

**Madison Public Schools  
Board of Education Regular Meeting  
December 19, 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 Chair Alison Keating at 7:31 p.m. Chairman Keating led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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. Public Participation**

No comments were made.

**3. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report**

Emily Baker and Ryan Tomicic

Emily and Ryan reported on the following:

Trimester 1 has just ended

Branford Schools recently visit MPS to check out their Trimester system

The recent play went very well and there was a good turnout

The Sound of Music will be the upcoming musical.

The show choir will be starting to compete

Mr. Klaskin stated that on January 7<sup>th</sup> the VIBE Cabaret will take place.

**4. Superintendent's Report**

Thomas R. Scarice

**4.1. Independent Study Course - DHHS**

Laura Stott, DHHS Social Studies Teacher and Students

Ms. Stott and four of her five students spoke to the Board regarding their experience with the Independent Study Course pilot which they took part in this past trimester.

The students stated that they were excited to be allowed this course to be able to work on something they are passionate about. The students stated that they felt empowered and they were able to find themselves through this process. They also felt that the course being pass/fail was liberating. They also enjoyed the collaboration part of this course.

The students recommended if this course was offered again the number of students in the class should be between 5-7. This would allow them to be involved/help with each other's projects. All of the students noted that they believe this course should definitely be offered again. One student stated the quote "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life" and that's how they felt being allowed to choose their own topics for this course. Even when they worked on their topic outside of school they said it did not feel like homework because it was something they were passionate about.

Ms. Stott stated that it was a dynamic difference for the students being able to choose their topic for themselves. Ms. Stott also stated that this class is not right for everyone. It is for those students who are truly passionate about the topic they choose.

Superintendent Scarice asked the students who the best teacher is and they all responded with 'failure'.

Superintendent Scarice stated he would send the link of the students work to the Board Members.

#### **4.2. Effective School Solutions (ESS)**

Dr. Elizabeth Battaglia

Bill Cox, Gerry Barone and Cheryl Planten (Representatives from ESS)

Dr. Elizabeth Battaglia and team came to discuss what is now year 3 of this program at DHHS. There are now 11 ESS programs in school districts in CT. This program was put in place to allow us to continue to educate fragile learners in their homeschool while allowing us to do what is right for kids and has been a big success for the children needing these services in our district. We will be exploring continuing this program at Polson for next year.

The mission of ESS is to provide intensive clinical programming for students with significant emotional and behavioral problems so they can be maintained within the Madison Public School System and benefit from the wide range of educational, social and extra-curricular opportunities

The mission is accomplished by bringing psychiatric expertise, proven treatment protocols, experienced mental health professionals, clinical supervision and quality management activities into the educational environment so that struggling students can stay and thrive in the public school setting

#### **Student Focused**

1. Daily Group Therapy
2. Clinical support to Study Center
3. Individual Therapy
4. Crisis/Classroom Intervention
5. School Avoidance/Home Visits

### **Parent Focused**

1. Family Therapy and Consultation
2. Family Psycho-Education and Support Program
3. Monthly receipt of *Solutions*, the ESS parent newsletter

ESS is contracted to provide 2 full-time licensed mental health professionals in Madison.

ESS staff are all highly accomplished mental health professionals who have extensive experience treating adolescents with significant emotional and behavioral problems

ESS guarantees the quality and responsiveness of its staff.

Each full-time staff member is available one evening each week for family sessions.

ESS staff assists in facilitation and support of Study Center.

### **4.3. Other Matters**

Superintendent Scarice noted the following:

The Board will take action at a January meeting to make the recommendation to Selectman and Finance to take approximately \$260K of \$316K returned to the CNRE for classroom furniture and fixture updates to Jeffrey and Ryerson

Over the next 1-2 months Mr. Sickel will be working on improving cell service in the schools.

### **5. Board Members' Comments**

No comments were made.

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

#### **6.1. Planning Committee**

Members: Jessica Bowler, Chair; Galen Cawley, Katie Stein

Ms. Bowler reported the following:

#### **2018-2019 School Year Calendar**

We reviewed the draft calendar for the 2018-2019 School Year – we will re-visit at the next planning meeting, share with the Full BoE at the next meeting and it will also go to the Policy Committee for review.

#### **Science and CTE philosophies and career pathways**

Dan Grenier came to discuss the CTE Program that he is re-writing the curriculum and vision for.

Our CTE program in Madison is now designed around several career pathways - for example – Business Management, Restaurant and Food Services and Journalism and Broadcasting to name 3. Each of these will start with a broad course in the area for example Culinary Arts for Restaurants and Food Services and then will drill down more

specifically to a baking course, an international cuisine course, a chef course and a chopped course.

There will also be some other courses that will continue to be offered but these will be grouped under exploratory experiences for example a course on boat building as they are individual courses and not a complete career pathway.

Sarah Sandora came to discuss the Science curriculum that she is rewriting -

This new curriculum will be based on the next gen science standards which are beautifully aligned to the MPS vision by emphasizing learning through immersion in science and engineering practices. As a result with our new curriculum students learn content through inquiry and engage in the Engineering Design Process.

We also discussed the Biotechnology course that will be piloted at Hand next year which is becoming a growing field and will teach cutting edge science and technology – it is extremely exciting!

### **Effective School Solutions – ESS**

Dr. Elizabeth Battaglia and team came to discuss what is now year 3 of this program at DHHS. There are now 11 ESS programs in school districts in CT. This program was put in place to allow us to continue to educate fragile learners in their homeschool while allowing us to do what is right for kids and has been a big success for the children needing these services in our district. We will be exploring continuing this program at Polson for next year.

#### **6.2. Personnel Committee**

Members: Matt Parthasarthy, Chair, Seth Klaskin, Violet McNerney

No report was given.

#### **6.3. Policy Committee**

Members: Seth Klaskin Chair; Emily Rosenthal, Violet McNerney

Mr. Klaskin stated the following:

The following policies went to the Policy Committee earlier this evening. They are now being presented to the full board for first reading tonight.

Policy #4170	Restraint and Seclusion
Policy #5200	Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 (Nondiscrimination)
Policy #6080.21.1	English Learner Students
Bylaw #9450	Board Committees

The Board voiced their opinions on having a Standing Facilities Committee as opposed to Ad Hoc. There are two more readings on Bylaw #9450 regarding Board Committees before a vote will take place to add the Facilities Committee as a Standing Committee.

#### **6.4. Finance Committee**

Members: Happy Marino, Chair; Galen Cawley, Matt Parthasarthy

Ms. Marino reported on the following:

##### **Finance Committee Meeting December 11, 2017**

The Finance Committee met on 12/11 and reviewed initial budget proposal. The budget was presented in tiered increments, with Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3. Tier 1 is baseline request to meet approved budget guidelines, and Tier 2 and 3 include additional expenditures based on the Committee's request to direct additional funding toward improvements in the elementary facilities that we could accomplish utilizing the operational budget in advance of the closing of Island Avenue school and the reorganization of the K-3 students to Jeffrey and Ryerson. \$316K returned to town from 16-17 budget, investigating if we can take that money into the Capitol Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund and earmark for furniture.

##### **Finance Committee Meeting December 19, 2017**

The Board will take action at a January meeting to make the recommendation to Selectman and Finance to take approximately \$260K of \$316K returned to the CNRE for classroom furniture and fixture updates to Jeffrey and Ryerson. (Not requesting full amount returned due to restraints on percentage of operating fund we can ask for) Board of Finance requires a formal letter requesting the transfer.

We were able to lock in prices on Diesel Fuel for 2018-19 at \$2.27 for 65K gallons.

#### **6.5. LEARN Liaison**

Emily Rosenthal

No report was given.

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

No comments were made.

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

**8.1. Bills Payable:** \$24,760.04 - 16/17 Budget and \$564,898.57 – 17/18 Budget

**8.2. Line Transfers:** \$14,122.55

**8.3. Donation:** \$1,850.00 from VIBE Supporters to the Daniel Hand High School Chorus to offset cost for student's trip to Nashville.

- 8.4.** Donation: \$5,750.00 from AxioMx, an Abcam company - donating 25 pipettes to Madison Public School to support the biotechnology program.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Mr. Klaskin thanked the VIBE Supporters for their donation to Daniel Hand High School Chorus to offset cost for student's trip to Nashville.

Mr. Klaskin thanked AxioMx, an Abcam company – for donating 25 pipettes to Madison Public School to support the biotechnology program.

- 9.** Action Item: Minutes of the December 5, 2017 Board of Education Meeting (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Stein seconded by Marino to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2017 Board of Education Meeting.

AYES: Cawley; Keating; Marino; McNerney;  
Parthasarthy; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Bowler, Klaskin

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

- 10.** Action Item: Minutes of the December 5, 2017 Board of Education Retreat

MOTION: by Cawley seconded by Parthasarthy to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2017 Board of Education Retreat.

AYES: Cawley; Keating; Marino; McNerney;  
Parthasarthy; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Bowler, Klaskin

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

- 11.** Action Item: Approve the Budget Assumptions

MOTION: by Finance Committee to approve the Budget Assumptions.

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

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

**12. Old Business**

No old business was discussed.

**13. Future Agenda Items**

No future agenda items were discussed.

**14. Meetings / Dates of Importance (see attached)  
December 2017 and January 2018**

**15. Action Item: To Enter into Executive Session**

MOTION: by Marino seconded by Cawley to enter Executive Session to discuss legal matters and Superintendent's Evaluation.at 9:30 p.m.

AYES: Bowler; Cawley; Keating;

Klaskin; Marino; McNerney; Parthasarthy; Rosenthal; Stein

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

**16. Adjournment**

MOTION: by Klaskin seconded by Stein to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 p.m.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9-0

Approved at the January 9, 2018 BOE Meeting