

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 5, 2024 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 special meeting of the Madison Board of Education was called to order by Vice Chairman Galen Cawley at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Cawley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Galen Cawley, Mary Ann Connelly, Diane Infantine-Vyce, Maureen Lewis (on Zoom), Christine Maisano, Cathy Miller, Steven Pynn, Emily Rosenthal

Also present: Craig Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Kathryn Hart, Polson Middle School Principal

II. School / Community Session

No members of the public spoke.

III. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Eli Ackerman and Brooke Anderson

Eli reported that Trimester 3 has begun, therapy dogs visited Hand during finals week, the College & Career Fair is March 13, and there is an upcoming Red Cross Blood Drive. Brooke shared that winter sports are wrapping up, spring sports are starting, standardized testing for Juniors will start at the end of March, and scheduling for the next school year is currently underway.

IV. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

- Super Bowl Petition – Dr. Cooke and Principal Hart introduced Polson Grade 8 student Will Varone who shared a petition with over 200 signatures and a presentation with the Board requesting that the Monday after the Superbowl be a day off from school.
- Polson Grade 6 READBowl Champions – Principal Hart introduced Polson Grade 6 teacher Christina Zarotney and four students. Polson grade six students participated in a four-week global reading competition called READBowl put on by Malcolm Mitchell, an author, reading activist and athlete. Polson sixth grade students read for a total of 162,648 minutes. In addition, Mrs. Zarotney's team of her two language arts classes won the State Champions for the Middle School division for Connecticut.
- 2025 PreK Configuration – Dr. Cooke shared that when the District moves to its new configuration in Fall 2025, both elementary schools will have PreK classes which will mean fewer building transitions for our youngest learners.

V. Board Members' Comments

Board members thanked the student presenters.

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 February 29, 2024
- Budget Expenditures as of February 29, 2024
- February 2024 Personnel Report

VIII. Action Item: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

MOTION: by Pynn, seconded by Rosenthal to approve the consent agenda.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

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

Curriculum and Student Development

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

Mr. Pynn reported on the committee meeting that took place earlier in the evening. The committee heard a presentation on new World Language units ready for adoption and a presentation on the status of the District's Right to Read waiver application.

Facilities Committee

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

Mrs. Rosenthal reported on the committee meeting that took place earlier in the evening. Facilities Director Peter Anderson gave an update on the mandatory Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) testing the District undergoes. Facilities Director Bill McMinn and Interim Construction Manager Felicia Smith gave an update on the Hand roof unit project and the Polson bathroom project.

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 this evening:

Policy for Rescission, First Reading

- 5100.9.6 Maintenance and Development of Athletic Programs
- 5110.3.1 Police in Schools
- 5142.4 School Resource Officer
- 5120.9.5 Automobile Use and Parking
- 5140 School and Community Service
- 9470 School Attorney / Legal Services

- 9480 Consultants to the Board

Policy for Review, First Reading

- NEW – 5050 Student Privacy
 - *then Rescind* 5180.2 Research
- 9530 Executive Sessions / Open Meetings
- 9820.1 Board Member Conferences, Conventions, and Workshops
- 9840 Board Member Compensation and Expenses

Policy for Rescission, Second Reading

- 9650 Policy Communication / Dissemination
- 9700 School Board Communications

Policy for Review, Second Reading

- 5120.9 Homeless Students
- 9540 Transaction of Business
 - Repeal & Replace*
 - 9540 Meeting Procedures/ Bylaws
 - 9540.13 Reporting of Board Meeting Business
- 9210 Role of Board and Members
 - Repeal & Replace*
 - 9210 Board Member Authority
 - 9210.1 Responsibilities of Board Members
- 1200 School District Logo and Mascot
 - Repeal & Replace*
 - 9710 School District logo and/or Motto
 - 9720 Guidelines for use of District Logo/ Board Members' Names

LEARN Liaison

Mary Ann Connelly

No report.

X. Action Item: Motion to rescind the following policies: 9650 Policy Communication / Dissemination, 9700 School Board Communications

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Rosenthal to rescind the policies 9650 Policy Communication / Dissemination and 9700 School Board Communications.

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

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XI. Action Item: Motion to approve the following policies: 5120.9 Homeless Students, 9540 Transaction of Business, 9210 Role of Board and Members, 1200 School District Logo and Mascot

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Miller to approve policies 5120.9 Homeless Students, 9540 Transaction of Business, 9210 Role of Board and Members, and 1200 School District Logo and Mascot.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Lewis, Maisano,
Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS:
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XII. Action Item: Motion to approve a donation to the DHHS Girls Tennis Team from the Hand Tennis Boosters in the amount of \$2200 for new tennis uniforms.

MOTION: by Miller, seconded by Infantine-Vyce to approve a donation to the DHHS Girls Tennis Team from the Hand Tennis Boosters in the amount of \$2200 for new tennis uniforms.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Lewis, Maisano,
Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS:
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XIII. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2024 Board of Education Special Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Connelly to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2024 Board of Education Special Meeting.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, Lewis, Maisano,
Miller, Pynn, Rosenthal
NAYS:
ABSTAIN:
MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XIV. Future Agenda Items

XV. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

XVI. Adjournment

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Rosenthal to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Infantine-Vyce, 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.