

**Madison Public Schools
Board of Education
Curriculum and Student Development Committee
Tuesday, May 10, 2022
5:30 PM
Hammonasset Room and Zoom**

MEETING MINUTES

Steven Pynn called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Members present: Steven Pynn, Jen Gordon, Cathy Miller.

Also present: Seth Klaskin, Dr. Cooke, Gail Dahling-Hench

Recorder: Steven Pynn

STEAM modules for fourth and fifth grades. Presentation by Mike Ginsburg.

The STEAM modules for fourth and fifth grades were presented. Each grade contains two modules that develop knowledge and skills in designing small robots as well as proficiency in working with art programs on iPads. The units support student centered creative projects that encourage design thinking and self expression. As the units progress the students get exposure to design thinking, elementary coding, teamwork, digital art and can begin to see science principles in play such as friction. The units are highly motivating to students and help teach them that there is often more than one way to reaching an outcome.

The committee board members had numerous comments in support of this program and its contribution to 21st century skills and Profile of a Graduate.

Performing Arts Vision. Presentation by Leah Stillman

A presentation of the vision for the performing arts of music and theater by the newly appointed head of those departments. There was discussion of where the performing arts fit in the curriculum and the role of the arts in supporting the Profile of a Graduate. Creative and critical thinking were highlighted as well as collaboration and communication skills. Ms. Stillman shared that she had met with student focus groups at all levels to determine what was important to them in music and theater programs and what they would like to see. Ms. Stillman spoke to the need for careful vertical alignment of course offerings so that students had a guaranteed curriculum and didn't ever find themselves repeating what had been offered in previous classes.

Board member comments included the value of the arts and music for students in relation to social and emotional learning at this particularly stressful time for many students. In addition to the contribution of the performing arts to supporting other curricular areas it was underscored that it also brings joy to learning which is very much a part of the districts mission.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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 Paula Carabetta at 203-245-5644 or by email at carabettap@madisonct.org at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.