first time this year.

IV. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

CABE Award Presentation/Legislative Update - CABE Executive Director Patrice McCarthy presented the Board with the two communication awards it received earlier in the year. She then went over the upcoming budget process at the state level and the various bills moving through the legislature that could impact local districts including bills focused on ECS funding, Excess Cost, and school construction grant reimbursement levels.

Accountability Report - Assistant Superintendent Gail Dahling-Hench gave a report on the Accountability Index. A video of the presentation can be viewed in full on the website.

V. Board Members' Comments

None.

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

No members of the public spoke.

VII. Board of Selectmen Liaison

Scott Murphy

Mr. Murphy was not in attendance. Chairman Klaskin read a brief report on his behalf.

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

VIII.A. Line Item Transfers as of January 31, 2023

VIII.B. Budget Expenditures as of January 31, 2023

IX. Action Item: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Cawley to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

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

X.A. Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Steven Pynn, Chair; Catherine Miller

Mr. Pynn reported that the committee meeting took place this evening at Daniel Hand High School. The meeting focused consisted of a tour and presentation of the FAB Lab and its progress after six months of operation. The initial efforts have been around building understanding of the purpose and potential of the lab and building capacity. Toward that end there have been training documents and videos as well as focused trainings of nine teachers in the use of the equipment and cross-curricular possibilities. The primary function of the lab is in support of the Independent Study Project for students although other students are being drawn to the space to explore their particular interests. The staff are endeavoring to be responsive to student interests and are making machines and materials available based upon what students are seeking. An example of this was the sewing machines that generated immediate interest. A number of student projects were displayed and explained including scale architectural models, electronics, etching and engraving using laser, CNC models and projects, 3D printer products and NASA fabrics, to name a few. It was pointed out that this is just the beginning and that the LAB has great potentiality and growing student interest. Of concern is the fact that the primary visionary of this lab is leaving the district to accompany his family out of state. Efforts to bring other staff members up to speed and recruit a similarly experienced leader are under way.

X.B. Facilities Committee

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

No report.

X.C. Finance Committee

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

No report.

X.D. Personnel Committee

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

No report.

X.E. Policy Committee

Members: Diane Infantine-Vyce, Chair; Maureen Lewis

Chairman Klaskin briefly reviewed the following policies on the agenda for a first reading.

X.E.1. Policies proposed for Rescission, First Reading:

Policy #5060.1.1 Travel and Exchange Programs/Admission of Exchange and Foreign Students

Policy #5060.3.1 Re-Entry to School

Policy #5080.4 Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance

Policy #5090 Student Rights and Responsibilities

X.E.2. Policies for a First Reading:

Policy #5120.3.3 Administration of Student Medications in the Schools

Policy #5120.3.4 Management Plan and Guidelines for Students with Food Allergies, Glycogen Storage Disease and/or Diabetes

Policy #5144.4 Physical Activity, Unrestricted Play and Student Discipline

Policy #5200 Americans with Disabilities Act/Section 504

X.F. LEARN Liaison

Mary Ann Connelly

No report.

X.G. Town Marijuana Advisory Committee

Mary Ann Connelly

Mrs. Connelly reported that the committee has met and is looking to possibly bring the issue of allowing dispensaries in Madison to the voters.

XI. Action Item: Motion to approve the donation of \$4,000 from the Ryerson PTO to Ryerson Elementary School to help offset the cost of student field trips.

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Miller to approve the donation of \$4,000 from the Ryerson PTO to Ryerson Elementary School to help offset the cost of student field trips.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0
MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

XII. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2023 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Cawley, seconded by Rosenthal to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2023 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

XIII. Future Agenda Items

None.

XIV. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

XV. Adjournment

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Lewis to adjourn at 9:02 p.m.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 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.