

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Meeting
November 14, 2017
7:30 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 Alison Keating at 7:30 pm Ms. Keating led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Jessica Bowler; Galen Cawley; Alison Keating; Seth Klaskin; Happy Marino; Violet McNerney; Emily Rosenthal; Katie Stein

Via Telephone: Matt Parthasarthy

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

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

2.1. Welcome: Newly Appointed Board Members

Superintendent Scarice welcomed the newly appointed Board Members Violet McNerney; Emily Rosenthal and Matt Parthasarthy.

2.2. Public Participation

No comments were made.

3. Recognitions:

**3.1. Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents Student Leadership Award (CAPSS)
Ashlinn Virgulto and Cale Gabrynowicz**

Superintendent Scarice stated that the CAPSS award is given to one female and one male student at DHHS. Ashlinn and Cale will be presented at a luncheon at the Saybrook Point in on November 27, 2017. Superintendent Scarice stated that the District is blessed to have these kids of students. The character of these students is really attributed by their parents.

Superintendent Scarice introduced Principal Salutari.

Principal Salutari made the following comments:

Ashlinn Virgulto

It is my pleasure to introduce to you Ashlinn Virgulto as one of Daniel Hand's recipients of the 2017-18 Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents Award.

Ashlinn is a high-achieving student, an incredibly active community member, and a young woman of impeccable character. Driven to succeed and committed to her studies, Ashlinn is a model student. Schoolwork is her first priority and her work ethic is commendable. She is willing to push her limits and she shows a great deal of enthusiasm in all of her classes. Ashlinn has a particular interest in English where her creativity flourishes. Her interests extend outside English courses and include curiosity in studying human behavior. She is intrigued by psychology and biology and enjoys exploring the human condition. Her cooperative and courteous manner, along with her ability to work well with others, makes her a pleasure to have in class.

Outside of the classroom, Ashlinn is a spirited participant in numerous school and community activities. She is a three sport varsity athlete in cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track. Ashlinn is also a Girl Scout currently working toward completing her Gold Award. She is the vice president of the Exchange club, Lions clubs, Rotary club, and the president of the Environmental Club. Last year, Ashlinn created an incredible opportunity for students with special needs. More specifically, she worked extensively with both school and town leaders to create a track and field experience, called *Tiger Tracks* that provided younger students with special needs the opportunity to train for and participate in various track and field events. Her desire to better our community is admirable.

Ashlinn is personable, kind, and pleasant. Her friendly nature allows her to relate effortlessly with people of all ages. She has an open-minded attitude and down-to-earth manner, and shows a great deal of compassion for others. She is exceptionally responsible, reliable, independent, trustworthy, and mature beyond her years.

Ashlinn is an outstanding student and person clearly deserving of this special recognition.

Cale Gabrynowicz

It is my pleasure to introduce to you Cale Gabrynowicz as one of Daniel Hand's recipients of the 2017-18 Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents Award.

Cale is a thoughtful, sensitive young man who is intellectually curious and creative. He is a hardworking student who excels in the classroom. Cale has taken many of our most challenging courses. While enjoying school, he is disciplined in his studies. As a result of his consistent performance, he has been inducted into our National Honor Society. Although Cale is interested and committed to be successful in all of his classes, he shows a particular interest in math, history, and science. These interests may lead him down the path of engineering or political science as he aspires to broaden his exposure in these areas with the purpose of improving the world and helping others.

In addition to excelling in the classroom, Cale is actively involved in numerous extra-curricular activities. He is captain of the Cross Country Team and a squad leader of the Daniel Hand Marching Band. Cale is clearly committed to athletics as well as to his musical talent. Cale is also a Peer Advocate and a member of the *Smiles for Smilow* Club. Outside of the school setting, he assists senior citizens by volunteering his time to a Teen Teach Tech program. Cale's curiosity in the medical field led him to volunteer his time at Yale New Haven Hospital during the summer. Over the past two summers, he attended the Deer Lake Summer Camp Counselor in Training program. This is a, "by invitation only", program where Cale's positive attitude and leadership qualities were noted by all involved. Finally, during junior year, Cale was one of six students selected to attend the Connecticut American Legion Boys State High School Leadership Program.

Already a thoughtful, intellectually curious, young man, Cale has grown into a valued and respected leader within our school. Volunteering has strengthened his self-awareness, understanding, communication skills, and knowledge of the community. Cale is an impressive young man who is personable, driven, responsible, compassionate, and a role model for those lucky enough to be in his company.

Cale is an outstanding student and person clearly deserving of this special recognition.

3.2. Madison Association of Educational Supportive Services (MAESS)

Susan Evans and Carla Marino - MAESS Co-Presidents

3.3. American Education Week

Mike Ginsburg, MEA President, Mary Ellen Babik, MEA Vice President

Superintendent Scarice introduced Susan Evans and Carla Marino – MAESS and Mike Ginsburg, Mary Ellen Babik – MEA to the Board meeting. Superintendent Scarice thanked them as well as those who are part of the MAESS and MEA groups for all of their hard work and dedicated to the District.

Superintendent Scarice made the following statement:

This year American Education Week is celebrated November 13-17, 2017.

The National Education Association was one of the creators and original sponsors of American Education Week.

25% of the country's World War I draftees were illiterate and 9% were physically unfit, representatives of the NEA and the American Legion met in 1919 to seek ways to generate public support for education.

In 1921, the NEA Representative Assembly called for designation of one week each year to spotlight education. The first observance of American Education Week occurred December 4-10, 1921

4. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Emily Baker and Ryan Tomicic

Emily and Ryan were attending a play rehearsal for this weekend's play Cheaper by the Dozen. No report was given

5. Election of Board Officers (Reference Bylaw #9410)

5.1. Election of Temporary Board Chair

Ms. Keating called for nominations for a Temporary Board Chair. Ms. Bowler nominated Alison Keating as the Temporary Board Chair. The vote was unanimous. Ms. Keating was voted in as the Temporary Board Chair

Ms. Stein made the following comments:

Ordinarily, the Board would take this opportunity to recognize the most senior member of the majority party to nominate as chair. On our board, that person is Seth Klaskin and he is anything but ordinary! Seth has served on the Board of Ed for 10 years as a stalwart member who has worked tirelessly during his tenure serving on the executive committee as well as just about every other sub-committee of the board. I think we would all agree that Seth has made significant and measurable contributions to the district and in the lives of the children and families that have compelled us all to do this work. Personally, Seth has been a mentor to me. In my, much shorter time on the board, he has always been approachable, willing to listen as well as to teach. He has been honest and diplomatic and what he may lack in brevity he makes up for with integrity, objectivity and fairness. I am grateful to work with and learn from him.

What you may not know is that Seth has long been interested in leading our board and now that time has come. Unfortunately, the timing of such an opportunity is not optimal for Seth, due to his work commitments. True to type, Seth has chosen to forgo the nomination of Chair and put the needs of the town above his personal aspirations. I just wanted to take a moment to recognize him for that and to thank him for all he does.

5.2. Election of Board Chair

Ms. Keating called for nominations for a Board Chair. Ms. Bowler nominated Alison Keating as the Board Chair. The vote was unanimous 9-0. Ms. Keating was voted in as the Board Chair

5.3. Election of Board Vice-Chair

Chairman Keating called for nominations for a Board Vice-Chair. Mr. Klaskin nominated Jessica Bowler as the Board Vice-Chair. The vote was unanimous 9-0. Ms. Bowler was voted in as the Board Vice-Chair.

5.4. Election of Board Secretary

Chairman Keating called for nominations for a Board Secretary. Mr. Cawley nominated Seth Klaskin as the Board Secretary. The vote was unanimous 9-0. Mr. Klaskin was voted in as the Board Secretary.

6. Appoint two Capital Improvement Program Members

Ms. Bowler nominated Alison Keating and Galen Cawley as the two Capital Improvement Program Members. The vote was unanimous 9-0.

7. Superintendent's Report Thomas R. Scarice

7.1. K-12 Reconfiguration Considerations

Superintendent Scarice presented the Board the following information:

As the school district moves forward and contracts from 6 schools to 5, there is a window of opportunity to determine the configuration of middle level grades. Our district has been

designed as a K-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-12 system since the high school opened in 2003. However, with 5 total schools on the horizon, K-3 comprised at the elementary level, and grade 4 moving to the middle level, a great deal of time and attention is now being given to the optimal grouping approach for grades 4-8.

During the study of the school facilities, an assumption was made that Brown would assume grade 4, making it a 4-5 school, and Polson would assume grade 6, making it a 6-8 school. This assumption was made since Polson is better situated to assume an additional grade level than Brown. However, an additional consideration has been proposed and presented.

An additional consideration was presented to the Board of Education which would make Polson an intermediate school (grades 4-6), and Brown the upper level middle school (grades 7-8). The administrative team, in conjunction with our school facility consultants have spent a great deal of time since the referendum failed analyzing the viability of this approach. Additionally, the K-12 district wide “Whole Child Wellness Team”, comprised of teachers and support staff across all six schools, has given attention to this concept in looking at the optimal model regarding programming, grouping, grade level configurations, and overall child development.

At this point in time the Polson intermediate (4-6)/Brown upper middle school (7-8) model is a consideration. In the near future, the Board of Education will take action to determine the configuration of grades by level and school.

Although the analysis conducted has covered a great deal of ground (i.e. classroom square footage, developmental span of 4-6 vs. 6-8, programming expansion/contraction, teacher certification needs, building exterior for playgrounds, etc.), I encourage each and every faculty member to share their questions/input either with your building administrator, your building representative on the Whole Child Wellness Team.

7.2. Other Matters

No other matters were discussed.

8. Board Members' Comments

Mr. Klaskin welcomed the new Board Members. Mr. Klaskin stated it great having a fresh set of eye and new minds in the group.

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

Mike Ginsburg 35 Colonial Road

Mr. Ginsburg stated that he likes the new school model. Mr. Ginsburg stated that he attended all of the meetings involving the change.

Kristen Powers 67 Nathans Lane

Ms. Powers asked the Board to pause before rushing into a budget. The Board should consider ways to get the community more involved in the process and to hear the ideas of the members of the community.

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

10.1. Bills Payable: \$408,199.39 – 2017/2018; \$148,056.57 – 2016/2017

10.2. Line Transfers: \$82,467.42

10.3. Budget Expenditure as of November 9, 2017

MOTION: by Stein seconded by Klaskin
to approve the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating; Klaskin;
Marino; McNerney; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

11. Action Item: Minutes of the October 17, 2017 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Stein to
approve the minutes of the October 17, 2017
Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating; Klaskin;
Marino; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: McNerney; Parthasarthy; Rosenthal;

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

12. Action Item: To add a motion to change the December 5, 2017 Board of Education meeting date to
December 12, 2017.

MOTION: by Bowler seconded by Cawley to add
a motion to change the December 5, 2017 Board
of Education meeting date to December 12, 2017.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating; Klaskin;
Marino; McNerney; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

13. Action Item: To change the December 5, 2017 Board of Education meeting date to
December 12, 2017.

MOTION: by Bowler seconded by Stein to change
the December 5, 2017 Board of Education meeting
date to December 12,
2017.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating;
Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

14. Old Business

No old business was discussed,

15. Future Agenda Items

No new business was discussed.

16. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)

November-December 2017 Calendars

17. Adjournment

MOTION: by _Marino seconded by Bowler to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating;

Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0

Approved at the December 5, 2017 BOE meeting