

**Madison Public Schools**  
**Board of Education Regular Meeting**  
**April 14, 2015**  
**6:45 PM**  
**Town Campus Hammonasset Room**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order / Attendance**

The public meeting of the Madison Board of Education was called to order by Chair Jean Fitzgerald at 6:48 p.m. Chairman Fitzgerald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jessica Bowler; Bill Clorite; Jean Fitzgerald; Alison Keating; Robert Ruggiero; Bruce Wilson; Cindy Wood.

Chris Puricelli arrived at the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Also present: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent of Schools; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; students; and community members.

- 2. Executive Session:** To discuss the contract of employment for one employee to not be renewed for the following year, based upon a reduction in force, upon its expiration at the end of the 2014 – 2015 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person in writing of this action.”

**MOTION:** by Bowler seconded by Wilson to enter into Executive Session to discuss the contract of employment for one employee to not be renewed for the following year, based upon a reduction in force, upon its expiration at the end of the 2014 – 2015 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person in writing of this action at 6:49 p.m.

AYES: Bowler, Clorite, Fitzgerald, Keating, Ruggiero, Wilson, Wood

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

### 3. Adjourn Executive Session

**MOTION:** by Wood seconded by Keating to adjourn Executive Session at 6:50 p.m.  
**AYES:** Bowler, Clorite, Fitzgerald, Keating, Puricelli, Ruggiero, Wilson, Wood  
**NAYS:** None  
**MOTION CARRIED:** 8-0

### 4. School / Community Session - 7:00 p.m.

#### 4.1. Recognition:

##### 4.1.1. Grace Cummings - Proclamation from the State

Superintendent Scarice introduced Grace Cummings to recognize her as the National Recipient of the NFHS National High School Spirit of Sport Award. Superintendent Scarice stated that the District can only take a small amount of credit for her achievements and that the credit really goes to Grace's parents. Superintendent Scarice presented Grace with a Proclamation from the State signed by Denise Merrill - Secretary of State, Martin Looney – President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Brendan Sharkey – Speaker of the House.

Superintendent Scarice stated the following regarding Grace.

Grace Cummings, a student-athlete at Madison (Connecticut) Daniel Hand High School, has been selected the 2015 national recipient of the "National High School Spirit of Sport Award" by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

The "National High School Spirit of Sport Award" was created by the NFHS to recognize those individuals who exemplify the ideals of the spirit of sport that represent the core mission of education-based athletics.

Grace is described as being fearless, tenacious, self-sufficient and self-motivated, Grace is a highly accomplished three-sport student-athlete who plays field hockey in the fall, ice hockey in the winter, and tennis in the spring.

On the performing arts side, Grace has been a member of the percussion section in both the school's marching band and concert band, and she has also been a member of the flag squad.

Grace has been equally exemplary in the classroom, where as a high honor student she has maintained a glittering 3.98 grade-point average while taking all honor or advanced-placement college-level classes.

While those accomplishments are amazing in and of themselves, they are made even more remarkable by the fact that since a very young age Grace has been challenged by serious health issues related to her liver. At age 15 Grace underwent a liver transplant in 2012.

Although that prevented Grace from attending school and from athletic competition for six months, she maintained both her sterling athletic and academic regimens and has now returned to full capacity.

After being cleared to return to physical activities, Grace again played her three sports, where she additionally served as captain of both the ice hockey and tennis teams.

#### **4.1.2. Administrative Professionals Week, April 19-25, 2015**

Superintendent Scarice stated that Administrators will be recognizing the support staff of the District of Madison during Administrative Professionals Week, April 19-25. Superintendent Scarice thanked the District's support staff for all of their hard work. Administrators will be recognizing the support staff of the Central Office with a small token of appreciation on Wednesday, April 22nd in recognition of Administrative Professionals Day

#### **4.2. Public Participation**

William Barker of 7 Hamilton Drive made the following statement.

The town spent \$100,000 to renovate the Polson gym to make it better for our kids. However, our kids can't use it in the summer because it will last longer with less wear and tear.

I find fault with that for two reasons. 1) it is not logical and 2) it is not valid. To improve it for the kids and then not let them use it is not logical. The only wear and tear is to the finish of the floor. Madison Hoop Dreams uses it after the school year is over. After our camp the gym floor is refinished to have it look like new for the next school year.

MHD has offered to pay \$200 per week or \$1,000 per summer as our share of the purported wear and tear. In addition, we will contribute \$200 per week toward a fund to be used to maintain the new scoreboards and ultimately have enough funds to replace them when needed.

Another statement is that MHD is an outside group. If that is the case, so is Madison Youth Basketball Association. We are both independent 501c3 corporations that apply to use the Polson gym through our AD. Therefore, if MHD is an outside group, so is MYBA. The administration needs to be uniform in its enforcement of its policies.

Another concern should be that parents are looking to keep their children active. MHD is the most popular camp in town. Since childhood obesity is a concern, it is not logical to take Polson offline. Why should the best indoor recreation facility not be available to the camp preferred by campers and parents?

Is that same logic going to be applied to the recently redone turf at Daniel Hand High School? No outside groups allowed?

## 5. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Andrew Murphy (Paige Calvert was absent from the meeting)

Mr. Murphy reported that Les Mis would be held this Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Tickets will be \$10.00 in advance and \$15.00 if purchased at the door.

Mr. Murphy stated that spring sports have kicked off.

National Honor Society Induction will take place on April 30, 2015 at Daniel Hand High School on the Bridge.

This Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> a pep rally will be held to celebrate and recognize the winter sports as well as celebrating the spring sports.

This year all of the students except for the seniors will be in the stands wearing black and gold. The senior class will be wearing the schools traditional blue.

The Student Leadership will be starting with new subcommittees. A new topic that will be discussed is a revised freshman orientation handbook which will be shorter, easier and more efficient.

Mr. Murphy also stated that they will be working on the student/parent handbook soon.

Ms. Fitzgerald stated how she appreciates the hard work the Board of Education student representatives put into their roles.

Ms. Wood thanked the Board of Education student representatives.

## 6. Superintendent's Report

Thomas R. Scarice

- 6.1.** Sister School Partnership with Lakeside International School in Guanacaste, Costa Rica.  
Josh Hibbard, Kristin Mancini (ON FILE)

Mr. Hibbard and Ms. Mancini presented the Board with information on the Sister School Partnership with Lakeside International School in Guanacaste, Costa Rica. If approved by the Board, the trip will take place July 30, 2016 through August 12, 2016. Mr. Hibbard stated that the students that attend this trip will be also be working on a project which will earn them a ½ of a credit towards their necessary credits needed to graduate.

Superintendent Scarice stated this was an amazing opportunity.

- 6.2.** Daniel Hand High School grades 9-12 will be taking a field trip to Chinatown New York City on May 4, 2015.

Superintendent Scarice reported to the Board that Daniel Hand High School grades 9-12 will be taking a field trip to Chinatown New York City on May 4, 2015.

- 6.3.** Daniel Hand High School grades 9-12 took a field trip to Concord, MA to attend a Model UN Conference March 29, 2015.

Superintendent Scarice stated that Daniel Hand High School grades 9-12 took a field trip to Concord, MA to attend a Model UN Conference March 29, 2015.

**6.4.** Retiree Recognition will be held at the June 2, 2015 Board of Education Meeting

Superintendent Scarice stated that the Retiree Recognition will take place at the June 2, 2015 Board of Education Meeting.

**6.5.** Other Matters

Superintendent Scarice stated that there will be a lot of debate back and forth regarding the DRA study, which is healthy. Superintendent Scarice stated that there will be brainstorming and analyzing the pros and cons. Superintendent Scarice stated that the next two public meeting will be held on May 11<sup>th</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Superintendent Scarice reported that Kindergarten enrollment was projected at 141 students and there are currently at 104 registered.

Superintendent Scarice thanked Martin Glasser for the successful trip to French last week. Superintendent Scarice also thanked the Board for their support.

**7.** Board Members' Comments

No comments were made.

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

**8.1.** Planning Committee

Members: Cindy Wood, Chair; Bill Clorite, Jessica Bowler

Ms. Wood reported on the following:

The Planning Committee met this morning with a very full agenda. The presentation on the Sister School Partnership with Lakeside International School in Guanacaste, Costa Rica that was heard by the Board earlier this evening was presented to the Planning Committee earlier today.

Ms. Wood thanked Mr. Hibbard and Ms. Mancini for their amazing research and personal financial commitment to pursue the tremendous immersion learning opportunity. The opportunity for not only the students who can attend the two week session in August 2016 is tremendous, but the planning Committee was also excited to hear about the on-going opportunity that can permeate multiple classes and impact a much larger audience.

The Planning Committee is very pleased to recommend the trip and Sister School opportunity for approval by the full Board

Ms. Wood stated that the bulk of the meeting was then spent on the comprehensive facility assessment with representatives from DRA.

The study is really underway in terms of collecting data, listening to constituents and beginning to formulate potential options based on both the enrollment and its goals around schools including instructional spaces, physical space, efficiencies and equity across the district.

Art Wagman joined the Planning Committee for a second time to present the findings on enrollment. The second presentation allowed additional Board members to get involved as well as allowed a second pass at the information. The final ten year projection is based on two district models.

1) Co-hort survival rate of a 7 year historic math model based on both rates and historical migration is in and out of district by students data is provided by the Department of Education, Town Clerk and Connecticut Department of Statistics.

2) Madison model based on Madison mitigating facts such as housing influences, new construction permits, planning and zoning report that included plans regarding future senior housing.

Range of two models is approximately 2429-2617 (188 student difference – 12 grades, 15 per grade). Substantial further decline in enrollment from our current 3100 students, with a flattening out of the decline.

Based on our vision and enrollment numbers we saw a first pass at five possible school configurations moving forward. The options range from do nothing all the way thru to some creative options that close buildings and redefine configurations. The options will all be spelled out to the public at a town wide meeting with DRA on May 11, 2015 where we will begin to hear public comments and get feedback crucial to hear that configuration changes would not be scheduled for a few years, likely 2019-2020.

## **8.2. Personnel Committee**

Members: Bob Ruggiero, Chair, Alison Keating, Jessica Bowler

Mr. Ruggiero reported that contract negotiations will be starting with the Teamsters. Mr. Ruggiero also stated that preparation will begin tomorrow.

## **8.3. Policy Committee**

Members: Bruce Wilson, Chair; Seth Klaskin, Bob Ruggiero

### **8.3.1. Policy #5113 Student Attendance (Third Reading)**

Policy #5113 Student Attendance was adopted.

Mr. Wilson stated that Policy #5113 would be voted on later in the meeting.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Policy Committee met earlier this evening. Mr. Wilson reported that Policy #5090.3.6.1.1 Bullying should be going to the full Board on April 28, 2015 for first reading.

## **8.4. Finance Committee**

Members: Bill Clorite, Chair; Cindy Wood, Chris Puricelli

Mr. Clorite stated that the Finance Committee last met on March 31, 2015. Mr. Clorite reported that the 2014-2015 budget is in good standing. Mr. Clorite stated that the reimbursement check has been received.

Mr. Clorite stated that the District has used the \$55,000 budget for snow removal as well as \$50,000 from the emergency fund. Mr., Clorite also stated that approximately \$10,000

will be needed as a line item transfer for the remaining cost of the snow removal. Mr. Clorite stated that a great job was done with the snow removal.

Mr. Clorite stated that the utilities budget was in good standing.

Mr. Clorite stated that the Uniform Chart of Accounts coming from the state will not add additional work to Stacy Nobitz.

Mr. Clorite stated that the Effective Schools Solutions would be voted on later in the meeting.

#### **8.5. LEARN Liaison**

Liaison: Alison Keating

Ms. Keating stated that at the last meeting, Ledyard School District stated that they had been working on the Common Core since 2010 and that the testing is a work in progress.

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

No comments were made.

#### **10. Consent Agenda (Ref. Bylaw #9540.2 and #9540.8)**

**10.1. Bills Payable:** \$5,344.57 - 2013-2014 Budget \$1,456,256.89 - 2014-2015 Budget  
\$5,344.57 - 2013-2014 Budget (previously approved by Superintendent Scarice)  
\$934,152.06 - 2014-2015 Budget (previously approved by Superintendent Scarice)  
\$522,104.83 - 2014-2015 Budget

**10.2. Line Transfers:** \$152,304.22

**10.3. Budget Expenditure Report as of April 2, 2015**

**10.4. Donation:** \$1,500.00 from Island Avenue Elementary School PTO to Island Avenue Elementary School for three class room rugs.

**10.5. Donation:** \$1,983.50 from Stop & Shop Bonus Rewards Program to Island Avenue Elementary School for educational needs of the Island Avenue School Students

**10.6. Donation:** \$3,000.00 from Decagon Devices, Inc. to J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School for instructional supplies to support instruction in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math at J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School.

**MOTION:** by Bowler seconded by Wood to approve the Consent Agenda.

**AYES:** Bowler, Clorite, Fitzgerald, Keating, Puricelli, Ruggiero, Wilson, Wood

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAIN:**

**MOTION CARRIED:** 8-0

**11. Action Item: Minutes of the March 10, 2015 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)**

**MOTION:** by Bowler seconded by Wilson to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2015 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Bowler, Clorite, Fitzgerald, Keating, Puricelli, Wilson, Wood

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Ruggiero

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

**12. Action Item: Non-Renewal for 2015–2016 School Year**

**MOTION:** by Wilson seconded Bowler that the contract for employment for Heather DeLaurentis not be renewed for the following year, based upon a reduction in force, upon its expiration at the end of the 2014 – 2015 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person in writing of this action.”

AYES: Bowler, Clorite, Fitzgerald, Keating, Puricelli, Ruggiero, Wilson, Wood

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

**13. Action Item: To approve Policy #5113 Student Attendance**

**MOTION:** by Policy to approve Policy #5113 Student Attendance

AYES: Bowler, Clorite, Fitzgerald, Keating, Puricelli, Ruggiero, Wilson, Wood

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

**14. Action Item: Textbook Adoption (Reference Policy #6100.10) Single Variable Calculus Early Transcendentals by James Stewart for the Daniel Hand High School AP Calculus Course**

**MOTION:** by Wood seconded by Bowler to adopt Single Variable Calculus Early Transcendentals by James Stewart for the Daniel Hand High School AP Calculus Course

AYES: Bowler, Clorite, Fitzgerald, Keating, Puricelli, Ruggiero, Wilson, Wood

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0



**15. Action: Textbook Adoption (Reference Policy #6100.10) Thèmes by Vista Higher Learning for the Daniel Hand High School AP French Class**

**MOTION:** by Bowler seconded by Wood to adopt Thèmes by Vista Higher Learning for the Daniel Hand High School AP French Class

AYES: Bowler, Clorite, Fitzgerald, Keating, Puricelli, Ruggiero, Wilson, Wood

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

**16. Action Item: Schedule Daniel Hand High School Commencement Ceremony (Ref. Policy #6030)**

Daniel Hand High School Commencement Ceremony has been scheduled for June 19, 2015 at 6:00 PM on the Town Green.

**MOTION:** by Wood seconded by Bowler to schedule Daniel Hand High School Commencement Ceremony

AYES: Bowler, Clorite, Fitzgerald, Keating, Puricelli, Ruggiero, Wilson, Wood

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

**17. Old Business**

No old business was discussed.

**18. New Business**

No new business was discussed.

**19. Future Agenda Items**

No future items were discussed.

**20. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)`**

**21. Executive Session**

**MOTION:** by Bowler seconded by Wood to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Effective School Solutions at 8:26 p.m.

AYES: Bowler, Clorite, Fitzgerald, Keating, Puricelli, Ruggiero, Wilson, Wood

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

**21.1.** To discuss a contract with Effective School Solutions

**22.** Adjourn Executive Session

**MOTION:** by Wilson seconded Bowler to adjourn Executive Session at 9:12 p.m.

**AYES:** Bowler, Clorite, Fitzgerald, Keating, Puricelli, Ruggiero, Wilson, Wood

**NAYS:** None

**MOTION CARRIED:** 8-0

**23.** Action Item: To approve contract with Effective School Solutions

**MOTION:** by Wilson seconded by Bowler to approve the contract with Effective School Solutions.

**AYES:** Bowler, Clorite, Fitzgerald, Keating, Puricelli, Ruggiero, Wilson, Wood

**NAYS:** None

**MOTION CARRIED:** 8-0

**24.** Adjournment

**MOTION:** by Wood seconded by Clorite to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

**AYES:** Bowler, Clorite, Fitzgerald, Keating, Puricelli, Ruggiero, Wilson, Wood

**NAYS:** None

**MOTION CARRIED:** 8-0

Approved at the 5/19/15 BOE MEETING  
LAF