MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting
May 11, 2015
Waddell Elementary School

PRESENT: Crockett, Cruz, Hagenow, Leon, Pattacini, Pazda, Scappaticci, 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 Radikas

ABSENT: Stafford

A. OPENING

A.1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order
Chairperson Pattacini called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mr. Pattacini. Mr. Pattacini thanked the Waddell community for hosting the meeting and stated it was great to see so many families, students, and staff present.

A.3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

APPROVED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of April 27, 2015. Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Leon seconded the motion.

8/0 – Voted in favor.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Secretary Scappaticci moved for the Board to add item #5 to the Consent Calendar: Ratification of the Contract for Monitors, Manchester Employees Local #991 of Council #4 AFL-CIO covering the period 7/1/2014 - 6/30/2017. Mr. Crockett seconded the motion.
8/0 - Voted in favor.

B.1. **Personnel Action**
Details had already been provided to the Board members with their agenda.

B.2. **Transfer of Funds**
Details had already been provided to the Board members in their agenda folders.
- Transfer from System-wide Language Arts Instructional Supplies and Materials account to System-wide Language Arts Dues & Fees account in the amount of $3,734
- Transfer from System-wide Music Contracted Services account to System-wide Music Instructional Supplies & Materials account in the amount of $5,427
- Transfer from Keeney School Admin Printing & Advertising ($300) and Admin Dues & Fees ($622) accounts to Keeney Math Instructional Supplies & Materials account in the amount of $300 and to Keeney Science Instructional Supplies & Materials account in the amount of $622. A total transfer of $922 is being requested
- Transfer from Verplanck School Admin Professional Development ($486) and Verplanck School Contracted Kelly Subs PD ($822) accounts Verplanck School Admin General Supplies & Materials account for a total transfer of $1,308

B.3. **Establish an increase in appropriation for FY 14/15 in the amount of $175,000 for the Medicaid Grant, bringing the new appropriation total to $375,000**

B.4. **Establish an appropriation for FY 14/15 in the amount of $22,000 for the Heisman Scholars grant at Washington Elementary School**

B.5. **Ratification of the Monitors, Manchester Employees Local #991 of Council #4 AFL-CIO contract covering the period 7/1/2014 - 6/30/2017**

The Chairman called for a motion.
Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Crockett seconded the recommendation to adopt the Consent Calendar as amended.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

C. COMMITTEE REPORTS

C.1. Policy Committee
Ms. Pazda reviewed the Committee met April 27th with Ms. Cruz, Ms. Hagenow, Ms. Pazda, Mr. Stafford, and Mr. Geary in attendance. The Committee reviewed the Electronic Communication Devices Policy 5131.81 and will send it to the full Board for consideration. The current Promotion and Retention Policy was discussed and it was recommended that the Superintendent add language regarding intervention and support available. Mr. Geary will bring back a revised draft to the next Committee meeting. The Committee discussed a 7th grade only first day of school at Illing, mirroring the 9th grade only first day at MHS. The Superintendent will bring forth a revised school calendar to the full Board for consideration. The Committee also discussed adjusting the end of the school day at Illing back to 2:45 rather than 2:40 to align with Bennet. The next meeting will be held May 11th at Waddell Elementary School.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS
Tracy Maio, 57 Horton Road, welcomed the Board to Waddell. Ms. Maio spoke about the bonds of the Waddell community, highlighted in the pictures posted around the room from the Color Run fundraiser held recently. She gave kudos to Autumn Struk, who has spearheaded many of the project playground fundraisers, organized the participants and rallied the troops. Ms. Maio feels it is the people that make Waddell special.

Student Joe Maio, felt the Lego movie song perfectly described how he felt about Waddell, and he sang it for us.
Student Luke Terry loves Waddell because all the teachers cooperate with the other teacher and students, it is safe, he enjoys the food produce of the month, he is learning healthy choices. He is enjoying working hard to reach the goal of a new playground.

Student Lia Terry loves Waddell because the kids don’t play rough, it is clean, the teachers are nice and it is like a big family.

Autumn Struk, 26 Little Street, thanked everyone for coming out tonight. She thanked the Board and Darryl Crowley for acquiring additional playground structure pieces to add to the current playground. Hopefully by June the updates will be made to the current playground. The final fundraiser for the new playground was the Color Run held April 25th. There were 114 student runners/walkers and their parents running the mile. Also featured that day was a bounce house, food donations, and medals and other prizes to all participants. Two corporate sponsors were acquired, Rockville Bank donated $700 and The Learning Center donated $500. The remaining $16,504.77 has been raised by the Waddell community. Up next for Project Playground, the votes will be tallied on the type of structure for the new playground and the PTA will meet with the town and Board of Education to get the playground up this summer.

Student Savannah Struk loves Waddell because everyone is happy and kind. Her grandparents came here when the school first opened and that makes it special to her. She thinks the teachers here are nice and the PTA has fun things for everyone to do.

Student Tatum loves Waddell School because they have good teachers, good friends and good families.

Student Nevaeh likes Waddell School because all the kids and teachers are really nice here.

Student Malaya Lawrence likes the teachers, Mr. Moynihan, the principal, and her friends. She loves Waddell School.

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, thinks Waddell is a good school with a diverse mix of people. He wishes the media would do more stories on what our Manchester Schools and teachers are doing. Mr. Stringfellow recently attended a State
Board of Education meeting where they talked about racial balance. We are safe, but they talked about four other districts. He hopes to see more parents of color coming out to participate. He spoke about unions and labor history, including the Postal Worker's union of which he is a part. He thinks it is important for children to learn about labor history and unions. Mr. Stringfellow feels teacher training is important and again requested Ms. Philbert to come speak at a future meeting. He wishes Joseph Coyne, the student representative, well at college.

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

E.1. Student Representative Recognition
Mr. Geary and Mr. Pattacini thanked Joseph Coyne for his time as Student Representative, keeping us abreast of the goings on at the high school. Joe will attend Central Connecticut State University to study political science and hopes to go into law or politics. Joe has participated in Roundtable singers, chess club, ski club and the Activities Planning Board and will graduate in the top 15% of his class. He was presented with a plaque thanking him for his service.

E.2. New Student Representatives
Mr. Geary introduced one of the two new student representatives for next year. Lori Fogg, who works with the Manchester Historical Society, hopes to make a difference in the community and wants to have her voice heard. She will be a senior. The other representative was not present this evening - Shania Stanton, who will be a junior next year.

E.3. Waddell School Improvement Plan
Mr. Michael Moynihan, the principal of Waddell Elementary School, presented his school improvement plan, supplemented by staff, parents, and students. His presentation is available on the website.

Ms. Pazda thanked everyone for sharing this evening. She noted it is helpful to Board members to see how district improvement plans play out at a school level.

Mr. Pattacini thanked the staff, parents, and especially the children for coming out tonight.
Mr. Pattacini called a short recess to allow the families to exit. Recess 8:27 p.m. Back in session 8:33 p.m.

E.4. Athletic Programming Update
Mr. Lindsey Boutilier, the Athletic Director at MHS, revealed that approximately 500 students participate in athletics at the high school. That number has stayed steady over the last ten years, even with losing about 600 students since 2005. Mr. Boutilier’s presentation can be seen on the website.

Mr. Boutilier noted that the 10-11 year was when students could no longer run indoors.

Mr. Crockett wondered if participation dropped as a result of not being able to train on-site and having to be bussed to other locations. Mr. Boutilier noted there was a drop in participation, but he feels the serious athletes still participate and the social athletes are the ones that dropped out.

Mr. Crockett wondered if we have lost our standing. Mr. Boutilier stated we fall about mid-pack currently. Mr. Crockett feels we were higher in the past and he is not a fan of bussing the students out, believing they should be able to run in the halls. He wondered if any other hall running accidents (other than the one the consultant brought forth years ago) had been seen in recent years. Mr. Boutilier had only heard of that one incident. Mr. Crockett feels we overreacted to that situation and that the students paid the price. Mr. Leon, however, feels that there hasn’t been that much of a drop in participation and that the numbers do not justify the risks of running in the halls.

Mr. Boutilier called attention to the one sport currently in danger, which is boys swimming. This year 17 boys participated, but only 7 will be returning next year. He has reached out to surrounding schools to see about a coop, but nothing is working out currently. He will be having a summer clinic to garner interest for this winter sport.
Ms. Pazda wondered why boys swimming was faltering and Mr. Boutilier feels the tragedy a few years back may be the cause. Since then, swimming has not been part of physical education classes and that may be one reason. Ms. Pazda was not aware that swimming was no longer allowed in PE. Mr. Boutilier stated it is an ongoing discussion.

Mr. Leon wondered if part of the reason for low participation with swimming and track among other sports is the amount of activities available to students currently, with travel sports and year round soccer, etc. Mr. Boutilier agreed, but noted we still have about 500 student athletes overall. Mr. Leon wondered if any sport was seeing dramatic increases in participation. Mr. Boutilier stated no, but pointed out many sports make cuts to keep the teams to a specific number. It is only some sports such as track that can have larger numbers of participants. Mr. Boutilier also pointed out that we are able to maintain freshman sports teams as well, which many schools cannot.

Mr. Boutilier spoke about the change in the CCC, with Avon entering. There are 33 teams in our division and Glastonbury is no longer in our division, but Hartford Public is. He also spoke briefly about the budget and fundraising, noting last year’s golf tournament raised $5,000, which was split between golf and football. This fall we will be selling advertising on the fence around the track and that money will go to the student activities fund, as does the gate revenue. Mr. Crockett wondered how much revenue the gate brings in. Mr. Boutilier estimated football gate is about $10-12,000, while basketball can bring in about $8-10,000. That money stays with the athletic department, but not the specific sport. The money does not have to filter through the Board. Mr. Crockett asked about attendance compared to surrounding towns. Mr. Boutilier feels we are comparable, though we do not have adequate seating.

Mr. Boutilier listed the colleges that student athletes have committed to for next year. He also revealed that October 2nd Jack Renkens from Arizona will be coming to speak to families on recruiting realities.

Mr. Boutilier also noted he had the first meeting with the engineer in April to look at the current track to determine whether it can be resurfaced or needs to be
replaced. He also noted the interior turf will be replaced and a secondary field will replace part of the football practice area, part of the junior varsity soccer field, and some of the softball field. There are also talks about renovating the bleachers and press box. In August the gymnasium will be redone, down to a new logo on the court, and hopefully a new sound system.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
None.

G. NEW BUSINESS

F.1. Policy Revisions
Mr. Geary brought forth Policy 5131.81 Electronic Communications. He noted the existing policy was too restrictive and this revision is a more forward thinking policy that supports instruction and approved communication. This policy now promotes the use of mobile devices. The full policy is available for review on the website and will come back at the next meeting for action.

Mr. Crockett wondered how we can block the use of 4G. Mr. Geary noted we cannot, however it is a rule for the students.

H. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to items on tonight’s agenda)
Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, supports the Waddell School Improvement Plan and felt it was a good presentation. He enjoyed seeing the computer learning with coding and writing skills that the children participate in. Mr. Stringfellow pointed out an article in the Journal Inquirer a week or so ago about autism and noted he is concerned about funding. He also spoke about the dangers of students texting and being on-line. Mr. Stringfellow extended congratulations to the new student representatives. He spoke about John Larson’s new National Youth Commission program. It is good to hear the voice of youth on a national level and he would like to hear from that commission in the fall. Last, Mr. Stringfellow would also like to hear from the teachers regarding the union.

I. COMMUNICATIONS
I.1. **Student Representative Joseph Coyne**

Mr. Coyne reviewed the MHS events over the last month:

- Junior Prom was held May 9th at Rentschler Field with a high turn out, though all bills had to be paid prior to attendance.
- Talent Show April 30th brought out many talented students. First place was Isaiah Allgood, who sang and the MHS steppers came in second place.
- The MHS Voice was held May 4th with both students and staff participating.
- AP Tests were held from May 4-15 for students to potentially earn college credit. Exams are typically 3-4 hours long.
- Most colleges have a May 1st deadline for acceptance, so most seniors have committed to schools at this point.
- Unfortunately, the Hawaiian dance scheduled for April 24th was cancelled due to lack of interest.
- Pie a teacher day was held May 4th and was a successful fundraiser.
- Last, a bee problem in the courtyard has been eradicated.

I.2. **Mr. Pattacini** revealed that the Board of Directors has requested membership from the Board of Education for a joint committee to evaluate site options for an indoor track facility. Mr. Pattacini had polled the board via email and has submitted Ms. Pazda’s and Mr. Stafford’s names to represent the Board of Education on the committee. Mr. Gates and Ms. Eckbreth will be the Board of Director representatives. There will also be community members involved. The goal is to identify a site and prepare for a referendum within approximately 18 months.

**Mr. Leon** wondered if it has already been decided to go to referendum. Mr. Pattacini noted that is up to the Board of Directors, but that is the direction they are leaning and it would be up to the Board of Education to approve it. Mr. Leon noted that the Board of Education did not start this project.

**Mr. Thames** wondered if the use of the track would be for school-wide use or just for the sports teams. Mr. Pattacini feels that is part of what would be investigated. Obviously, an on-site facility would lend itself to more school use than an off-site location.
J. **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**
Ms. Pazda would like information on field trips, such as who pays, how they are connected to the curriculum, and if all students participate.

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

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

8/0 - Voted in favor.

**Adjournment 9:15 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Scappaticci
Board Secretary