

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 27, 2026 7:00 PM

Meeting Room A, Town Campus/ Zoom
10 Campus Drive
Madison, CT 06443

Subject to Approval

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order / Attendance

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chair Emily Rosenthal. Mrs. Rosenthal led the pledge of allegiance.

Present: Galen Cawley (on Zoom), Mary Ann Connelly, Lisa Deane, Maureen Lewis, Cathy Miller, Emily Rosenthal, Jessica Wilen

II. School / Community Session

No members of the public spoke.

III. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Katherine Rizzo and Ethan Scheps

Kate shared that may fall sports are gearing up for SCCs, senior athletes are having their senior nights, and seniors are getting ready for the Nov. 1 college application deadline. Ethan shared students are excited for Halloween this weekend and the homecoming dance next weekend. He shared that students are still complying with the new cell phone rules but some students are starting to try and sneak their phones during the day.

IV. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

- Presentation: Summer 2026 Project Recap – Director of Construction and Planning Ben Whitaker gave a presentation on projects that took place over the summer. The presentation can be viewed in full in the meeting recording on the District website.
- 27-28 Calendars: Budget and School Year – Dr. Cooke reviewed the proposed 27-28 budget calendar and the 27-28 school calendar.
- Nonlapsing Education Reserve Funds – Dr. Cooke reviewed the proposed use of FY26 end-of-year funds. The administration is requesting the Board approve dedicating the funds to replenishing the Health Insurance Reserve and two needed projects at Brown Elementary.
- Accountability Results – District was ranked 4th in the state among all K-12 districts and Brown Elementary was named a School of Distinction.

V. Board Members' Comments

Mrs. Rosenthal congratulated the Board on receiving the Board of Distinction Level II award from CABA for the second year.

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

No members of the public spoke.

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

Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Catherine Miller, Chair; Mary Ann Connelly, Jessica Wilen

No report.

Facilities Committee

Members: Lisa Deane, Chair; Kevin Fogarty

No report.

Finance Committee

Members: Galen Cawley, Chair, Kevin Fogarty, Jessica Wilen

Mr. Cawley gave a report on the meeting that took place earlier in the evening. The committee reviewed the nonlapsing reserve request, the funding status of the school renewal project, requested reductions to the CIP, and the 27-28 budget calendar and assumptions.

Personnel Committee

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

Mrs. Lewis shared the Board will be asked to vote this evening on the proposed collective bargaining agreement with the Association of Madison Administrators (7/01/27 - 6/30/30)

Policy Committee

Members: Maureen Lewis, Galen Cawley

Mrs. Lewis said the committee met earlier in the evening, reviewed several policies all which will come before the full Board at the next meeting.

LEARN Liaison

Galen Cawley

No report.

VIII. Action Item: Motion to approve the 2027-2028 Budget Calendar.

MOTION: by Miller, seconded by Connelly to approve the 2027-2028 Budget Calendar.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Fogarty, Lewis, Miller, Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

IX. Action Item: Motion to approve the 2027-2028 School Year Calendar.

MOTION: by Wilen, seconded by Deane to approve the 2027-2028 School Year Calendar.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Fogarty, Lewis, Miller, Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

X. Action Item: Motion to approve the use of \$139,960 in end of year funds from fiscal year 2025-2026 from the Nonlapsing Education Reserve to support two necessary projects at Brown Elementary School.

MOTION: by Fogarty, seconded by Wilen to approve the use of \$139,960 in end of year funds from fiscal year 2025-2026 from the Nonlapsing Education Reserve to support two necessary projects at Brown Elementary School.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Fogarty, Lewis, Miller, Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XI. Action Item: Motion to return \$300,000 in end-of-year funds from fiscal year 2025-2026 to the Town of Madison and request that the funds be placed in the Health Insurance Reserve.

MOTION: by Miller, seconded by Lewis to return \$300,000 in end-of-year funds from fiscal year 2025-2026 to the Town of Madison and request that the funds be placed in the Health Insurance Reserve.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Fogarty, Lewis, Miller, Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XII. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2026 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Wilen, seconded by Miller to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2026 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Fogarty, Lewis, Miller,
Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XIII. Action Item: Discuss and take possible action on the proposed collective bargaining agreement with the Association of Madison Administrators (7/01/27 - 6/30/30). (Discussion proposed for Executive Session).

MOTION: by Lewis, seconded by Miller to enter into Executive Session at 8:26 pm to discuss the proposed collective bargaining agreement with the Association of Madison Administrators (7/01/27 - 6/30/30) and invite in Superintendent of Schools Dr. Craig Cooke.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Fogarty, Lewis, Miller,
Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

MOTION: by Lewis, seconded by Wilen to return to regular session at 8:26 p.m.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Fogarty, Lewis, Miller,
Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

MOTION: by Lewis, seconded by Miller to approve the proposed collective bargaining agreement with the Association of Madison Administrators (7/01/27 - 6/30/30).

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Fogarty, Lewis, Miller,
Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0

XIV. Future Agenda Items

XV. Adjournment

MOTION: by Wilen, seconded by Miller to adjourn at 8:42 p.m.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Fogarty, Lewis, Miller, Rosenthal, Wilen

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.