

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 12, 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 (on Zoom), Mary Ann Connelly, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Seth Klaskin, Maureen Lewis, Christine Maisano, Cathy Miller, Steven Pynn, Emily Rosenthal

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Heather Dobson, Director of Human Resources; Arthur Sickel, Director of Administrative Services;

II. School / Community Session

The following cafeteria workers spoke in opposition to the NAGE union outsourcing action item on the agenda: Carol Cretella, Jill Benton, Cynthia Kilbride, Bernadette Maxted, Margaret Kraemer-Oliwa, Susanna Bakula. NAGE State Representative Ed Kosinski and student Lucy Kaplan also spoke in opposition to outsourcing the NAGE workers. Comments can be heard in full on the meeting recording posted on the District website.

III. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Eli Ackerman and Brooke Anderson

Eli and Brooke both expressed support for the cafeteria workers. Eli reported on the football team victory, winter sports, and FAFSA applications for seniors. Brooke reported that the holiday season is underway at Hand with numerous spirit days planned and winter concerts. She said course selection for the 24-25 school year will open in mid - January.

IV. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

Dr. Cooke reported on the following:

- Reading Waiver Update - the District was not granted the reading waiver but the timeframe to comply with the legislation was moved to July 1, 2025. He shared that the administration does not plan to put forward the full \$600,000 request for a reading program for the 2024/25 budget. Dr. Cooke thanked the literacy coaches, central office staff and Assistant Superintendent Gail Dahling-Hench for their work on the reading waiver.
- 2024-2025 Budget – the administration is working to finalize its 2024-2025 budget proposal which will be presented to the Board in January. Board members will receive budget books the week of Dec. 18.
- Choice Program - The district submitted legislation to Senator Cohen and Representative Parker to allow the district to not only be a sending district through the State's Choice program but also a receiving district under choice within the ACES region. The District was previously assigned to the LEARN region which does not have an active program. This was approved by the Board last year and the District would not start accepting students until Fall 2025.

V. Board Members' Comments

Mr. Klaskin commented on recent sports victories and thanked Athletic Director Farrell for his work promoting good sportsmanship this season.

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

No members of the public spoke.

VII. Consent Agenda (Ref. Bylaw #9540.2)

- Line Item Transfers as of December 8, 2023
- Budget Expenditures as of December 8, 2023
- November Personnel Report

VIII. Action Item: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve the consent agenda.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

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

Curriculum and Student Development

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

No report.

Facilities Committee

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

Mrs. Rosenthal gave a report on the meeting that took place earlier in the evening. She reported that Facilities Director Bill McMinn gave updates on when the new facilities director would start and the transition plan, the status of Brown School projects, the status of Polson School projects, and the ongoing issue with the rooftop units at the high school. The committee also discussed reimplementing paper towels in the bathrooms at the high school.

Finance Committee

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

No report.

Personnel Committee

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

No report.

Policy Committee

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

Dr. Infantine-Vyce reported on the following policies on the agenda for a first read or action:

Policy for Rescission, First Reading:

- 9540.11 News Media Service at Meetings
- 9900 School Board Legislative Program

- 9910 State Legislative Program
- 5120.9.4 Bicycle and Rollerblade Use
- 5120.4.2.3 Substance Abuse Counseling

Policy for Rescission, Second Reading:

- 5100.9.1 Student Recruitment
- 9740 Board-Community Relations

Policy for Review, First Reading

- 9510 Time, Place and Notice of Meetings
Repeal and Replace
 - 9510 Regular Board Meetings
 - 9520 Special Board Meetings
 - 9540.1 Notification of Board Meetings
- 5090.8.1 Search and Seizure
- 5090.3.1 Student Dress
- 5144.4 Physical Activity, Undirected Play and Student Discipline

Policy for Review, Second Reading:

- 5110.4 Student Discipline
- 5040 Admission to the Public Schools at or Before Age Five
- 9540.2 Construction and Posting of Agenda
- 5180.1 Confidentiality and Access to Educational Records
Repeal and Replace:
 - 5180.1 Records / Confidentiality
 - 5180.1.1 Directory Information
 - 5180.1.2 Relations with Non-Custodial Parents
 - 5125.1 Health/Medical Records
- 9450 Committees
Repeal and Replace:
 - 9450 Board Committees
 - 9450.1 Committee of the Whole
 - 9460 Advisory Committees

LEARN Liaison

Mary Ann Connelly

Mrs. Connelly reported that the Westbrook superintendent gave a presentation at the last LEARN meeting. She said it is interesting to hear from different superintendents to see how different districts approach various projects.

X. Action Item: Discuss and take action on outsourcing the full food services operation, as per the provisions of Article XVI, Section 9 of the NAGE bargaining agreement, effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to outsource the full food services operation, as per the provisions of Article XVI, Section 9 of the NAGE bargaining agreement, effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

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

NAYS: Maisano

ABSTAIN: Connelly
MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 1 – 1

XI. Action Item: Motion to rescind the following policies: 5100.9.1 Student Recruitment, 9740 Board-Community Relations.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Cawley to rescind policy 5100.9.1 Student Recruitment and 9740 Board-Community Relations.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

XII. Action Item: Motion to approve the following policies: 5110.4 Student Discipline, 5040 Admission to the Public Schools at or Before Age Five, 9450.2 Construction and Posting of Agenda, 5180.1 Confidentiality and Access to Educational Records, 9450 Committees

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Rosenthal to approve the following policies: 5110.4 Student Discipline, 5040 Admission to the Public Schools at or Before Age Five, 9450.2 Construction and Posting of Agenda, 5180.1 Confidentiality and Access to Educational Records, 9450 Committees.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

XIII. Action Item: Motion to approve a donation to the DHHS Fencing team in the amount of \$1750 from the DHHS Fencing Boosters to supply needed uniforms.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Miller to approve a donation to the DHHS Fencing team in the amount of \$1750 from the DHHS Fencing Boosters to supply needed uniforms.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

XIV. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2023 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Connelly to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2023 Board of Education Meeting.

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

NAYS:
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

XV. Future Agenda Items

XVI. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

XVII. Adjournment

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to adjourn at 8:34 p.m.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

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.