

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting
May 8, 2017
Waddell Elementary

PRESENT: Caldwell, Conyers, Jacobsen, Pattacini, Scappaticci, Stefanovicz, Thames

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

ABSENT: Hagenow, Leon

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.

A.3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

ADOPTED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of April 24, 2017. Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Thames seconded the motion.

7/0 – Voted in favor.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

B.1. Personnel & Finance Committee

Mr. Thames reviewed that the last meeting was held April 24th with the following in attendance: Ranon Caldwell, Deborah Hagenow, Neal Leon, Darryl Thames, Sr., Matthew Geary, Karen Clancy and Nick Aldi.

Mr. Aldi reviewed the paid lunch equity and snack program information with Committee members. Based on federal regulations, school districts participating in the National School Lunch Program must ensure sufficient funds are provided to the food service program for meals served to students not eligible for free or reduced priced meals. Lunch prices are calculated based on a weighted average. Mr. Aldi recommended an increase of 10¢ in school lunch prices for the 2017-2018 school year in order to comply with federal regulations. A list of district comparisons of lunch prices was provided to the Committee members. Manchester Public School District has the lowest lunch prices compared to 18 other school districts. Fourteen of the school districts are in Manchester's District Reference Group.

Mr. Aldi then presented the Healthy Food Certification information to Committee members. This program requires participants to certify that food items sold to students that are outside the regular reimbursable meal will meet nutritional standards that are low in fat, sodium and sugar. Manchester has been participating in the healthy food certification since 2007-2008. The Board of Education typically votes in favor of continuing to participate in the program. They also vote in favor of an exemption that allows schools to sell foods that do not meet the requirements, if the food items are sold at an event which occurs outside of the school day. The district receives an additional 10¢ for each lunch sold. This equates to approximately \$72,000 in reimbursement.

Mrs. Clancy reviewed the 2016-2017 budget status with Committee members. She stated that the budget has not had any significant changes since the February report. Accounts that are projected to end in deficit will be offset with surplus dollars in other accounts. Mr. Geary reminded Committee members that the tuition accounts have a significant shortfall but will be offset with available dollars in other accounts. The Board of Education has encumbered funds to assist the town with state budget reductions to the municipal budget.

Mrs. Clancy presented information on the school transportation contract bid proposals. She stated that the collaborative (Manchester, Ellington, Somers and Vernon) received one bid proposal in response to an RFP for student transportation services. The incumbent, First Student, is the single bidder. There was discussion on the details of the proposal. Mrs. Clancy provided a list of 28

other districts' daily bus rates for comparison purposes. It was noted that the proposed 2017-2018 daily rate for the collaborative is lower than 26 of the 28 districts that responded. Mr. Leon requested that First Student management attend a meeting in order to respond to questions from Committee members.

Mr. Geary presented information to Committee members on the Waddell end of year transition to Cheney. There was discussion on the possibility of making June 20 and 21 teacher work days at Waddell in order to allow time for staff to prepare for the move to Cheney.

Mr. Thames reported that the next Personnel & Finance Committee meeting will be held on Monday, June 26, 2017, at 5:30p.m., in the Lincoln Center-Director's Room.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Geary presented five 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 - Bennet Academy - Future Problem Solving International Competition at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse - 1 teacher, 1 parent chaperone - June 8-11, 2017

C.3. Extended Field Trip Request Form - Manchester High School - French/Spanish Travel Club - France/Spain Educational Trip - 18 Students - 2 Chaperones - April 6, 2018 - April 13, 2018

C.4. Approval of State Department of Education Addendum to Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (ED-099) - Healthy Food Certification Statement that includes Consideration 1 - Healthy Food Option and Consideration 2 - Exemption for Food Items

C.5. Approval of an increase in school lunch pricing by \$0.10 (10 cents) for all schools, increasing the 2017-2018 School Year prices to: Elementary: \$2.25; Middle: \$2.50; High School: \$2.65

The Chairman called for a motion.

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

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Pattacini asked for an explanation of the school lunch price increase. Mr. Geary explained that we receive a reimbursement from the government for free lunches at a rate of \$2.78. The price we charge for lunch should equal that, but we never quite get there. If we do not continue to raise lunch prices we will fall further and further away from the reimbursement price, which then means the free lunches subsidize the full price lunches, which is not allowed.

Mr. Thames asked what the district reference group is. Mr. Geary explained the DRG are towns that are similar in ability to pay compared to Manchester.

The vote was called.

7/0 - Voted in favor.

D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Geary reviewed that the student representatives were not present this evening. The next meeting will be the last for Shania Stanton, and she will be recognized. Also, at the next meeting the new representative, to join Nabila Hoor Un Ein, will be Patrick Doherty, who was in the audience this evening.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, recommended an article in *American History* magazine about Woodrow Wilson. He felt Wilson was a good president, but was a racist. Mr. Stringfellow also spoke about the Battle of Midway. He suggested an article

in *Naval History* magazine. Mr. Stringfellow suggested an event at the Universal Church on West Center Street on May 30th. He also suggested a book, *Democracy in Black*. Mr. Stringfellow thinks we should all get along as Americans and that Manchester is a welcoming community.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

F.1. Waddell School Improvement Plan

Mr. Geary introduced Principal Kim Loveland and several staff members. Their presentation is available on the website.

Mr. Scappaticci felt it was great to see that the staff are aware of and are using restorative discipline. This was the first time he has heard of a “rest stop” or “calm-down corner” in every classroom. In the past he has seen something similar used sporadically. It was reviewed that students opt to go to this area, and are not told to go. If several students are having a conflict they can go together. MELC, specials, and the library all have these spaces.

Ms. Jacobsen thought it was a great presentation. She liked the calming centers and Tier 2 and 3 interventions. Ms. Jacobsen asked if tiered students have behavioral charts that go home. Ms. Loveland reviewed the data showed struggles with behaviors with the number of referrals and suspensions. There has been a significant decline in the number of times students have to be removed from the classroom this year. Mr. Geary noted that ideas are shared between administrators so that strategies may be tried at other schools.

Ms. Stefanovicz thought it was an excellent presentation. She felt it would be amazing to have statistics on the reduction in the number of discipline calls.

Mr. Pattacini was excited to see the work going on and the data, which is available quickly, with staff acting on that and resetting goals in an ongoing fashion. This is refreshing compared to 5-6 years ago, when it took a year to hear from the state on results of testing and then we tried to react to the information.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Geary reviewed that the following are technical close-outs of older projects that have been completed and need to officially be closed.

H.1. Acceptance of the MHS Project #077-0158 EA/RR as Complete

Secretary Scappaticci moved for the Board of Education to accept the MHS Project #077-0158 EA/RR as Complete. The Scope of Work included expansion and alteration of the building and roof replacement. Total cost of the project was \$33,456,292.48. Reimbursement from the State Bureau of School Facilities to the Town of Manchester for this project is estimated at \$17,608,627.00. **Mr. Thames** seconded the motion.

7/0 - Voted in favor.

H.2. Acceptance of the Bennet Middle School Project #077-0209 RNV/E as Complete

Secretary Scappaticci moved for the Board of Education to accept the Bennet Middle School Project #077-0209 RNV/E as Complete. The Scope of Work included expansion and alteration of the buildings. Total cost of the project was \$37,797,487.12. Reimbursement from the State Bureau of School Facilities to the Town of Manchester for this project is estimated at \$11,709,384.00. **Ms. Jacobsen** seconded the motion.

7/0 - Voted in favor.

H.3. Acceptance of Highland Park Elementary School Project #077-0224 RNV/E as Complete

Secretary Scappaticci moved for the Board of Education to accept the Highland Park Elementary School Project #077-0224 RNV/E

as Complete. The Scope of Work included expansion and alteration of the building. Total cost of the project was \$13,416,059.35. Reimbursement from the State Bureau of School Facilities to the Town of Manchester for this project is estimated at \$12,066,961.00. Mr. Caldwell seconded the motion.

7/0 - Voted in favor.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, congratulated the upcoming student representative and wishes him a good year. He supports the building project items. Mr. Stringfellow felt the Waddell presentation was excellent and he likes seeing the Multicultural Night and diverse community. Mr. Stringfellow recommended an article on ADHD in *Attitude* magazine and a book, *Who is Sonia Sotamayer*. He feels we have a very good school system and he wishes the media would report more on the good things happening and not just the sensational issues. Last, Mr. Stringfellow recommended stamp collecting as a worthy hobby.

J. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Scappaticci wished Chairman Pattacini a happy birthday this evening and stated he enjoys serving with him.

Mr. Pattacini reminded everyone that the Board of Directors will adopt a town budget tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. Due to the delay, the budget workshop scheduled for this Wednesday, May 10th, will be cancelled. There will be three budget workshops, with the first scheduled for next week, May 17th.

K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pattacini called for a motion to adjourn.

Secretary Scappaticci moved and Ms. Jacobsen seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

7/0 - Voted in favor.

Adjournment 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Scappaticci
Board Secretary