

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 22, 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, Mary Ann Connelly, Seth Klaskin, Maureen Lewis, Christine Maisano, Cathy 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. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

New School Naming Committee – Dr. Cooke gave a high-level overview of the process to name a school building. He said he would ask the Board to establish the committee at its Sept. 5 meeting and appoint members to the committee at the Sept. 19 meeting.

Building Project Add-Alternates Update – Adam Levitus of Colliers International shared with the Board that the school building committee had asked that three scope items in the Educational Specifications be designated as add-alternates. This change was requested to help manage some unanticipated budgetary challenges. Board members asked questions about the items, the project budget, and the four additional classrooms. The discussion can be heard in full in the meeting recording.

Kindergarten Entrance Age – This past legislative session the state changed the cutoff date by which a student must turn five to enter kindergarten in a given year. Starting in 2024, a student must be five by Sept. 1. Dr. Cooke said while the District supports the change, the abrupt shift from Jan. 1 to Sept. 1 could result in uneven class sizes. The new law does allow parents with students who do not meet the cutoff date to petition to have their students enter early. He said the District will be sharing more information about that process with families soon.

IV. Board Members' Comments

Mr. Klaskin said he sends his well wishes to staff and students as they begin the new school year.

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

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

VI.A. Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Steve Pynn, Chair; Catherine Miller, Mary Ann Connelly

No report.

VI.B. Facilities Committee

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

Mrs. Rosenthal said the committee met this evening and reviewed the 2024-2025 CIP requests. Facilities Director Bill McMinn also reviewed the status of the Polson HVAC project and gave updates on all the work completed at various buildings over the summer.

VI.C. Finance Committee

Members: Galen Cawley, Chair, Christine Maisano, Emily Rosenthal

Mr. Cawley said that the committee met this evening and discussed a canon copier lease on tonight's agenda for board action. The committee also discussed possibly recommending an infusion of funds into the Special Education Reserve Fund. Finance Director Stacy Nobitz said the decision to move funds would come before the board once the audit is complete.

VI.D. Personnel Committee

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

Mrs. Lewis reported that the committee is preparing to begin negotiations with the AMA union.

VI.E. Policy Committee

Members: Diane Infantine-Vyce, Chair; Maureen Lewis, Galen Cawley

Mr. Cawley said the committee had not met since June but reviewed the policies on the agenda tonight for a second reading and approval.

Policies for Second Reading and approval:

- 9540.2 – Agenda
- 9540.3 – Quorum
- 9540.8 - Voting Method
- 9420 - Board Officers
- 9220.3 - Board Member Resignation
- 9220.5 - Unexpired Term Fulfillment/Vacancies
- 9600 - Formulation, Adoption, Amendment or Deletion of Bylaws and Policies

VI.F. LEARN Liaison

Mary Ann Connelly

No report.

VII. Action Item: Motion to approve the following policies: 9540.2 - Agenda, 9540.3 - Quorum, 9540.8 - Voting Method, 9420 - Board Officers, 9220.3 - Board Member Resignation, 9220.5 - Unexpired Term Fulfillment/Vacancies, 9600 - Formulation, Adoption, Amendment or Deletion of Bylaws and Policies

MOTION: by Lewis, seconded by Rosenthal to approve the following policies: 9540.2 - Agenda, 9540.3 - Quorum, 9540.8 - Voting Method, 9420 - Board Officers, 9220.3 - Board Member Resignation, 9220.5 - Unexpired Term Fulfillment/Vacancies, 9600 - Formulation, Adoption, Amendment or Deletion of Bylaws and Policies.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

VIII. Action Item: Motion to approve the disposal of used books and equipment.

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Miller to approve the disposal of used books and equipment.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

IX. Action Item: Motion to formally approve the following scope items from the Education Specifications dated 1/10/2023 being treated as add-alternates by the New Elementary School Building Committee: Novek/Preaction cabinets fire suppression at IT closets, Kitchen tray washing equipment, Radiant flooring at K/Pre-K.

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Miller to approve the following scope items from the Education Specifications dated 1/10/2023 being treated as add-alternates by the New Elementary School Building Committee: Novek/Preaction cabinets fire suppression at IT closets, Kitchen tray washing equipment, Radiant flooring at K/Pre-K.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

X. Action Item: Motion to approve sending a letter to the New Elementary School Building Committee supporting the continued inclusion of the four additional classrooms, approved by the Board in May 2022, in the building design.

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Cawley to approve sending a letter to the New Elementary School Building Committee supporting the continued inclusion of the four additional classrooms, approved by the Board in May 2022, in the building design.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XI. Action Item: Motion to enter into a 5-year Capital Lease agreement with JPMorgan Chase for the purchase of approved Cannon Copiers in the amount of \$149,401. This is part of a total Town committed Lease Financing Package of \$716,167; approved by Board of Finance July 19, 2023.

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Connelly to enter into a 5-year Capital Lease agreement with JPMorgan Chase for the purchase of approved Cannon Copiers in the amount of \$149,401. This is part of a total Town committed Lease Financing Package of \$716,167; approved by Board of Finance July 19, 2023.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XII. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Cawley, seconded by Lewis to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023 Board of Education meeting as amended.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XIII. Future Agenda Items

XIV. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

XV. Adjournment

MOTION: by Miller, seconded by Rosenthal to adjourn at 8:56 p.m.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 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.