

Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
April 04, 2017
7:30 PM
Town Campus Hammonasset Room

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order / Attendance

The public meeting of the Madison Board of Education was called to order by Chair Jean Fitzgerald at 7:30 p.m. Chairman Fitzgerald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jessica Bowler; Galen Cawley; John Dean; Jean Fitzgerald; Alison Keating; Matt Keller; Seth Klaskin; Happy Marino; Katie Stein.

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

2. School / Community Session - 7:30 p.m.

2.1. Recognition

Superintendent Scarice welcomed the librarians and media paraprofessionals who were able to attend tonight's meeting in honor of National Library Week, April 9-15, 2017. Superintendent Scarice provided a brief history of this national observance. This year's theme is "Libraries Transform". Superintendent Scarice noted that although the district is experiencing a decline in enrollment, circulation has increased.

2.2. Public Participation – will occur during the School Utilization Study Discussion.

3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Emily Baker

Emily reported this is a busy week at Hand – the CAPT Science test takes place tomorrow and Thursday and the SAT for Jr's. takes place tomorrow. Spring musical is done. Students wore blue yesterday in recognition of National Autism Day. Drunk driving assembly occurred today with a guest speaker and pre-prom discussions are taking place, as well as opioid use. Drunk goggles and other simulators were available. Spring sports begin tomorrow.

4. Discussion: School Utilization Study

Marc Sklenka and Charles Warrington from Colliers International provided a Power Point presentation which outlined what has taken place over the past few months:

- Educational Specifications have been drafted

- Early studies completed
- Budgets developed
- Met with Office of School Construction Grants and Review
- Site visit to South Windsor Orchard Hill School

Mr. Warrington reviewed project options and considerations and the pros and cons of each of the three options, as well as programmatic needs. The construction schedule and re-districting schedule were reviewed as well. Mr. Bill Lindsay, Town of Madison Bond Consultant, discussed the financing & bonding plan for each option. Estimated project costs were reviewed, as well as upcoming activities and key dates.

Chairman Fitzgerald opened the floor for comments and questions.

The reimbursement rate has dropped 1 percentage point since November. If we apply for a grant by June 30 and the rate drops during the year, when will the reimbursement occur?

- Chuck Warrington – in the year it was locked in.

What option provides the least disruption for students – option 2 or 3?

- Chuck Warrington – same, except occurring one year later.

From a taxpayer's perspective, what is the difference between option 2 and 3? Spreading payments out longer?

- Option 3 – amount financed is basically the same, but spreading payments out further.
- Option 2 – payments occur sooner, disadvantage is the reimbursement rate.

What is the timeline for the BoE to make a recommendation to BoS regarding the school construction issue?

Is the bond rate locked in?

- No – a bond must be issued to lock in the rate.

What year do payments drop off at the high school?

- Number of payments drop off in the 19/20 school year, then the 23/24 school year and all paid in 2025.

Library bonding?

- Have not issued the debt as of yet – will occur in 2019.

You've indicated the Board has not yet voted on a plan. What guarantee do we have this will move forward?

- Jean – voting on April 18 to move forward with one of the options.

What happens when enrollment changes, and how do we protect ourselves? What is the likely cost impact per annum to the taxpayer?

- Chuck Warrington – for every grant application, we have to supply enrollment projections. State allows 8 years out. In the immediate future, both Brown & Polson will experience a slight, steady decline.
- Tom – Enrollment is now at app. 3,000 and will level off at 2,500 during construction. Number of students at Ryerson will change.

Do the total project costs for any of the options include any estimated offsetting proceeds from the sale of Island Avenue School? If not, would it be fair to say that the total cost will decrease?

- Jean – proceeds from the sale, as well as the building, go back to the Town.

Would like to understand more about what is being proposed for Polson. By not doing a full renovation, does that kick the can down the road for this need later?

How can you guarantee the 2nd phase of the referendum will occur?

- We will move forward as a phased project.

How soon will Island Avenue students be moved?

- 2020

How will the vote be called on April 18?

Question was posed regarding the failure of the first referendum of the Orchard Hill School – why did it fail? And when was the follow-up?

- Marc Sklenka/Chuck Warrington responded – it failed because it was too much at once. The follow-up was March 2014 and then 2 weeks ago. Construction needs to begin within 2 years of the grant commitment (1 year from this June). We would have 3 years but be locked in at 2017 rates.

Mr. Pudlin questioned the \$6M cost difference between option 2 and 3 and asked if bonding would also be different?

5. Superintendent's Report

Thomas R. Scarice

5.1. Other Matters

6. Board Members' Comments

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

7.1. Planning Committee

Members: Jessica Bowler, Chair; Galen Cawley, Alison Keating

- **Costa Rica Trip – Summer 2018, 12 days**
 - Same company as used previously
 - Language immersive with our sister school partnership
 - DHHS Code of Conduct to be followed
 - Student/teacher ratio 1:1
 - No more than 18 students (12 went last year)
 - Best of last trip plus a few new things
 - Spanish 3 completion required by trip
 - Enrollment to open April 17; asking Board to vote tonight

- **Library Makeovers**

- Libraries changing to “Learning Commons” due to changes to the curriculum and the way our kids learn & produce – collaborative areas, quiet areas, makerspace
- Individualized, creative and collaborative learning in flexible spaces – environments are zoned
- Examples of makerspace:
 - Elementary – puzzles, bananagrams
 - Polson – chess, math games
 - DHHS – working with seniors, projects with a purpose/giving back to the community

All is done with what we have, along with some PTO donations at Polson.

7.1.1. First Reading: Educational Specifications for School Utilization Study. Reviewed the draft educational specs for a new elementary school

7.2. Personnel Committee

Members: John Dean, Chair, Alison Keating, Happy Marino

No report given.

7.3. Policy Committee

Members: Katie Stein Chair; Seth Klaskin, Matt Keller

Policy Committee has not met since last board meeting – no report given.

7.4. Finance Committee

Members: Alison Keating, Chair; Jessica Bowler, Happy Marino

No report given.

7.5. LEARN Liaison

Katie Stein

No report given - meeting this Thursday.

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

No comments were made.

9. Consent Agenda (Ref. Bylaw #9540.2 and #9540.8)

9.1. Bills Payable: \$2,498.75 – 2015/2016; \$288,861.52 – 2016/2017.

9.2. Line Transfers: \$25,792.98

9.3. Budget Expenditure as of March 29, 2017

9.4. \$5,982.50 from The First Congregational Church of Madison - Wilbur Pardee Fund to Daniel Hand High School to purchase sound equipment.

Mr. Klaskin expressed appreciation for the generous donation to the high school.

MOTION: by Bowler, seconded by Keating to approve the Consent Agenda.
AYES: Bowler, Cawley, Dean, Fitzgerald, Keating, Keller, Klaskin, Marino, Stein
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

10. Action Item: Minutes of the February 7, 2017 Board of Education Meeting

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Keller to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2017 Board of Education Meeting
AYES: Cawley, Dean, Fitzgerald, Keller, Klaskin, Stein
ABSTAIN: Bowler, Keating, Marino
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 6-3-0

11. Action Item: Minutes of the March 21, 2017 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Klaskin, seconded by Keating to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2017 Board of Education Meeting
AYES: Bowler, Cawley, Fitzgerald, Keating, Klaskin, Stein
ABSTAIN: Dean, Keller, Marino
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 6-3-0

12. Action Item: Minutes from the March 27, 2017 Board of Education Retreat.

MOTION: by Keating, seconded by Klaskin to approve the minutes from the March 27, 2017 Board of Education Retreat.
AYES: Bowler, Cawley, Dean, Fitzgerald, Keating, Keller, Klaskin, Marino, Stein
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

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

MOTION: To schedule Daniel Hand High School Commencement Ceremony for Monday, June 19.
AYES: Bowler, Cawley, Dean, Fitzgerald, Keating, Keller, Klaskin, Marino, Stein
NAYS: None
MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

14. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

15. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were discussed.

16. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)
April 2017 Calendar

17. Adjournment

MOTION: by Dean, seconded by Keating to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

AYES: Bowler, Cawley, Dean, Fitzgerald, Keating, Keller, Klaskin, Marino, Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Approved at the May 9, 2017 BOE meeting
WB