

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting

April 20, 2020

Lincoln Center/Virtual Participation

PRESENT: Gundersen, Heinrich, Hughes, Meggers, 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:

A. OPENING

A.1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order

Chairperson Thames called the meeting to order at 5:12 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 welcome the online viewers to this regular meeting of the Board of Education. Mr. Geary and Mr. Thames are present at Lincoln Center, but everyone else is participating from their own residences. He looks forward to hearing the update from the Superintendent this evening. As there will be no public speaking this evening, please direct any questions or comments to the Superintendent. Mr. Pattacini thanked 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 March 30, 2020. Secretary Pattacini moved and Mr. Gundersen seconded the motion.

8/0 – Voted in favor.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Geary presented nine 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 Manchester High School Classroom Instruction Library Databases account in the amount of \$14,110.00. Transfer to Manchester High School Classroom Instruction Software Licenses account in the amount of \$12,009.00 and to Manchester High School School Administration Office Supplies and Materials account in the amount of \$2,101.00 for a total transfer of \$14,110.00.
- Transfer from Manchester High School Music Education Library Software Licenses and Fees account to Manchester High School Music Education Software License account in the amount of \$3,500.00.
- Transfer from Waddell School Administration Printing and Advertising account to Waddell School Administration Repairs account in the amount of \$142.00.
- Transfer from Manchester High School Social Studies Field Trips account to Manchester High School School Administration Office Supplies and Materials account in the amount of \$2,000.00.

C.3. Increase the Appropriation for MRA by \$293,860 for FY 19/20 bringing the total appropriation to \$1,093,860

C.4. Permission to apply for the Continuation Application for the Adult Education - Program Enhancement Projects (PEP) Grant FY 20/21

C.5. Establish an appropriation for the Manchester Head Start Grant FY20/21 in the amount of \$1,270,314

C.6. Establish an appropriation for the Manchester Head Start Training and Technical Assistance Grant FY 20-21 in the amount of \$15,312

C.7. Establish an Appropriation for the Enfield Head Start Grant FY20/21 in the amount of \$857,746

C.8. Establish an appropriation for the Enfield Head Start Training and Technical Assistance Grant FY20/21 in the amount of \$11,137

9.) Establish an appropriation for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Secondary Supplemental Enhancement Grant FY 19/21 in the amount of \$48,777.

The Chairman called for a motion.

Secretary Pattacini moved and Mr. Gundersen seconded the recommendation to adopt the Consent Calendar as outlined in this evening's packet.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

None.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Unavailable.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

F.1. Update on Interim Learning Opportunities

Mr. Geary introduced Diane Sheehan-Burns, Pari Ghetia and Dr. Radikas to give an update on the current interim learning opportunities. They showed us a variety of google classrooms and spoke about the planning and adjustments they have undergone. Their presentation is available on the website.

Mr. Thames asked about what materials would be mailed out to students. Dr. Radikas stated they are grade level appropriate items and vary. Some examples may include crayones, post-its, index cards, a beachball, and handwriting books. The items were thoughtfully chosen and should be of some benefit to the students.

Ms. Patterson asked about the teacher touchpoints with students. Ms. Sheehan-Burns explained teachers are asked to touch base with each student directly at least twice a week. This might include during their office hours, providing feedback on an assignment, emailing, or participating in a "hangout".

Ms. Stefanovicz missed the memo on the rest and recharge days. She also wondered if we can estimate the number of students not engaging in online learning and why. Mr. Geary explained that approximately 75% of the students are regularly and consistently engaging in online learning. Parents had expressed that they are a little overwhelmed and so Fridays have become more of a review day. Friday, May 1st, has been earmarked as a day to catch up on any missed work and May 4th is a recharge and rest day. Mr. Geary also noted the longer this type of learning is in effect the more challenging it becomes. He expressed some concern that work would reopen before schools and he is not sure how that will go. We expect some learning loss during this time across the board, but the health and wellness of our families is what is most important at this time.

Dr. Radikas thanked Ms. Ghetia and Ms. Burns, along with the rest of the people involved in the planning of the interim learning opportunities.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

G.1. Policy Recommendation - Credit for Interim Learning Opportunities

This was a second reading of this policy, which allows for credit for Interim Learning Opportunities based on performance.

Secretary Pattacini moved for the Board to adopt policy 5127.12 - Credit for Interim Learning Opportunities. Ms. Patterson seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1. Child Nutrition Program

Mr. Geary explained that this is a yearly commitment we make to the State Healthy Food Act. It is required for reimbursement of our food program.

Secretary Pattacini moved for the Board to approve that pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Manchester Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and Groups. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

Secretary Pattacini moved that the Manchester Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held. Mr. Gundersen seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

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

J. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Thames encouraged everyone to complete the Census, which can be done online. He explained that it is very important that everyone be counted and so far only about 51.37% of Manchester has completed this. That exceeds the state average, but as \$29,000 per person in federal funding depends on the census, he implores everyone to participate. This funding applies to education, health, food assistance and transportation among other items.

Mr. Thames also reminded people to stay safe, stay home and practice social distancing. The number of cases of Covid-19 are growing daily and he expressed condolences to all those that have lost family or friends to this virus.

Mr. Thames reminded everyone that we are continuing the food distribution curbside at Bennet, MMA (the old Robertson), Verplanck and Waddell for breakfast/lunch and dinner. He also noted there are other food distribution locations in the area, including Rentschler Field.

K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Wednesday, May 6, 2020 - Budget Workshop

Monday, May 11, 2020 - Agenda TBD

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Secretary Pattacini moved and Mr. Hughes seconded the motion to move into executive session.

8/0 - Voted in favor. 6:35 pm

Back in session at 6:40 pm

M. ADJOURNMENT

Secretary Pattacini moved to adjourn the meeting. Melanie Stefanovicz seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

TIME 6:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Pattacini
Board Secretary