

## **MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **Regular Meeting**

**April 24, 2017**

Lincoln

**PRESENT:** Caldwell, Conyers, Hagenow, Jacobsen, Leon, Pattacini, Scappaticci, Stefanovicz, Thames

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Geary, Deputy Superintendent Curriculum & Special Services Radikas, Director of Finance & Management Clancy

**ABSENT:**

#### **A. OPENING**

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

**Chairperson Pattacini** called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mr. Pattacini.

##### **A.3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**APPROVED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of April 17, 2017. Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Leon seconded the motion.**

**9/0 – Voted in favor.**

#### **B. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **B.1. Buildings & Sites Committee**

**Mr. Leon** reviewed the last meeting was held April 17, 2017 with the following people in attendance: Lindsey Boutilier, Ranon Caldwell, Karen Clancy, Peter Conyers, Matthew Geary, Linda Jacobellis, Neal Leon, Jason Scappaticci, and Peter Staye.

The MHS PTA requested permission for a mural on the exterior wall next to the Brookfield Street entrance. The request was approved, however the mural may not be applied directly to the brick, but to a material that can be removed in the event of vandalism or wear.

The result of a school wide (MHS) vote was to name the entire athletic complex the Barry "Mitch" Mitchell Athletic Complex, with a plaque mounted on a stone or wall. Locations being considered for the plaque include near the concession stand or the south flagpole. The Committee instructed the administration to proceed.

The weekend use of and possible rental of the turf fields was discussed and will be researched.

In response to Mr. Leon's earlier request, Mr. Staye reviewed the savings generated by replacing the lighting at MHS with LED lighting. It was estimated the annual savings are projected to equal over \$44,000.

Mr. Staye reviewed a brief update on the status of building projects, including Cheney, Waddell, Verplanck, MRI and the IOH pool at MHS.

Last, Adult Ed has requested to purchase a van for transporting students. Adult Ed has the funds for this and it was presented to the Committee for general information.

The next Buildings & Sites Committee will be held Monday, June 12th.

## **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. Extended Field Trip Request Form - Iling Middle School - 2018 8th Grade Washington DC trip - March 29, 2018 to March 31, 2018 - approximately 250 students with 1 adult chaperone for every 8 students.**

**C.3. Board of Education and Budget Workshop Meeting Dates for 2017-2018**

**The Chairman called for a motion.**

**Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Leon seconded the recommendation to adopt the Consent Calendar as outlined in Section C of tonight's agenda.**

**9/0 - Voted in favor.**

**D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

**Shania Stanton** reviewed the sophomore fundraiser set for Wooster Street Pizza on April 25th.

**Nabila Hoor Un Ein** noted the talent show, sponsored by the Multi-Cultural Club, is April 27th at 7:15 p.m. On April 28th a presentation on prescription drug abuse called Tasting the Dragon will be held. On April 29th Rebuilding Together takes place, where volunteers assist senior citizens or disabled residents with various yard/house repairs and cleanup.

Shania noted testing takes place May 1st and the Junior Prom will be held May 5th.

**Mr. Pattacini** was pleased to hear that about 80 students had signed up to contribute to Rebuilding Together.

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, noted that this month is the 47th anniversary of Earth Day and he recommended an article on climate change.

Mr. Stringfellow reviewed that Vermont was the first state to abolish slavery in 1777. He suggested an article on the history of war and asked us to never forget the Mexican American War.

Mr. Stringfellow is against the wall and thinks we should welcome all. Last, he suggested a book on Jackie Robinson.

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

### **F.1. Winter Data Update**

**Mr. Geary** gave an update on the district data dashboard, which is now two years old. He reviewed the growth in the district and the plan for the future. The presentation is available for viewing on the website.

**Ms. Jacobsen** wondered if the students in K that meet or exceed goals had pre-K experience. Mr. Geary noted that whether or not a student had pre-K does not seem to affect the numbers.

**Mr. Pattacini** asked about the fact fluency pilot happening in three schools. Mr. Geary reviewed that Robertson's numbers are moving up strongly. He noted that principals meet six times a year to review data.

**Mr. Conyers** asked what other two schools had that pilot. Mr. Geary noted Bowers was one, but he was unsure of the other school and would get back to the Board.

**Mr. Leon** thought it was great to see data that was close to cohort data. He asked which schools are currently Title schools. Mr. Geary reviewed Washington, Verplanck, Waddell, Robertson and Martin. He noted that in some cases Title schools outperform non-title schools.

**Mr. Scappaticci** noted a huge difference in numbers from Fall 15 to Fall 16 and wondered why. Mr. Geary noted three years of work on tightening the curriculum. He noted we have a long way to go, but are moving in the right direction. In the past elementary teachers were expected to teach everything. Now we are experimenting with cluster teaching, where one teacher in a grade

might teach all the math, one all the reading, etc. This improves both teaching and learning.

**Ms. Jacobsen** asked about the Special Education data, noting that many times the goals for those children are driven by IEPs and 504s. Mr. Geary noted that is true for probably 50-60% of students in that category. Not all Special Education students work off grade level. Ms. Jacobsen wondered if we could pull the SPED line out of the data so as not to compare those students with their non-special ed peers.

**Mr. Caldwell** pointed out higher scores in grade 2 and lower in grade 3 and he wondered if the teachers could spend more time at the end of grade 2 working on a foundation for grade 3 so the students move into that grader stronger.

**Ms. Jacobsen** asked about the behavioral referral data and wondered if we provided support to the family. Mr. Geary pointed out we have social workers in the schools and also refer families to community agencies through 211 and Youth Services when needed. Providing in-school counseling opportunities as well as school health clinics assists families as well.

Ms. Jacobsen wondered, with no SAAM this year, would the district be providing some type of summer packet, similar to the math packet that has gone home in the past. Mr. Geary noted that Barnes & Noble has a reading challenge and the Manchester Public Library also does summer programming.

**Ms. Hagenow** is intrigued by the Remind App that Robertson staff use. Mr. Geary reviewed that teachers can communicate with parents via the app.

**Mr. Thames** was alarmed at the suspension rate of black and Hispanic students. He acknowledged the need to maintain order but for many students a suspension equals a vacation. He feels we must deal with behaviors to get the best results. Mr. Thames agreed that we cannot put other students at risk if behaviors are dangerous, but we must be conscious that kids don't suffer because of our biases. Mr. Geary agreed and reviewed a recent situation at MHS, where 10 high school students were involved in a large altercation. Instead of simply suspending the students for 10 days as might have been done in the past, the students were given a 2 day suspension followed by 2 days of

restorative sessions and 3 days of volunteering in elementary schools. Mr. Thames was impressed by that thoughtful consequence instead of the knee-jerk reaction that often happens.

Mr. Thames wondered if we see a particularly great teacher in a subject, how do we share that. Mr. Geary notes we put them in front of other teachers to share their skill.

**Mr. Scappaticci** agreed that a 10 day suspension would not have been the answer and that those students are all getting along now after working through their issues. He also felt the teens benefitted from working in the elementary schools.

**Ms. Stefanovicz** wondered how we ensure restorative discipline is implemented with fidelity in classrooms. Mr. Geary notes that discovery walks are done around culture and climate and students are questioned. Ms. Stefanovicz noted that all students should feel safe in their classrooms.

**Mr. Pattacini** wondered about the PSAT as the Board makes changes to the dashboard. He looks forward to working with the Superintendent on this. He also echoes Mr. Thames that students will not be successful if they are not in class. He thanks the staff for their hard work, noting it is not easy.

#### **G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

#### **H. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, thought Mr. Geary had a good report. He noted Thursday on CPTV there will be a program dealing with learning biases. Mr. Stringfellow wants all students to learn. He suggested a book by Tony Wagner, *Most Likely to Succeed*. He also suggested a book on navigating the Common Core. Mr. Stringfellow thinks Manchester has a good school system. He suggested several other articles and books and hopes immigrants are made to feel welcome.

**J. COMMUNICATIONS**

**Mr. Thames** noted he had his car washed this past Saturday at the Bennet fundraiser and he thanked the students, who were enthusiastic workers.

**K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

None.

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

**9/0 - Voted in favor.**

**Adjournment 8:44 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Scappaticci  
Board Secretary