

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

April 6, 2015

Verplanck Elementary School

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

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Geary, Assistant to the Superintendent for Finance & Management Brooks, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services Matfess, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction Radikas

ABSENT: Pazda

A. OPENING

A.1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order

Chairperson Pattacini called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mr. Pattacini. The Chairperson reviewed that this was the third time that the first meeting of the month is being held in an elementary school and he welcomed everyone to Verplanck.

A.3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

ADOPTED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of March 23, 2015. Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Crockett seconded the motion.

7/0/1 – Voted in favor.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

B.1. Personnel Action

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

B.2. Permission to apply for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Secondary Basic Grant for FY 15/16 provided through the State of CT

B.3. Establish an appropriation for FY 15/16 in the amount of \$813,097 for Enfield Head Start Program

B.4. Establish an appropriation for FY 15/16, (3/1/15 - 2/28/16) in the amount of \$11,137 for Enfield Head Start Training and Technical Assistance Program

B.5. Establish an appropriation for FY 15/16, (3/1/15 - 2/28/16) in the amount of \$1,169,102 for the Manchester Head Start Program

B.6. Establish an appropriation for FY 15/16, (3/1/15 - 2/28/16) in the amount of \$15,312 for the Manchester Head Start Training and Technical Assistance Program

B.7. Transfer of Funds

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

- Transfer from Manchester High School Science Periodicals account (\$585) and Science Instructional Supplies and Materials account (\$500) to Manchester High School Science and Athletic Trips account in the total amount of \$1,085
- Transfer from System-wide Curriculum and Instruction Testing account to System-wide Curriculum and Instruction Contracted Services account in the amount of \$1,211
- Transfer from Manchester High School Library/Media Contracted Services account (\$450) and Library/Media Repairs account (\$1,000) to Manchester High School Library/Media Office Supplies and Materials account in the total amount of \$1,450

The Chairman called for a motion.

Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Crockett seconded the recommendation to adopt the Consent Calendar as outlined in tonight's agenda.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, pointed out that April 9th is the 150 year anniversary of the end of the Civil War. He noted Connecticut played a vital role in that war and many men of color fought in that conflict. Mr. Stringfellow recommended several books and articles related to the Civil War, as well as Earth Day which is in two weeks. He also expressed that financial literacy is important for students and he recommended a couple of articles regarding this.

D. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

D.1. Verplanck School Improvement Plan

Mr. Geary and Mr. Pattacini recognized with certificates several Verplanck scholars for excellence in science related to their participation in the Science Fair.

Nicolas Jones, Principal of Verplanck Elementary, gave a Powerpoint presentation which was supplemented by several teachers, coaches, interventionists, the coordinator of the Family Resource Center at Verplanck, and a parent, who is the PTA President. The full presentation can be found on the website.

Mr. Thames felt it was a great presentation. He wondered how it was determined how to develop a student's strengths and weaknesses once the data was interpreted. Mr. Jones stated that is discussed during PLCs.

Mr. Thames was also impressed by the Family Resource Center's powerful school/family/community partnership. He liked hearing about the outreach that takes place with both Squire Village and Fountain Village and commends them for even offering childcare.

Mr. Scappaticci thought it was a spectacular presentation and thanked the staff for their wonderful outreach to the families. Mr. Scappaticci asked for clarification of Superflex, and Mr. Jones clarified the program is being piloted in three classrooms. Mr. Jones would like to expand that next year. Ms. Gordon feels it has improved the climate in those classes.

Mr. Leon felt the culture established at Verplanck is great. He pointed out that the building will be renovated in the coming years and he hopes that the staff and administration express to the Building Committee what their needs are to facilitate the climate and do not let others make the decisions for them.

Ms. Cruz was impressed with this fantastic presentation. She is excited by the hard work taking place here.

Mr. Pattacini noted there is a strong, positive school climate at Verplanck.

A short recess was called to allow the students and families to exit at 8:00 p.m.

Back in session at 8:05 p.m.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None. The items listed in this section of the agenda should have been listed under new business.

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.1. Policy Revisions - Advertising Policy #3542

Mr. Geary reviewed this revision to the Advertising Policy #3542 will facilitate an added revenue stream into the student activities fund. The policy guides what kinds of things are allowed and not allowed to be advertised. The full policy is available for review on the website. This is the first reading for the Board.

Mr. Thames wondered if we had been approached by a company wanting to advertise and the process by which vendors would be vetted. Mr. Geary noted there has been some interest in advertising on the athletic fields for some time. We also have been approached by a company that does life-size, interactive message boards. He also noted the policy outlines the process and the administration will vet the ads.

Mr. Crockett wondered if the prices for advertising would be set by the Board or the Superintendent, and not by individual schools. Mr. Geary stated the Superintendent, or his designee, and if appropriate they will work with the athletics department.

Mr. Pattacini stated the policy would come back before the Board at the next meeting for a vote.

F.2. Policy Revisions - Professional Learning Policy #4132

Mr. Geary noted earlier in the year several dated policies in this area were deleted. Professional Learning Communities and the instructional coaching model are both addressed in this policy. Mr. Geary noted there needs to be clear indicators that the work we are doing has an impact on student achievement. The full policy can be reviewed on the website.

Mr. Pattacini felt this policy was well written, clear, but concise. It will come back to the Board for a vote at the next meeting.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

G.1. Policy Committee

Ms. Hagenow reviewed the last meeting was held on March 23rd. In attendance were Ms. Cruz, Ms. Hagenow, Ms. Pazda, Mr. Stafford and Mr. Geary. The two policies reviewed this evening were endorsed. The committee also discussed the current Electronic Communications Devices Policy and recommended that the Superintendent revise the policy as several elements of

the current policy are outdated. A draft provided by Mr. Geary will be reviewed at the next meeting. The next meeting will be on April 27 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, felt the presentation by the Verplanck staff was good. He was impressed by the outreach to the Squire Village and Fountain Village families. Mr. Stringfellow pointed out that ShopRite holds cooking classes for children in an effort to encourage healthy eating. Mr. Stringfellow stated the foundation of a positive education is vital. He suggested the monthly publication *Point of View*, as well as an article in the *New York Times* about how to learn in prison. He noted that *Sesame Street* is making a comeback on ABC. Regarding testing, Mr. Stringfellow feels we need equal access to the internet. He also feels we need to keep kids from going to prison.

I. COMMUNICATIONS

Student Representative Joseph Coyne gave an update of the goings on at MHS over the last several weeks.

- Sock n' Buskin hosted *Kiss Me Kate*, a musical, on March 20 and 22. (The show on the 21st was snowed out.)
- The Young Men's Leadership Conference was held with over 500 students attending.
- On March 27th the classes of 2015 and 2016 attended a Distracted Driving assembly, which was held in an effort to keep teens safe as they become new drivers on the road.
- The annual Mr. MHS contest was held March 27th. Sixteen young men competed and the winner was Chris Cook.
- March 30th was tryouts for *The Voice*
- The Junior College Fair was held on March 26th, which the junior class attended in Hartford. Students from around the state attended and were able to learn about over 100 colleges.
- On April 2nd the student ambassador program presented *Pay it Forward*, which was a movie about how small actions can lead to bigger and better things. This was a fundraiser for MACC Pantry.

- Last, Mr. Coyne informed us that the third quarter ends tomorrow.

Mr. Crockett wondered if Mr. Coyne knew who the Mr. MHS of 1999 was...our own Mr. Scappaticci!!

Mr. Pattacini noted this year was the first time he attended the Mr. MHS contest and he was amazed at the quality of the performances and the behavior of the students.

J. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pattacini called for a motion to adjourn.

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

8/0 - Voted in favor.

Adjournment 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Scappaticci
Board Secretary