

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

June 8, 2020

Lincoln Center/Virtual Meeting

PRESENT: Gundersen, Heinrich, Hughes, Meggers, Pattacini, Scappaticci, Stefanovicz, Thames

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Geary, Deputy Superintendent Curriculum & Special Services Radikas, Director of Finance and Management Clancy, Director of Human Resources Sone-Moyano

ABSENT: Patterson

A. OPENING

A.1/2. Meeting Called to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Thames called the meeting back to order at 7:13 p.m. from an Executive Session that was previously called to order at 5:50 p.m. and ended at 6:35 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Mr. Thames.

A.3. Secretary's Welcome

In lieu of the Welcome message, Mr. Thames remarked on the current state of the country and described the peaceful protests that were held in Manchester over the past weekend drawing attention to and put an end to unarmed African Americans being killed at the hands of Police Officers. Mr. Thames supports the letter from Mr. Geary that was sent to the Manchester Community addressing the tragedy of the murder of George Floyd. He also thanked the Manchester Chief of Police for speaking to this injustice. It will take the efforts of the entire community to abolish this practice by law enforcement in America. Good policemen are the backbone of this country. Mr. Thames lead the viewers in a moment of silence dedicated to unarmed African Americans who lost their lives at the hands of police officers.

Mr. Geary and Mr. Thames are present at Lincoln Center, but everyone else is participating from their own residences. As there will be no public speaking this evening, please direct any questions or comments to the Superintendent.

A.4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

APPROVED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of May 11, 2020. Secretary Pattacini moved and Ms. Stefanovicz seconded the motion.

8/0 – Voted in favor.

A.5. Motion: Mr. Pattacini made a motion to add Item G-3, authorizing the Superintendent of schools to enter into an agreement to an amendment for transportation services by and between the Board of Education and DATTCO, Inc., to the agenda under New Business. **Ms. Stefanovicz seconded the motion.**

8/0 - Voted in favor.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None to report.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Geary presented fourteen 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

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

C.3. Permission to apply for the Federal Head Start Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Funding for the FY 19/21

C.4. Permission to apply for the IDEA 611 Grant for the FY 20/22

C.5. Permission to apply for the IDEA 619 Grant for the FY 20/22

C.6. Permission to apply for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Secondary Basic Grant for the FY 20/21

C.7. Permission to apply for Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief (ESSER) Funding for the FY 19/21

C.8. Establish an appropriation for the Immigrant & Youth Education Program Grant in the amount of \$6,962 for the FY 19/21

C.9. Establish an updated appropriation for the Immigrant & Youth Education PProgram Grant FY 18/20

C.10. Establish an updated appropriation for the Title I, Part A, Improving Basic Programs Grant for the FY 18/21

C.11. Establish an updated appropriation for the Title II, Part A, Supporting Effective Instruction Grant for the FY 18/21

C.12. Establish an updated appropriation for the Title III, Part A, English Language Acquisition Grant for the FY 18/21

C.13. Establish an updated appropriation for the Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant for the FY 18/21

C. 14. Establish an appropriation for the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving COVID-19 Response Grant for the FY 19/21

The Chairman called for a motion.

Secretary Pattacini moved and Ms. Stefanovicz seconded the recommendation to adopt the Consent Calendar as outlined in this evening's agenda.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

None.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Meggars brought attention to the recent passing of Michael Dyer, resident of Manchester, and product of Manchester Public Schools. Mr. Meggars mentioned that he loved Manchester Schools, and would have done anything for the community.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

F.1. Teacher of the Year Presentation

Mr. Geary introduced the various building based Teachers of the Year, along with Manchester Public Schools' District Teacher of the Year, Jessica Williams of Illing Middle School.

Mr. Thames congratulated the teachers, mentioning that this is not the most ideal circumstances. He has spoken with other members of other districts, he has found that the experience happening here in Manchester is head and shoulders above others. Your work is much appreciated.

Mr. Meggers echoed Mr. Thames' thoughts.

F.2. Update on Close of School

Mr. Geary reported that materials were distributed for STEAM week and for the Summer Reading kickoff last week for students in grade Pre-k through 8. Items for STEAM were purchased from a grant that was to support after school activities but is not running due to the current circumstances. Scholastic, Inc. donated the books. Mr. Geary extended thanks to Dr. Amy Radikas and her assistant Jane Morano for organizing the distribution, the Buildings and Grounds

Department for support the setup, breakdown, and various requests in between, and to the staff who distributed the materials.

During the last week, and continuing through this week, teachers and staff are calling parents to survey their experiences this year and their concerns for next year.

Mr. Geary is looking for guidance from CSDE for orders as to how school will be opening in the fall.

Mr. Geary is very proud of the students and staff of Manchester in their organization and attendance, along with their actions during the last weekend of protests. Our future is in good hands.

G. NEW BUSINESS

G.1. Secretary Pattacini moved to suspend Board Policy #3510 Facilities Maintenance and Board Policy #3511 Education Technology Maintenance for the Manchester Board of Education 2020-2021 Budget. Mr. Meggers seconded the motion.

Mr. Geary explained that the Board Policies require a minimum expenditure on each of those lines based on a certain percentage of the total annual budget. With the reduction for next year, and the current state of the economy, we are below the required expenditures.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Pattacini asked if there will be an impact on any funding of grants due to the dissolution of the public/private partnership with the Dalio Foundation and the State of CT. Mr. Geary's belief is that there will not be an impact on the donation of laptops for all high school students in Manchester which is coming from the Dalio Foundation.

The vote was called.

8/0 - Voted in favor

G.2. Mr. Pattacini moved that the Board of Education adopt the meeting schedule for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Heinrich seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor

G.3. Mr. Pattacini moved to approve the authorization of the Superintendent of Schools to enter into agreement to an amendment for transportation services by and between the Board of Education and DATTCO, Inc., for the purpose of complying with The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the "Cares Act") and Governor Ned Lamont's Executive Order 7R (the "Amendment"). Mr. Gundersen seconded the motion.

Mr. Geary explained that the Governor's executive order allowed the School Districts to negotiate contracts with Bus Companies, with the intent to keep individuals employed so that when school reopened, employees could be called back in a short period of time. DATTCO's employees were laid off almost immediately. We received information from DATTCO regarding their operating cost, including overhead, administrative, and other costs. The amendment is that we subtracted out their payroll costs from their total contract cost, we realized the rough cost would be 60% of their contract. They will be bringing their drivers back for the last two weeks of what was scheduled for school. This will give us an idea of who will be returning in the fall, since this makes the employees active again. We will get invoiced in June that their staff have returned, and we believe that the net savings will be about \$185,000 for the Board.

Mr. Geary appreciated the flexibility and time that Board members spent on this timely process, and thanked Mrs. Clancy for her work on this.

Mr. Gundersen wanted to know what the factors were behind bringing back the bus drivers in June. Mr. Geary believes that by calling the employees back, they will be able to get a good idea of what the staffing would look like in the fall, as well as make them accountable for their employment and ineligible for claiming unemployment.

Mr. Thames thanked all those involved in the process, and appreciated the ability to be good stewards of the taxpayer's dollars to come up with something that was equitable. He also thanked DATTCO for working with us.

The vote was called.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

H. Unfinished business

Mr. Pattacini moved to approve the 2020-2021 Manchester Board of Education Budget in the amount of \$117,774,174.00. Mr. Scappaticci seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

J. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Monday, June 22, 2020 - Topics for Superintendent's Report: Update on Opening of School

L. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thames called for a motion to adjourn.

Secretary Pattacini moved and Mr. Heinrich seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

Adjournment 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Pattacini
Board Secretary