Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 4, 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 regular meeting of the Madison Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Seth Klaskin at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Klaskin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Galen Cawley, Diane Infantine-Vyce, 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

Lucy was not in attendance this evening. Eli reported on spring sports, the school day SAT for juniors, upcoming standardized test, a recent juniors-only assembly on goal setting and managing stress, the upcoming K-12 art show on April 18, and the upcoming Spring Play. Board members asked Eli a few questions about the assembly and the school-day SAT.

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

Paraprofessional Appreciation Day - April 5 is Paraprofessional Appreciation Day. Dr. Cooke thanked the many paras we have at MPS for the work they do each and every day to help us deliver education.

2023-2024 Budget Reduction Update - Dr. Cooke shared that the Board of Finance (BOF) has asked the BOE to make an additional $25,000 cut to the proposed 23-24 BOE budget. The administration had previously identified $50,000 in savings in liability insurance and electricity but the BOF felt that was not enough. Dr. Cooke said he and the administrative team discussed the cut and he believes the reduction can be made up in salaries due to an unanticipated retirement. The reduction will be brought to the Board for its confirmation in May.

Upcoming Safety and Security Presentation - The administration will give the Board a presentation on school safety and security in May. Portions of the presentation will be held in executive session.

End-of-Year Schedule - Dr. Cooke went over some of the events happening the last week of school such as the Polson Promotion Ceremony and Daniel Hand Graduation with Board members. He shared that the last day of school is June 14 and is an early release day. June 13 will also be an early release

day in recognition that it is the make-up day for December 23 which was a scheduled early release day.

V. Board Members' Comments

Mr. Klaskin echoed Dr. Cooke's thank you to paraprofessionals.

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.

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

VIII.A. Budget Expenditures

IX. Action Item: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Cawley, Klaskin, Infantine-Vyce, 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: Steve Pynn, Chair; Catherine Miller, Mary Ann Connelly

Mr. Pynn reported that the committee has met twice since the last full board meeting. At the meeting on March 21, there was an AP US History textbook adoption presentation from high school teachers and a presentation from administrators on the current focus schools response plan.

At the committee meeting on April 4, there was a world language textbook adoption presentation from Jennifer Aguzzi. The world language department is seeking new textbooks for American Sign Language, Latin, and Mandarin Chinese. Then Leah Stillman gave the committee an update on the performing arts curriculum development. The presentation was a comprehensive overview of the current and projected Arts programs from K to 12. It began with a mission and vision statement that emphasized that the arts are part of every students experience and central to their development and creativity. There was clearly a very deliberate progression of scaffolded experiences helping students discover their strengths talents and interests with increasing competency. Of note was an evolution into the upper grades of digital opportunities in music and the arts. Performance on many different levels was also central to the presentation.

X.B. Facilities Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal, Chair, Steven Pynn, Diane Infantine-Vyce

No report.

X.C. Finance Committee
Members: Galen Cawley, Chair, Christine Maisano, 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, Galen Cawley

Dr. Infantine-Vyce reviewed the following policies on the agenda for a first reading.

Policies for a First Reading:

- #4241 - Absence of School Staff
- #4300 - Recognition of Service Awards

X.F. LEARN Liaison
Mary Ann Connelly

No report.

X.G. Town Marijuana Advisory Committee
Mary Ann Connelly

No report.

XI. Action Item: Motion to adopt AP US History textbook *Give Me Liberty*

THIS ITEM WAS TABLED

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Miller to table the adoption of AP US History textbook *Give Me Liberty*.

AYES: Cawley, Klaskin, Infantine-Vyce, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

XII. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2023 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Rosenthal to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2023 Board of Education meeting.

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

NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

XIII. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2023 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Lewis, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2023 Board of Education meeting.

AYES: Cawley, Klaskin, Infantine-Vyce, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

XIV. Future Agenda Items

XV. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

XVI. Adjournment

XVI.A. Action item: Motion to adjourn.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

AYES: Cawley, Klaskin, Infantine-Vyce, Lewis, Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0

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