

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Public Forum April 2, 2014 Bailey Auditorium, MHS

PRESENT: Crockett, Hagenow, Leon, Pattacini, Pazda, Scappaticci, Stafford, Thames

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kisiel, Assistant to the Superintendent for Finance & Management Brooks, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Radikas, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services Matfess, M. Geary

ABSENT: Cruz

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairperson Pattacini. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mr. Pattacini. Mr. Pattacini reviewed the process, noting that the SMARTR Committee had done their work, options were developed, tonight they would be presented and feedback gathered, and eventually a recommendation to the Board of Directors would be made for a referendum vote in November.

2. OVERVIEW OF PLAN

Dr. Kisiel reviewed that all elementary school students deserve to be part of a 21st Century learning environment. We are also required by law to maintain racial balance. Dr. Kisiel gave a power point presentation, which is available on the website, outlining the goals of the Board of Education, the process, and the possible options, including the option the Board prefers.

Mr. Pattacini again reviewed that the next step is to hear public feedback. The topic is on the agenda for Monday's Board meeting. In approximately three weeks a recommendation will be given to the Board of Directors and then they will determine how to proceed regarding timing and content of a potential referendum. Mr. Pattacini noted that all seven options this evening include all the remaining elementary schools to be renovated like new eventually.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Donald Palmer, 97 Overlook Drive, wanted to address how we got to this position. He noted Nathan Hale is a good example, that maintenance was deferred and buildings deteriorated and the money to fix them was not there. He stated that with Nathan Hale the Board of Education asked the Board of Directors for money to fix the building and there was not enough money so the building was closed. The public was told moving the students would save \$1 million. Classes that formerly held 17-19 students now hold 20.3. We could have used that \$1 million to fix Nathan Hale and instead we have an \$80 million plan before us. Mr. Palmer wonders why, instead of trying to make everything like new, why not just fix what is broken. He would like to know the current fix and repair budget. He believes \$179,000 is that budget now...will that remain the same with new schools so that we will not be able to maintain the new schools. We need a maintenance plan to address the problems as they arise. Mr. Palmer feels that with the number of students in town the schools being proposed will not be big enough.

Jim Waites, 142 Woodbridge Street, knows these plans will raise our taxes. He feels people love to spend our money. He wants to know why we don't just fix things instead of building new. He wishes we would conserve and make do with what we have. He also feels Nathan Hale should not have closed. He wants to keep taxes down. Mr. Waites wonders if students will learn better in a new school.

Ann Curley, 23 Autumn Street, is the Board's worst nightmare. She is a homeowner and taxpayer, a voter, and a teacher at Washington Elementary. She feels Washington is more than just a school - it is a safe haven for the students. These children have home lives unlike what most of us have seen. Many walk to school and come early for the free breakfast. First you closed a school in a poor neighborhood and moved the kids to another school and now you want to close this school, again in a poor neighborhood and put the students who knows where...to use racial balance as a reason to close another poor school in another poor neighborhood – Shame on you! Ms. Curley feels racial balance could have been better attained years ago by divvying up the town into schools covering grades K-2, 3-4, and 5.

Karla Leon, 92 Bissell Street, has lived in Manchester for four years, and her child attended Nathan Hale prior to Washington. Her child has significant learning disabilities and had a rough start at Washington and has finally adapted to her environment there. Ms. Leon feels that the Board is not thinking about the kids being affected and what they are losing.

Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, is a former Manchester student, having attended Washington for a year, Keeney for two years, Bennet and MHS. He feels the plan will not please a lot of people but you have to work with what you have. He is not into

racial balance, but he wants a quality education for students without regard to race. He does not like the subgroup term and does not want race used as a scapegoat. All students should be made to feel welcome. Mr. Stringfellow pointed out there is only one principal of color, Mr. Jones. He is glad to see parents of color here tonight. He wishes more would attend Board of Education meetings. Mr. Stringfellow noted that the 60th anniversary of Brown V Board of Education is this year and he wants an equal opportunity for all students. He is glad to see more fathers getting involved both at Washington and Verplanck.

Robert Shanbaum, 99 Hartford Road, is the Chairman of the Commission for the Cheney Brothers National Historic District. He notes the presence of an operating school in the Washington building is an important contributor to the health of the landmark district. While preservation of the building presents a problem, he does not believe it is insurmountable. He notes that the two plans that save the school do not explore all the options available and another option is to build new and not use the historic building. He notes he has not seen any plans for using the Washington building as offices or another use, which would not require gutting the building. Mr. Shanbaum feels we have not begun to exhaust the possibilities. He feels first it needs to be determined if people are willing to pay the price to maintain neighborhood schools. What will the mill rate be? We need a number. If the people are not willing, consider how that looks for the town, that both Nathan Hale and Washington, the two most impoverished schools, both closed. Racial balance is hard to achieve, but using racial balance requirements is an odd, cruel way to deprive the people that are supposed to benefit from the law their own neighborhood schools.

Rita McParland, 63 Nutmeg Drive, is a senior citizen and taxpayer who is already overburdened. She is in favor of neighborhood schools. She also sits on the Cheney Commission. Ms. McParland talked about a recent trip to Gettsbury, and a big red barn in the battlefield, a historic landmark. It made her realize the significance of where she lives and the fact that Manchester has a National Landmark district as well, that should hold the same weight as any other historic national landmark. We lose sight of that because we are local. Ms. McParland feels it is significant and it is critical to maintain our landmark district and keep Washington as a school, not only for the children, but for the significance of the historic district. She points out that there is talk of a tourism center in Manchester and that should be considered as well.

Bettye Kramer, 41 Campfield Road, has questions that have been raised. She is in favor of neighborhood schools. She is the Vice-Chair of the Cheney Historic Commission and loves the neighborhood, where she has lived since the 60s. It is a tight knit group and she notes neighborhoods are important, especially in areas like the East Side and West Side poor areas. The school is an anchor for a neighborhood, providing support for kids who need something to cling to. She does not feel the options for Washington presented were the most cost effective. She wonders why gut

the building? The original proposal did not call for gutting the building and might be more feasible. While she is retired and on a fixed income, she does not hear about what is best for the kids, and she doesn't feel it has to cost as much as proposed.

Kristina Diaz, 8 Rachel Road, is a Robertson parent. She has lived in Manchester since she was 7 years old and is not concerned about closing Robertson. What concerns her is the safety issue in some of the plans that note they may not be feasible due to traffic congestion. Putting more students and cars on a tiny road concerns her. She feels the Verplanck area is already horrendous and she does not believe the Board has thought about safety. Ms. Diaz also wonders if our teachers will be losing their jobs with these plans. She continues to hear about racial balance, but feels there is not racial balance in the staff in town. She feels the Board does not hire Latin or African American teachers enough. She would like to see the money go towards more resources and after school programs. Ms. Diaz feels we should fix the schools, make them better and hire more minorities.

Mr. Pattacini responded by stating the issues raised by this parent are one reason why the Board favors Option 5.

An'drea Flynn, 140 Bush Hill Road, is a homeowner, teacher at Washington of 17 years, and a Washington parent. She elected for her children to attend Washington because she has faith in the school and her colleagues. Ms. Flynn feels if we leave an empty school we leave an empty neighborhood. What is the cost to have an empty building and who will move there, one of the most densely populated areas, with an empty school? People won't come.

Bonnie Schuetz, 12 Conway Road, wants to know where the money is coming from. Taxes are going up. We have a budget. Where is the money to keep up the schools? She wonders why the schools went down like they did when the Board had the money. Her children went to Bennet and Nathan Hale. Her daughter says that sports takes priority over Language Arts now and that's what is wrong. Ms. Schuetz feels the taxpayers give you money to do the schools and we are the bankers. She thinks the Board of Directors gives the Board of Education money like a blank check and the Board of Education does whatever they want, like put the money into football. This is a problem the taxpayers have to solve.

Denise Curran, 65 West Middle Turnpike, is in favor of neighborhood schools. This is the City of Village Charm and without neighborhood schools it will not be. Ms. Curran wonders if 5th and 6th grade Special Education students will be retained at the elementary schools or moving on to the Academy. She wonders how we know the reimbursement rate from the state at that time. Ms. Curran thinks Nathan Hale is a good option as swing space if we use option #7. With mega schools there are too many teachers at each grade level to collaborate and it won't work. She thinks we

need greater security measures considered. She is also concerned with the lack of play space proposed at the Academy. Ms. Curran wonders why we are not utilizing more of the storage space available in some buildings. Closing two schools will create more eyesores, as with Nathan Hale. It doesn't seem feasible and it is ugly. We are known for our historic district. Ms. Curran is also concerned that fourth graders are not old enough to be peer role models for the younger students and she loves seeing 5th grade peers work with her Kindergartener. She feels the Board is worried too much about money and not about how these decisions impact the students.

Simone Sewell, 52 Arch Street, moved from Vernon and her child is in first grade at Washington. She came for the all-day Kindergarten but now hopes to purchase a home in the Washington area because of the school. Her son is flourishing at Washington and the teachers are lovely. There are many opportunities for parents to attend programs to help them understand the curriculum. She feels we should consider the children and the families in that area. It is a diverse school where children are learning. She chose to live in this area. She feels the students at Washington will be successful citizens.

Tracy Maio, 57 Horton Road, is not in favor of larger elementary schools. She has recently seen three elementary principals present to the Board of Education and all spoke about small group instruction. She is concerned about larger groups of students and being able to work in small groups. Ms. Maio noted that on January 13th the principal of Bowers spoke about the challenges of having 400+ students. Lunches start at 11:00 a.m. and go until 2:00 p.m., assemblies must be split, etc. She does not want the kids getting lost in a large school. Ms. Maio points out that at the 8/22/12 SMARTR Committee meeting, Mr. Geary stated larger schools are an outdated model. He was speaking about high schools but she feels this translates to elementary schools as well. At the 8/9/12 meeting of SMARTR, Sara Ellsworth from CREC spoke about the benefit of smaller class sizes being important in larger schools and Ms. Maio is not sure we have that.

Gladys Ortiz, 59 Vernon Street, has a son at Buckley. She left messages for all the Board of Education members and only received a call back from two of them. She needs help with her 1st grade son's behavior problems and has asked Dr. Kisiel for help previously. She feels if Buckley becomes overcrowded her son will continue to struggle. She is told there are no resources. She asked to change classes or schools to no avail. She feels she can get better resources at a North End of Hartford school for her son. She reports her taxes go up every year but yet there is no money for resources. Ms. Ortiz states the school only has one black teacher and no Hispanic teachers. The problem is not just money, but overcrowding. Ms. Ortiz is thinking about selling her house and moving because she is disgusted by the Board of Directors and the Board of Education and their lack of doing and the fact they do not care. Students depend on the free lunch and other programs at Washington. The parents may not have cars so

neighborhood schools are important. It is a problem to close a familiar school. She feels we need to dig into the budget and hopes the new Superintendent has a better plan as this is not attractive for our town. People think Manchester is a great place to live, with so much in the area like the mall, but people are going to start leaving because of the schools.

Chris Lopez, 46 Pine Street, notes it takes under \$800,000 to operate Washington. He has two kids there and he has begged the community to save this historic building. He is new to Manchester, having moved here in November from Hartford, and previously from Puerto Rico. He came to Manchester because he heard good things, but now you want to close the school. He presented a petition to the Board with over 100 signatures of people opposed to closing Washington. The school is beneficial to the kids, his have excelled there. He feels the town will lose taxpayers who will move out because the school gets closed.

Autumn Struk, 26 Little Street, is a Waddell parent and she thanked the Board for their hard work, which she appreciates. She is 100% in favor of neighborhood schools. She is not in favor of mega schools. Even in the current size schools there are challenges, but it will get worse with larger numbers. More children with needs will be in the larger school and it will be harder for teacher collaboration. There are pros and cons but the cons outweigh the pros for larger schools. A school feels like a community, like a family and with a larger school events will have to be split, there won't be room for families at events, so it will feel less like a community. Ms. Struk feels though these plans are for the next 20 years, things will always have to change, rebalance, and more room will be needed. She knows in the future preschool will become mandated and she would like to see Manchester at the forefront of that by making a plan for preschool in town.

Norm DeLaura, 421 Parker Street, wonders when Washington is closed what the building be used for. Will it move off the Board of Education books onto the Board of Director's books? Will it remain vacant? Will that be determined prior to a vote? He notes option 7 is the only one without a 5/6 academy, why can't we do the 5/6 academy and renovate the schools? Are there enough kids for that? If we do renovate, are plans being made to budget for future repairs and renovation?

Brenda Ramos, 73 Pine Street, has two kids with special ed needs at Washington and another entering next year. She feels her children have improved at Washington. It is a family. To say we are closing the building hurts the children. Her son came home and asked her to fight for his school. She feels the Board needs to take the kids under consideration. The school is a family for these kids, including the afterschool program, which helps teach the kids how to relate to other children and handle problems. Her oldest had previously attended Nathan Hale and was moved to Washington and he lost friends in that move, but Washington is a safe haven for students. Now the kids are

scared they will lose that and have to switch schools and be picked on and moving to new teachers who won't know the kids. She does not agree with closing Washington.

Jennifer West, 164 Pearl Street, comes from a military family and has been in Manchester from 6th grade, the longest she has been in one community. She has lived at her current address for five years. Her son attended Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade at Nathan Hale and then was redistricted to Washington. He has asthma and she had a great relationship with the nurse at Nathan Hale. While she was upset with the school closing, she is happy with the academics at Washington but the relationships she had at Nathan Hale were lost. She feels Washington embraced her family and next year her daughter will attend there. She does not want to live through the same thing she did when Nathan Hale closed. It disturbs her to no longer have a neighborhood school. She can no longer walk to programs at her child's school and she feels it destroys the community. However she felt embraced by Washington and worries where will they be redistricted to next? It took time to build a relationship with the staff and nurse in a new school and she would have to do that all over again. She worked hard to maintain the same residence for her family and yet they had to change schools anyway. It is not fair and it's not right.

Nester Roberts, Elm Street, has a son at Washington and an older son who went there and is already at Illing. The bond and familiarity with the staff will be lost. The consistency will be lost. Children will lose friends and the ability to "hang out". What will happen to the pool and playgrounds there if the school is closed? Mr. Roberts does have some concern about lighting and security on the playground.

Sandra Dunn, 58 Stephen Street, wonders how we arrived at this meeting. She notes the Board of Education has had two years to research and suggest plans for buildings that have been ignored for decades. Thousands of dollars were spent on consultation fees and yet only one plan was devised, turning an unused antiquated building into a school and closing two schools. Because of the dissatisfaction expressed over one plan seven options are presented tonight, but the Board still holds to Option 5, transferring our children from neighborhood and closing two schools. She prefers we restore Nathan Hale and that community. Neighborhood schools are the backbone of a town, they are individual communities within a community and provide a sense of history and pride, character, security, and commitment. Each neighborhood has value and is no better than another. It is because of the schools that kids thrive. She has concerns for the kid's educational success. We are advocates for the children and as taxpayers, Ms. Dunn feels we deserve to have all seven options on the referendum included, including one that says "none of the above". She feels we deserve this voting right.

Betsy Larose, 55 Birch Street, wonders where the children will attend school. In the area she lives there is no guarantee of which district the children will attend school, even with keeping the schools open. She feels her neighborhood will be the students

who have to move because of racial balancing. As more homeowners leave, more rentals will occur, and that creates more change in the neighborhoods. She is fighting for Washington because it was horrible to have Nathan Hale close. It is a terrible situation to be in to not know where your child will attend school next. Washington is a well-loved school and it is upsetting wondering where the kids will be next. She wonders if the town will ever go back to choice schools.

Kim Gorman, 71 Strickland Street, has a Waddell 1st grader. She understands repairs and updates are needed for the schools, but she does not support this plan. She feels it is not good for Manchester neighborhoods or low income and under-represented students. The plan claims to address racial imbalance but lumps the students from the four schools with the highest minority rates into two mega schools, putting 70 and 74% minority in those mega schools. That is not equitable to have 525 of the town's neediest students when schools in less needy areas have 200-300 students. An equitable plan would include similar numbers and minority rates. If the goal is maximum reimbursement why not build 3 or 4 mega schools, otherwise just leave the schools as they are. She also does not support the 5th/6th Academy, wanting 5th grade to remain in the elementary schools. She feels Bennet could still be expanded and moved back to a 6-8 model along with Illing, which also needs to be modernized. She would like to see Nathan Hale be used as a town-wide public preschool, which would help revive that area, drawing people to that part of town.

Dan Glenney, 199 Dennison Ridge Road, thanked the Board for their hard work and the citizens for being engaged in this conversation. He notes change is a constant and education is not cheap. He was in town when Highland Park closed years ago. He believes in neighborhood schools. There are a lot of resources available to our kids, including special needs, music, and athletics, and that is why he chose to live in Manchester even though they could afford to send their children to school anywhere. How we got here was that over time improvements get voted down. He is for keeping kids in neighborhood schools until 5th grade. There is a difference between 5th and 6th graders and he agrees that 5th graders make great mentors to youngster. He thinks options 5 and 7 need to be examined further.

Julie Roach, 109 Falkner Drive, has lived in Manchester her entire life and went to Washington herself and her son is now at Verplanck. She loves the teachers at both schools. She feels we don't need to close schools and create an unstable environment. She does not want her son becoming a number in a larger school. She agrees the buildings need updating but closing two schools won't fix that. Taxes will rise anyway and she would rather the schools be fixed up. She does not want her son on a bus for long periods of time. She likes the community feel of Manchester, where old friends recognize her, she wants that for her son.

Anne-Marie Archambo, 135 Summer Street, has two children at Washington and hopes to have her third child attend there in the future. Her older daughter has a learning disability and has flourished at Washington. She is proud to be there and if Washington is closed she is moving out of state.

Victoriana Reyes, 167 East Center Street, moved to Manchester from Hartford to give her kids a better opportunity to succeed. The teachers at Washington take the time to get to know the kids. She notes that already some parents can't walk to the school and don't come because they have no car. She doesn't want the community to be taken away and feels there can be a better solution. Her son has special needs and change will not solve that problem but create more problems. She thinks the Board should stop making excuses and think about the children who deserve a neighborhood school and to feel comfortable. Closing Washington creates more problems and shows we are not the City of Village Charm.

Latasha Turnquest, 171 Birch Street, told a story about a girl whose parents were 12 and 13. Raised by her grandparents, with a fifth grade education, the girl suffered abuse and low self-esteem, and her saving grace was her school. It was a safe, nurturing environment where she could be educated. That girl was her and she sees herself in so many students at Washington, where she runs the Family Resource Center. She understands the money aspect, but believes if we close Washington it will have a huge impact on the students there. These students need consistency in their lives and need to know people care. Right now the kids are starting to have an "I don't care" attitude because they hear their school is being closed. The kids are worried. Ms. Turnquest believes this is detrimental to the kids and causes a trauma to feel like nobody cares. She doesn't mind her taxes going up \$100 a year if that is what it costs to keep the school open. She urges the Board to look at the option where no schools are closed.

Leslie Frey, 30 Florence Street, lives across from Nathan Hale. She notes the meeting was started with the Pledge of Allegiance, which promises justice for all and that is what she wants. It is clear to her that the town wants neighborhood schools at all costs. Closing Nathan Hale was a tragedy. It fractured the neighborhood and hurt the community, with friends being split between schools. The town plan calls for an interconnected community that is walkable. But this plan breaks up neighborhoods and puts more kids on buses for long periods of time. The town needs to show a commitment to all its neighborhoods. The town is confused about like new or new buildings, but it's not about buildings, what is important is education. Harvard and Yale both have very old buildings. They value and maintain them, not replace them. She does not want 5th grade to move to Bennet either. She urges people to attend the Board of Education meetings on April 14 and 28th, and to phone and email the members of the Board of Education. She also notes there is a meeting on the future of Nathan Hale taking place April 23rd at 6:30. She would like to see Nathan Hale reopened.

Mr. Pattacini clarified that the original dates of the Board of Education meetings have been revised and the next two meetings will be held on April 7 and April 21st.

Loretta Caparan, 322 Oakland Street, has a 3rd grader at Robertson and wants to know what the plan is for over-capacity. She wants to know how the kids will get the personal attention they need. Ms. Caparan wonders what other towns have done this and done it well. She doesn't understand why we have to close the schools. The kids like the personal attention in smaller schools.

Georgette Reyes, 192 Center Street, is a grandparent to children attending Washington. One of her grandchildren raided his piggy bank to give her change to bring to the Board to help keep his school open. What does she tell her 7 year old grandson? Where does she tell him he will be going to school in the coming years. Her four older grandchildren went through Washington and all had the same teachers through the years. Manchester is a beautiful town, the City of Village Charm. How much more will kids suffer. She moved here from the city for the close community. She wants her grandsons to remain at Washington. It is a beautiful school and the teachers know the family. She wonders what personal and family feelings will occur in a big school. She thinks the Board should look at the kids and how they feel and keep the kids at Washington.

Leslie Weerden, 60 Laurel Street, has a child attending Washington and works there as a lunch aide. She loves Washington - it is not just a school but a family and community. The town already closed Nathan Hale, another low income neighborhood school. She wants the Board to know Washington families are worth it.

Krystyna Brainard, 518 West Middle Turnpike, went to Robertson many years ago in what is currently Central Office. She wonders how the students now attending Robertson will get to Waddell on Broad Street, as there is no direct route and there are train tracks. Will we have enough buses for this or will we have to buy more buses?

Linda Hempstead, 52 Bramblebush Road, is a former teacher and has had difficulty comprehending these complicated ideas. Ten years ago there was a plan that included renovating Bennet, the 9th grade wing at the high school, and renovating the elementary schools. It was the best plan but not executed. She feels the needy schools were not attended to. She wants to know where all that money went, was there not enough money or was it spent on other things. Now there is a 13 year plan that impacts all of our schools. She feels we need to focus on immediate needs, affordability, and more importantly students and the academic benefits to be gained. What academic value is there in moving 5th graders to Bennet Academy? Is there a nurturing value in keeping them in elementary schools? She feels that in the past the

Cheney building was considered a poor choice and too expensive to renovate. Why now is it a good idea to spend \$32 million to renovate Cheney? What guarantee do we have regarding state reimbursement? The academic value should be paramount, resulting in student achievement. What are the actual savings in closing a school? She feels the past months have been a sense of panic and there should be a simpler plan as a solution.

Mr. Pattacini noted that under state law building work funding is spent only on approved referendum items and cannot be spent elsewhere.

Robert Laughlin, 310 Hackmatack Street, is the former director of the after school program at Washington back in 2001. His time at Washington, working with the staff, children and families in that community, was the most rewarding experience of his life. It is worth saving a neighborhood like Washington. It is a safe haven, not just during school hours, but in the programming after school and at the Family Resource Center.

Arlene Ortiz, 43 Love Lane, wonders if the mega schools will be closed when they fall below the guidelines. She wants to know if parents will have the ability to opt out of the mega schools. Ms. Ortiz notes that her children know the Verplanck creed and part of that is to be a better person for my community. She does not want her child becoming a number in a mega school.

Jim Zilora, 446 Briarwood Drive, thanked the Board for their efforts and believes this is a hard plan for everyone to buy into. Regarding 5th grade at Bennet, he is concerned about recess and fun times. Moving 5th grade away from the elementary school forces a maturity on the students, which sounds good on one hand, but he feels kids need to be kids while they are young. Mr. Zilora would like to know the practical implications of not meeting the state law and what the impact on taxes would be with these plans.

Susan Shanbaum, 99 Hartford Road, needs to know what's going to happen with these buildings. She quotes Dr. Kisiel as stating early this evening, in discussing the cost of these plans, "these buildings, once they are out, will not exist", but she says they will. Just as Nathan Hale still exists, Washington School will still exist and the town will still be responsible. The cost is not just to the school, but to the community.

Christina Rosetti, 139 Downy Drive, is in favor of smaller schools. She has kids at Verplanck and attends the Family Resource Center at Washington with her preschooler. It is a wonderful program. She also feels the special education services in town are wonderful.

Ronald Saul, 410 Hackmatack Street, is a former Board of Director member and former town treasurer. He thinks we are getting ahead of ourselves. He feels the town is asking the people of Manchester to make a financial commitment based on a short

discussion. Option 6 buys us time. He feels we should let the people decide on the 5th/6th proposal and then have additional discussion on costs. He opposes mega schools. Even CREC, with their Pre-K through 6th grade, has schools with 250-350 student enrollments. He states he will come out of retirement to oppose mega schools. As the former town treasurer, he assures the public that money was spent properly and in accordance with the law in previous referendums. As a child he attended South School, Nathan Hale, Barnard, all of which are now closed. He has two grandkids who attend Waddell and a daughter-in-law who teaches at Robertson. His wife substitutes at the Preschool Center. He wants the Board to reconsider mega schools and feels that the teachers do not like the idea either.

4. Closing Comments

Mr. Pattacini thanked the members of the public for coming out and heard the passion they have in advocating for their children and their neighborhoods. He felt everyone was respectful and raised questions that the Board will need to consider.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Pattacini called for a motion to adjourn.

Secretary Scappaticci moved, and Mr. Leon seconded the motion, to adjourn.

8/0 – Voted in favor.

Adjournment 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Scappaticci
Board Secretary