



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
[www.cityofmadison.com](http://www.cityofmadison.com)

## Meeting Minutes - Draft CITY, COUNTY, SCHOOLS COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEE

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Wednesday, July 10, 2024

5:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 6 - Linda Vakunta; Bill Tishler; Tag Evers; TJ McCray; Laura Simkin and Heidi Wegleitner

**Absent:** 1 - Nichelle Nichols

**Others present:** Mary O'Donnell

Wegleitner called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

Members welcomed their new member Laura Simkin and did brief introductions.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Vakunta, seconded by Tishler to approve the May 8, 2024 minutes.  
Motion passed unanimously.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

1. **84298** Public Comment July 2024

None.

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

2. [84296](#) Presentation and Discussion on City Referendum

**Attachments:** [2025 Budget Outlook - City Schools County Collaborative Committee - 7-10-24](#)

Dave Schmiedicke from City of Madison Finance presented the update on the City budget. Currently the City budget has a \$22 million deficit in 2025. This is due to limited revenues, increased expenses and the impact of the COVID pandemic. The budget shortfall will increase significantly if measures are not taken to lower the total budget. This means long term solutions need to be implemented to prevent larger future budget shortfalls.

Each year the City of Madison Common Council must pass a balanced budget. There will be a presentation at the July 16 Common Council meeting to

address the budget and long-term solution options. One solution is to include a referendum to raise property taxes to cover some or all of the budget shortfall on the November ballot. However, this option comes with a small window for implementation due to state law requiring specific referendum language that must be approved between August 15 and August 25. Common Council will meet on August 6 where introduction of the referendum could occur. Final referendum language would be released after August 15. The Common Council has scheduled a special meeting for August 20 to finalize a potential November referendum.

City department budgets are due next week. The Mayor will review the budgets and review the budgets proposed by each department as she develops her budget with potential budget fixes for 2025 and moving forward. The Common Council will review and approve a final 2025 budget in November.

3. [84297](#) Presentation and Discussion on MMSD Referendum

**Attachments:** [City County Schools Collaborative Committee 2024 Referenda SLIDE DECK](#)

Bob Soldner from MMSD presented on the MMSD budget. Due to shortfalls in funding from the state level 2 referendums are moving forward on the November ballot. The School Board voted to put 2 referendums forward. The MMSD budget cycle is ahead of the city as it covers the school year 2024-2025.

One referendum will be for operating costs up to \$100 million over 4 years to cover operational and maintenance expenses. This would be broken down into \$20 or \$30 million dollar amounts per year through the 2028 school year. The facilities referendum will be for up to \$507 million max for facilities for general obligation bonds to remodel middle schools and some elementary schools

4. [84299](#) Committee Workplan for Second Half of 2024

Wegleitner asked members to send future agenda items to her and Nichols via email. Referendum updates will be shared as they come become available. Evers mentioned the topic of cell phone use in schools.

5. [84300](#) Update on Driver's Education Legislation at State

Wegleitner did not have an update. The next step is the rule making process from the transportation agency. Wegleitner has an alert set to receive updates when that occurs.

6. [84301](#) 2024 Updated Committee Meeting Schedule

Wegleitner reviewed upcoming committee dates and asked members if there were any conflicts to due budget or other meetings with MMSD, Dane County or Madison.

August 14

September 11

October 9

November 6 (first Wednesday due to Common Council budget deliberations)

December 11

Wegleitner shared that the September 11 meeting is a conflict with Dane County budget meetings. A doodle poll may be sent out.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Simkin, seconded by Evers to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 pm.  
Motion passed by voice vote.