

**MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2020  
Lincoln Center - Virtual Meeting**

**Board of Education Meeting**

**7:00 P.M. - Virtual**

**Public access to view meeting :**

**<http://www.channel16.org/CablecastPublicSite/watch/1?channel=1>**

**A. OPENING**

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Secretary's Welcome
- 4) Board of Education Minutes 3-9-2020

A - 4

**B. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**C. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 1) Personnel Actions
- 2) Transfer of Funds
- 3.) Approval to donate \$1,000 to MHS "Project Graduation for the 2019-2020 school year.

C - 1

C - 2

C - 3

**D. REPORT FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

- 1) Student Representative Report - Krista Myrie and Tiffany Henry

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Not Available**

**F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- 1) Update on Interim Learning Opportunities- Mr. Matthew Geary,  
Superintendent of Schools

**G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**

**H. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Policy Recommendation:**

As a result of the current state-wide emergency which has resulted in the district providing Interim Learning Opportunities, the Superintendent submits to the full Board of Education for a first reading the following policy in accordance with the Board's policy on policy changes.

- 1) Credit for Interim Learning Opportunities

H-1

## 2. Revision to Board of Education Meeting Schedule

As a result of the current state-wide emergency, the Board of Education meeting scheduled for March 23, 2020 was replaced by a community update given by the Superintendent of Schools and a special meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 30, 2020.

Recommended Motion: Move to cancel the Board of Education meeting scheduled for April 6, 2020 and hold all future Board of Education meetings using GoToMeeting until school buildings reopen.

## 3. Revision to 2019-20 School Calendar

As a result of the current state-wide emergency which has resulted in the district providing Interim Learning Opportunities as well as a waiver of the 180 day student requirement, the Superintendent recommends eliminating April vacation (April 13 - April 17) and ending school at the originally scheduled end date of June 15, 2020 which aligns with the 187th work day for teachers.

Recommended Motion: Move to eliminate the April break for 2019-20 school year and close school on June 15, 2020.

### I. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Not Available

### J. COMMUNICATIONS -

### K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS Topics for Superintendent's Report

Monday, April 6, 2020	Recommend Cancellation
Monday, April 20, 2020	TBD
Wednesday, May 6, 2020	Budget Workshop
Monday, May 11, 2020	TBD

### L. ADJOURNMENT

*Welcome to the Manchester Board of Education meeting. Observers are always welcome. The following instructions are to assist those who wish to speak during the Public Comment session(s):*

- 1) *Print your name and address on the sign-in sheet at the podium for accurate record keeping.*
- 2) *State your name and address for the record. Students state name only.*
- 3) *First Session: Three minute time limit for any item that may come before the Board. Listen for the bell.*
- 4) *Second Session: Comments must be limited to items on the Board's agenda for this meeting. The Board Chair has the discretion to limit comment time.*
- 5) *Written statements may be substituted for Board members if time runs out for speaker.*
- 6) *Immediate replies to questions/concerns should not be expected (Board Chair/Superintendent's discretion).*
- 7) *Inappropriate topics: Confidential information, personal issues and legal concerns. Please avoid derogatory and profane language. Board of Education Policy #1220.*

## **MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **Regular Meeting**

**March 9, 2020**

Keeney Elementary

**PRESENT:** Gundersen, Heinrich, Pattacini, Patterson, Scappaticci, Stefanovicz, Thames

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Geary, Deputy Superintendent Curriculum & Special Services Radikas, Director of Finance & Management Clancy, Director of Human Resources Sone-Moyano

**ABSENT:** Hughes, Meggers

### **A. OPENING**

#### **A.1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order**

**Chairperson Thames** called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mr. Thames.

#### **A.3. Secretary's Welcome**

**Mr. Pattacini** stated that as Secretary of the Board of Education, he wished to extend a warm welcome to everyone present and to the television viewers. He, along with the Board and the Superintendent, were pleased to be joined in celebrating the achievement, reviewing information, and discussing areas for growth, along with making policy decisions related to the effective operation of the Manchester Public Schools. Mr. Pattacini explained that this is a regular meeting of the Board and all items that will be discussed or voted on this evening have been posted, as required by state law.

Mr. Pattacini explained that as the Manchester Board of Education, they are here to set goals, listen to reports of the Superintendent, approve budgets, contracts, and personnel appointments, and to create policy for the district. They are not here to make management decisions or solve the problems of individuals.

Members of the public with individual concerns may contact the Superintendent directly. It was explained that meetings of the Board are open to the public, but are not meetings with individual members of the public. Therefore, comments from the audience will be confined to the time designated for the public to address the Board.

Last, Mr. Pattacini noted he is proud of this school system and appreciates the public for their interest in this evening's meeting and the Manchester Public Schools.

#### **A.4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**APPROVED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of February 24, 2020. Secretary Pattacini moved and Mr. Scappaticci seconded the motion.**

**7/0 – Voted in favor.**

### **B. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **B.1. Personnel & Finance Committee**

**Ms. Patterson** reported the last Committee meeting was held February 24, 2020 with the following in attendance: Scott Hughes, Peter Meggers, Tracy Patterson, Chris Pattacini, Matthew Geary and Karen Clancy. The Committee reviewed the current status of the 2019-2020 budget. Overall, the budget is stable with a freeze still in place to address budgetary concerns with regard to special education expenditures.

A copy of the 2020-2021 Budget Development Calendar was distributed and reviewed with the Committee. The General Manager will present the recommended budget to the Board of Directors on March 3rd. On March 4th the Superintendent will present the Board of Education approved budget to the Board of Directors at its first workshop. A public hearing will be held March 11th and a second workshop for the Board of Education will be on March 19th. The

Board of Directors will approve the 2020-2021 budget for adoption on April 7, 2020.

An update on transportation was provided to Committee members. Mr. Geary and Ms. Clancy met with the DATTCO management team on February 21st to discuss transportation services and set a plan to address ongoing issues.

The status of the open Facilities & Operations Manager position was provided to the Committee. The position has been posted and applications have been reviewed. Candidates have been selected and scheduled for interviews.

On February 21st Mr. Geary and Ms. Clancy participated in a conference call with the town to discuss a municipal solar assistance program which provides upfront financing for a solar purchase power agreement, thereby allowing municipalities access to renewable energy and to achieve energy savings. The technical advisor to the program will be scheduling site visits at buildings that meet the eligibility requirements of the program.

The next Personnel & Finance Committee meeting will be held on April 20, 2020 at Verplanck Elementary School at 6:00 p.m.

### **C. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Mr. Geary** presented three items on the Consent Calendar for Board approval.

#### **C.1. Personnel Action**

Details had already been provided to the Board members with their agenda.

#### **C.2. Transfer of Funds**

- Transfer from Bennet Academy School Administration Dues & Fees account to Bennet Academy School Administration Instructional Supplies & Materials account in the amount of \$1,500.
- Transfer from Manchester High School Science Dues & Fees account to Manchester High School Science Software Licenses account in the amount of \$297.

- Transfer from System-wide Physical Education Other Purchased Services account to System-wide Physical Education Instructional Supplies & Materials account in the amount of \$4,500.

**C.3. Permission to apply for the ED-244 Grant for FY 20-21 for Manchester Adult Education**

**The Chairman called for a motion.**

**Secretary Pattacini moved and Mr. Scappaticci seconded the recommendation to adopt the Consent Calendar.**

**7/0 - Voted in favor.**

**D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

**None.**

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Genaro Gonzalez, III, 4 Pearl Street, feels teachers teach children to be disciplined, to learn right from wrong, to live the right way. Mr. Gonzalez was recently talking with his daughter about the ingredients in food and how she should pay attention to what she is putting in her body. He is teaching her to read ingredient labels and learn what the different ingredients are. He feels some ingredients are what makes kids so hyper and the growth hormone in milk and yogurt are making children develop faster. These growth hormones are used to make cows produce more milk faster. Mr. Gonzalez notes these ingredients are approved by the FDA even though some have been banned in Europe and Canada. He feels that teachers should be teaching students about these nutrition facts and that some of the things we feed our students is destroying our insides.

Ms. Mary Buckland, 13 Oak Grove Street, spoke on behalf of the Keeney Family Resource Center. She is grateful for Mr. Hassan Sultan, who runs the program. Her two grandchildren are impacted by the program. Her younger grandson, who is 3, attends Wednesday evening playgroups, which has contributed to his growth, independence and social skills. Her granddaughter Ella attends 3rd grade at Keeney. Mr. Sultan's sensitivity, kindness, and knowledgeable approach helps transition children

to class in the mornings. He has patience, spends time with students and families, and lends an ear. Ms. Buckland volunteers in the school and has witnessed Mr. Sultan's positive demeanor. Ms. Buckland implored the Board to be sure the FRC is a permanent fixture and not optional in the budget.

Rebecca Wallace, 61 Bush Hill Road, also spoke on behalf of the Family Resource Center and feels the activities are enriching for babies and toddlers, for the school aged children who participate in lunch bunch, and for the 3rd and 4th graders who enjoy their lunch groups. There are age appropriate topics in this judgement-free zone. Ms. Wallace feels this is a great way to get kids excited about school and give them something to look forward to to break up their day. Ms. Wallace noted Mr. Sultan is friendly and has a fun, helpful attitude.

Ella Wallace, a student, thinks Mr. Sultan is friendly, smart, caring and funny. He makes her feel happy and important. Miss Ella enjoys taking a break at the FRC and participating in lunch bunch meetings. She is currently training to be an ambassador. Miss Ella also noted her brother participates in playgroups.

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, noted the importance of healthy eating and wondered if we have vegan options for students or even low-fat milk. He mentioned that he attended the State Board of Education meeting last week and heard a discussion about concussions in student athletes and new legislation regarding this. Mr. Stringfellow mentioned that Odyssey School is looking for a new location and he feels this is a good alternative to public school. Women's History Month is this month and Mr. Stringfellow recommended an article in the March 16 *TIME* magazine about Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. Mr. Stringfellow mentioned the Bradley Air Museum was also celebrating women and their contribution to air travel. Last, Mr. Stringfellow mentioned the census coming out this month and the importance of everyone being counted, which impacts funding.

## **F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I**

### **F.1. Keeney School Improvement Plan**

**Mr. Geary** introduced Principal Ann Johnston. Ms. Johnston was joined by many staff members and her presentation is available online.

**Mr. Pattacini** appreciated the presentation, noting it brings the Keeney School Improvement Plan to life. He is encouraged. Mr. Pattacini asked about the connection between executive functioning and social/emotional learning. Ms. Johnston noted there is time allotted in the day for social/emotional learning. Ms. Tonzi, a teacher, noted there are similarities in the two and they try to integrate them with the same language.

Mr. Pattacini asked about the Fountas & Pinnell scores, wanting them higher for Hispanic students and wondering if this correlates to absenteeism. He wondered what type of work is being done to combat absenteeism as well. Ms. Johnston noted they partner with the Family Resource Center to make connections with families and find out why they may be out, such as cultural reasons, illness, etc. The EL tutor and district coordinator also make connections with families for whom English is not their primary language. Ms. Barnes, the Vice Principal, meets monthly with counselors and the principal. There are phone calls, home visits and other connections made. Sometimes families, especially families with a Kindergarten student, don't realize the importance of coming to school every day. Sometimes families keep students home who have sniffles, and they are educated that only more severe illness or fever should keep a student home. Sometimes the lack of transportation causes a parent to keep a mildly ill child home because if the child gets worse during the day picking them up can present an issue. Ms. Johnston pointed out that Kindergarten now is far different than in the past. It is much more academic.

**Ms. Patterson** asked how the cohorts were selected. Ms. Johnston stated all students in 1st grade were followed, now being in 2nd grade, not just a small sample.

**Ms. Stefanovicz** asked Ms. Barnes what policies and practices had they found to be inequitable. Ms. Barnes noted they are working with staff to identify any and address the issues. This is ongoing. They are also looking at activities through the PTA as well.

## **F.2. District Response to Coronavirus**



**Mr. Geary** reviewed he has been coordinating with the local Department of Public Health and the State level to respond to the Coronavirus. He wants to be sure all people are washing their hands well and avoiding touching their face. If you feel ill you should stay home. Over the weekend an extra crew was brought in to disinfect schools. The bus company also performed extra disinfecting as well.

Mr. Geary noted we are preparing for possible distance learning, but there are concerns around equity, lack of internet access, parents who must work, etc. There is also a concern around food, in that many of our students rely on breakfast and lunch at school. There are tentative plans to provide for community feeding spaces if the need arises.

The Governor recently restricted out of state travel for state employees. Mr. Geary cancelled the Washington DC trip for Illing. For field trips later in the spring scheduled for Toronto and Europe decisions will be made soon and he is working to get monies refunded if trips are cancelled. Currently the state has limited assemblies of more than 100 people.

Mr. Geary participates in a daily call with the State Department and above all he wants to help maintain calm about this situation.

Ms. Tiska, a teacher at Keeney, noted some towns are talking about a two week shut-down and wondered if we would be doing that. Mr. Geary noted that the decision would be made in collaboration with the Department of Public Health and the State Department. Mr. Geary also noted there are a limited number of test kits available, so if someone tests positive they are reported to the local public health department and trace who else they came in contact with. We are also watching Washington State to see their response to this virus.

## **G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **G.1. Policy Recommendations**

This was the second reading of these policy recommendations and no questions were asked.

**a. Policy #5144 - Student Discipline**

**Secretary Pattacini moved to adopt Policy # 5144 - Student Discipline. Mr. Scappticci seconded the motion.**

**7/0 -Voted in favor.**

**b. Policy #5118.1 - Homeless Students**

**Secretary Pattacini moved to adopt Policy # 5118.1 - Homeless Students. Mr. Scappticci seconded the motion.**

**7/0 - Vote in favor.**

**c. Policy #5005 - Food Allergies and/or Glycogen Storage Disease**

**Secretary Pattacini moved to adopt Policy #5005 - Food Allergies and/or Glycogen Storage Disease. Mr. Scappticci seconded the motion.**

**7/0 -Voted in favor.**

**H. NEW BUSINESS**

**None.**

**I. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to items on tonight's agenda)**

Mr. Genaro Gonzalez, III, 4 Pearl Street, spoke about ingredients in bread/flour that have been banned in other countries, but still used in the United States. We are feeding this to our children and it is harming the body. Mr. Gonzalez never hears anyone talk about this issue. He mentioned growth hormones in milk and yogurt and insulin growth factor injected in some foods. He feels we need to purify what kids eat so they can think right. We are hindering the process of growth in our children.

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, supports the Consent Calendar, especially the Manchester Adult Education item. He recently attended the State Board of Education meeting and they spoke about college enrollment and remediation for high school graduates. Mr. Stringfellow supports the policy recommendations. As for student discipline, respect goes both ways. We don't know what happens in student's homes. Mr. Stringfellow mentioned the Coronavirus and recommended handwashing. He noted we should not blame the Chinese for this illness. Last, Mr. Stringfellow recommended the books *Indigent People's History of the U.S., Can We Talk About Race, and How to Be Anti-Racist*. Equity is important and he remembers once being the only student of color.

**J. COMMUNICATIONS**

**None.**

**K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Monday, March 23, 2020 - Illing School Improvement Plan - at Illing Middle School

Monday, April 6, 2020 - Martin School Improvement Plan - at Martin Elementary School

Monday, April 20, 2020 - Verplanck School Improvement Plan - at Verplanck Elementary School

Wednesday, May 6, 2020 - Budget Workshop - at MHS

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Thames called for a motion to adjourn.**

**Mr. Scappaticci moved and Mr. Pattacini seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**7/0 - Voted in favor.**

**Adjournment 8:41 p.m.**

Manchester Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
March 9, 2020

Page 10 of 10

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Pattacini  
Board Secretary

**PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

**APPOINTMENTS**

None

**RESIGNATIONS**

Mr. Mark St. Pierre, Special Education Teacher at Illing Middle School, has submitted his letter of resignation effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. St. Pierre has been with Manchester Public Schools since November 19, 2019. It is recommended that his resignation be accepted.

March 30, 2020

Town of Manchester  
Board of Education

**To:** Manchester Board of Education  
**From:** Mr. Matthew Geary, Superintendent of Schools  
**Subject:** Transfer of Funds  
**Date:** March 9, 2020

**Background:** In accordance with Board of Education Policy 3160, Transfer of Funds between Categories, I am requesting the Board approve the following transfers in the FY2019-2020 Budget.

**Discussion/Analysis:** Transfer from Bennet Academy School Administration Printing and Advertising in the amount of \$2,500.00. Transfer to Bennet Academy School Administration General Supplies and Materials in the amount of \$2,500.00.

**Financial Impact:** None

**Other Board/Commission Action:** None

**Recommendation:** The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education approve these transfers in the FY2019-2020 Budget.

*Matthew Geary*

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Matthew Geary  
Superintendent of Schools  
Manchester, Connecticut  
March 30, 2020

**Manchester Public Schools  
Manchester, Connecticut**

**TO: Accounting Department      School/Department: Bennet Academy**

**Date of Request: 3/9/2020      Approver: Joseph Chella**

**Date Approved: 3/9/2020**

**JUSTIFICATION (Required Field):** Funds not needed in printing and advertising transfer to general fund for necessary supplies.

**SUBJECT:**  
**TRANSFER BUDGET MONIES FROM ONE LINE ACCOUNT TO ANOTHER**

**DECREASE - In whole dollars only:**

<b>\$ <u>2,500.00</u></b>	Account # <b><u>42351100 5540</u></b>	Description: <b><u>Printing and Advertising</u></b>
<b>\$</b>	Account #	Description:
<b>\$</b>	Account #	Description:
<b>\$ <u>2,500.00</u></b>	<b>TOTAL DECREASE</b>	

**INCREASE - In whole dollars only:**

<b>\$ <u>2,500.00</u></b>	Account # <b><u>42351240 5610</u></b>	Description: <b><u>General Supplies and Materials</u></b>
<b>\$</b>	Account #	Description:
<b>\$</b>	Account #	Description:
<b>\$ <u>2,500.00</u></b>	<b>TOTAL INCREASE (Must match total decrease)</b>	

**Accounting Department Only**

Board Approval Needed:      Yes X      No     

Date of Board Approval:                                 

Date Transfer Completed:                                       Name:

Town of Manchester  
Board of Education

**To:** Manchester Board of Education  
**From:** Mr. Matthew Geary, Superintendent of Schools  
**Subject:** Transfer of Funds  
**Date:** March 9, 2020

**Background:** In accordance with Board of Education Policy 3160, Transfer of Funds between Categories, I am requesting the Board approve the following transfers in the FY2019-2020 Budget.

**Discussion/Analysis:** Transfer from Illing Middle School Family and Consumer Science Repairs in the amount of \$243.00. Transfer to Illing Middle School Family and Consumer Science Instructional Supplies and Materials in the amount of \$243.00.

**Financial Impact:** None

**Other Board/Commission Action:** None

**Recommendation:** The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education approve these transfers in the FY2019-2020 Budget.

*Matthew Geary*

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Matthew Geary  
Superintendent of Schools  
Manchester, Connecticut  
March 30, 2020



**Manchester Public Schools  
Manchester, Connecticut**

**TO: Accounting Department**

**School/Department: Illing Middle School/FCS**

**Date of Request: 3/5/2020**

**Approver: Iris Gomero**

**Date Approved: 3/9/2020**

**JUSTIFICATION (Required Field):** To cover Family and Consumer Science supplies needed.

**SUBJECT:**

**TRANSFER BUDGET MONIES FROM ONE LINE ACCOUNT TO ANOTHER**

**DECREASE - In whole dollars only:**

**\$ 243.00**      **Account # 12053100 5435**      **Description: FCS Repairs**

**\$**      **Account #**      **Description:**

**\$**      **Account #**      **Description:**

**\$ 243.00**      **TOTAL DECREASE**

**INCREASE - In whole dollars only:**

**\$ 243.00**      **Account # 12053100 5611**      **Description: FCS Instructional Supplies**

**\$**      **Account #**      **Description:**

**\$**      **Account #**      **Description:**

**\$ 243.00**      **TOTAL INCREASE (Must match total decrease)**

**Accounting Department Only**

Board Approval Needed:      Yes X      No \_\_\_\_

Date of Board Approval:      \_\_\_\_\_

Date Transfer Completed:      \_\_\_\_\_      Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Town of Manchester  
Board of Education

**To:** Manchester Board of Education  
**From:** Mr. Matthew Geary, Superintendent of Schools  
**Subject:** Transfer of Funds  
**Date:** March 10, 2020

**Background:** In accordance with Board of Education Policy 3160, Transfer of Funds between Categories, I am requesting the Board approve the following transfers in the FY2019-2020 Budget.

**Discussion/Analysis:** Transfer from Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Databases in the amount of \$13,750.00. Transfer to Buildings & Grounds Software Licenses and Fees in the amount of \$13,750.00.

**Financial Impact:** None

**Other Board/Commission Action:** None

**Recommendation:** The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education approve these transfers in the FY2019-2020 Budget.

*Matthew Geary*

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Matthew Geary  
Superintendent of Schools  
Manchester, Connecticut  
March 30, 2020

**Manchester Public Schools  
Manchester, Connecticut**

**TO: Accounting Department      School/Department: Buildings & Grounds**

**Date of Request: 3/10/2020      Approver: David Grande**

**Date Approved: 3/10/2020**

**JUSTIFICATION (Required Field):** Move to correct line.

**SUBJECT:**  
**TRANSFER BUDGET MONIES FROM ONE LINE ACCOUNT TO ANOTHER**

**DECREASE - In whole dollars only:**

**\$ 13,750.00      Account # 41799260 5535      Description: Maintenance Database**

**\$                  Account #                  Description:**

**\$                  Account #                  Description:**

**\$ 13,750.00      TOTAL DECREASE**

**INCREASE - In whole dollars only:**

**\$ 13,750.00      Account # 41799260 5651      Description: Maintenance Software Licenses**

**\$                  Account #                  Description:**

**\$                  Account #                  Description:**

**\$ 13,750.00      TOTAL INCREASE (Must match total decrease)**

**Accounting Department Only**

Board Approval Needed:      Yes X                  No \_\_\_\_

Date of Board Approval:      \_\_\_\_\_

Date Transfer Completed:      \_\_\_\_\_      Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Manchester Public Schools

Kennedy Education Center  
45 North School Street  
Manchester, CT 06042

[www.mpspride.org](http://www.mpspride.org)

March 10, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The Board of Education has been extremely generous in making donations to our Project Graduation event throughout the years. This year we would like to ask the Board if they would be gracious enough to donate the amount \$1,000.00 to Manchester High School "Project Graduation" for the 2019-2020 school year.

Your continued support and contributions toward this event are greatly appreciated and we thank you in advance for your donation.

Sincerely

*Katelyn M. Miner*

Katelyn Miner  
Principal  
Manchester High School

## CREDIT FOR INTERIM LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND ONLINE COURSES

5127.12

The Manchester Board of Education recognizes the importance of technology in education and the growing popularity and use of interim learning opportunities and online coursework. In that regard, and in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221a, the Board sanctions the receipt of course credit for interim learning opportunities and online coursework to be used toward high school graduation requirements, in accordance with this policy.

Pre-approval of Courses Identified by Students and Parents

To receive credit for online courses to be used toward high school graduation requirements, students must, prior to registering for the course, receive approval from the high school principal or his/her designee. The decision of the principal or his/her designee with regard to online course credit approval is final. Pre-approval for online course credit may be granted if the requirements set forth below are met.

District-Provided Interim Learning Opportunities

Students may also earn credit for high school graduation by participating successfully in interim learning opportunities offered by the Board during the COVID-19 health emergency. Determination of successful participation will be made by the teacher teaching the course through district-provided interim learning opportunities, taking into account work performed by the student prior to the school closure.

Requirements for Interim Learning Opportunities and Online Coursework

1. The workload required by the interim learning opportunity or online course is equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a traditional classroom setting;
2. The content of the interim learning opportunity or online course is rigorous and aligned with curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, where appropriate;
3. The interim learning opportunity / online course engages students and has interactive components, which may include, but are not limited to, required interactions between students and their teachers, participation in online demonstrations, discussion boards or virtual labs;
4. The program of instruction for the interim learning opportunity or online course is planned, ongoing and systematic;
5. The interim learning opportunities / online courses are:
  - a. taught by teachers who are certified in Connecticut or another state and have received training on teaching in an online environment, or
  - b. offered by institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or regionally accredited; and
6. The principal has determined, in his or her professional judgment, that, given the student's academic and disciplinary history, the student is appropriately suited to engage in online coursework.

### Additional Requirements

Only students in grades 7-12 who are enrolled in high school coursework are eligible to receive credit toward high school graduation by engaging in interim learning opportunities / online courses. Students who have been pre-approved shall receive such credit upon completing the online course and obtaining a passing grade.

Any expense incurred for taking an online course identified by the student and/or parent shall be the responsibility of the student and shall not be the responsibility of the Board of Education. Interim Learning Opportunities provided to students during the COVID-19 health emergency shall be provided at Board expense.

### Legal References

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221a. APPROVED: