

## MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Regular Meeting

June 12, 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 7:04 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 May 22, 2017. Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Leon seconded the motion.**

**9/0 – Voted in favor.**

**A.4. Approval of Budget Workshop**

**APPROVED – Minutes Budget Workshop of the Board of Education of May 24, 2017. Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Leon seconded the motion.**

**9/0 – Voted in favor.**

**A.5. Approval of Budget Workshop**

**APPROVED – Minutes Budget Workshop of the Board of Education of May 31, 2017. Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Leon seconded the motion.**

**9/0 – Voted in favor.**

**B. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

**Secretary Scappaticci moved to add item H.5. to the agenda, “Superintendent’s Evaluation and Contract”. Mr. Leon seconded the motion.**

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

**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. Memorandum of Agreement with the Manchester Board of Education (the “Board”) and the Manchester School Administration (the “2015-18 Collective Bargaining Agreement”) expires on June 30, 2018**

**C.3. Extended Field Trip Request - MHS Boys Cross Country meet - Manchester, New Hampshire - 8 students participating - 9/22/17 - 9/23/17 - Chaperones Steve O'Reilly, Coach and Mike Bendzinski, Assistant Coach**

**C.4. Permission to apply for the FY 17/18 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Secondary Basic Grant provided through the State of Connecticut**

**C.5. Establish an appropriation for an additional award for FY 16-18 YWCA Partnership in the amount of \$25,000**

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**

The students representatives were not present, due to end of year commitments. Mr. Geary reviewed the list they submitted.

- 5/24 - Class and APB officers were recognized and new officers were inducted for next year
- 6/1 - 247 awards were given to juniors and seniors
- 6/15 - Graduation night
- 6/1 - Senior lunch was given for 40 students
- 245 Sophomores celebrated super-sophomore breakfast (0 discipline referrals)
- 183 Seniors celebrated super-senior dinner for 0 discipline referrals
- 6/2 - Movie night fundraiser
- 6/9 and 6/12 - 95 seniors visited their old elementary schools in their caps and gowns

Mr. Pattacini recognized Mr. Joshi and his students for their fundraising efforts.

## **E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, spoke about several historical anniversaries, including 1917 turning point in Russia, 1867 purchase of Alaska from Russia, and the 6 day war. He recommended a book on Eleanor Roosevelt. Mr. Stringfellow recommended articles in *Your Teen* magazine about allowance college, ROTC, and life issues. He thinks MHS has a good graduation rate.

Mr. James Tierinni, Jr., 106 Henry Street, is the Program Coordinator for Saturday Math. He knows the budget will be voted on this evening and since the cuts were announced he has provided data that proves the success of the program in helping all students. He has sent the Board surveys, students have emailed, and he is speaking one more time about the effectiveness of this program. This cut directly impacts numerous students, and Mr. Tierinni noted that more than 800 students have taken the course over the last 5 years. Mr. Tierinni doesn't understand how the Board can, in good conscience, cut a program that helps so many. He realizes that if the Alliance Grant money comes through they may be able to fund the program, but if that money does not come, he wonders how we will support these struggling learners. This program is making a difference.

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

### **F.1. Teacher of the Year Celebration**

**Mr. Geary** announced all the Teachers of the Year from each school and the District Teacher of the Year, and read a little about why they were chosen. Cake and juice for friends and family was enjoyed. Congratulations to:

- Bennet - Linda Browning
- Bentley - Susan Cisz
- Bowers - Christina Garre
- Buckley - Daniela Gore
- Highland Park - Rachel Delaney
- Illing - Ashley Okwuazi
- Keeney - Lara Walmart\*\*\*MPS District Teacher of the Year
- Manchester Preschool - Jessica Diakun
- MRA - Scott Goldsmith
- MHS - Megan Rader
- Martin - Deryann King

- Robertson - Patricia Legault
- Verplanck - Kathleen Hackett
- Waddell - Janice Medynski
- Washington - Carly Herchuk

## **F.2. Recognition of Shania Stanton - Student Representative**

**Mr. Geary** noted that Ms. Stanton could not be here this evening, but she will be presented with a plaque honoring her time as the Student Representative. She will be attending Shaw in North Carolina in the fall.

## **F.3. Recognition of CABA Leadership Award Students**

**Mr. Geary** announced the CABA Leadership award for seniors Jenna Leon and Arfan Ali. Neither could be here this evening.

**A recess was called by Mr. Pattacini . 7:28 p.m.**

**Back in session 7:48 p.m.**

## **F.4. Update on Verplanck Elementary School Project**

Mr. Randall Luther of TSKP Studio was present to update the Board on the project. He also brought a scale model. His presentation is available for viewing on the website. Mr. Luther noted they are half way through the design process and hope to submit to the state for review by the end of the year.

Drawings will be sent to Downes Construction to get an estimate by the end of the month. Mr. Luther noted the market is not escalating as quickly as anticipated, so things seem to be on budget.

**Ms. Hagenow** asked if the current playground and blacktop area are being eliminated. Mr. Luther noted the playground in that area is going to be relocated so that the community can still use it. It will be located near the fields that are used for baseball games, so parents can easily see siblings in both areas.

Ms. Hagenow asked about the exit and the 4 way stop. Mr. Luther explained that the current exit does not line up with the 3 way stop, but the new exit will line up, making it a 4 way stop. Large trucks will be accommodated by the service entrance and will not use the parking lot that families and staff use.

**Mr. Thames** asked about the playground and paved play. Mr. Luther explained that the playscapes will have mulch, but for the older kids there is another area that is paved with a basketball hoop. At the end of the day that area will have the gate opened for exiting traffic.

Mr. Thames suggested wiring the cafeteria for audio.

**Mr. Scappaticci** asked about a wall in the 2nd grade classrooms that is not in other classrooms. Mr. Luther explained that previously they considered having a cubby area for 2nd grade, but decided to have lockers in the hall instead and that wall has been removed in current drawings.

Mr. Scappaticci asked about the two large paintings currently hanging in the school of Mr. Verplanck and the first principal of the school. Mr. Luther noted there is an opportunity for them to remain, and discussions about that as well as other art to be displayed in the tall foyer will take place in the future.

**Ms. Stefanovicz** suggested that the community playground be relocated closer to the tree line instead of near the road for safety reasons. Mr. Luther will consider that.

Ms. Stefanovicz liked what is planned at Waddell for 1 on 1 meeting spaces in the halls and wondered if that can be done at Verplanck as well. Mr. Luther noted that is being worked on.

Ms. Stefanovicz loves the garden area and wondered how a lawnmower would fit in there and who would be responsible for taking care of the area. She loves the idea of opening those doors but wondered about the HVAC system. Mr. Luther noted the HVAC system is not as sensitive as other buildings to humidity, so opening the doors will not be as problematic. He suggested there may be a system of lights to indicate when it is okay to open the doors to the garden.

**Ms. Jacobsen** wondered about bug control with the doors open. She noted that the sensory garden is nice, but at HPS nobody maintains those areas. Ms. Jacobsen asked about the slanted roof, noting it slants towards the building and

she wondered about rain and snow. Mr. Luther noted the roof slants onto another roof, not the ground, and there are gutters in place to handle rain and snow.

Ms. Jacobsen was concerned about the service entrance being near the kindergarten classes. Mr. Luther explained that the service entrance is actually the level below the classrooms so items can be left there for staff to move later.

Ms. Jacobsen was very concerned that the kindergarten classrooms are not located next to the kindergarten playground. Mr. Luther explained that the K classes are to remain in the current area because they already have bathrooms that would be costly to move. The K playground is at the end of the hall from the classrooms. Ms. Jacobsen suggested many ways to move the classrooms to get the K rooms closer to the playground, but it was noted that the cost is prohibitive.

**Mr. Leon** likes the courtyard, but agrees maintenance is an issue. He also noted that there needs to be outdoor water spigots installed. Mr. Luther made a note about that.

**Mr. Conyers** asked about parking spaces. Mr. Luther noted they more than doubled the number of spaces.

Mr. Conyers asked about the Thompson Road exit. Mr. Luther reviewed that originally the plan was for a two way entrance/exit onto Thompson, but due to concerns about traffic in that neighborhood it was decided that the area would be an exit only open at the end of the day and gated the rest of the time (paved play for the older students).

Mr. Conyers asked about access to the courtyard. The only access is through the cafeteria or the glass room.

**Ms. Stefanovicz** asked about the process undertaken so far. Mr. Luther noted that just like for Waddell, input from working groups of parents, staff and administrators has been garnered. He meets regularly with Principal Jones as well. He will go back to the group again. Conversations about furniture and

technology have already begun, to help with placement of outlets etc. There is a local community meeting being held June 21st and a mailer has gone out to property owners.

**Ms. Jacobsen** wondered about the courtyard doors going up, instead of sliding. Mr. Luther explained there is not enough room to have sliding doors. Each door is 12-15 feet wide and when raised also creates a small canopy.

## **G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **G.1. Amendment and Acceptance of MHS Project #077-0158 EA/RR as complete**

**Mr. Geary** explained that these items were previously approved, but some of the amounts were incorrect, so this evening the corrections will be voted on.

**Mr. Scappaticci** moved to amend and accept 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 is \$33,476,967. Reimbursement from the State Bureau of School Facilities to the Town of Manchester for this project is estimated at \$20,047,537. Mr. Leon seconded the motion.

9/0 - Voted in favor.

### **G.2. Amendment and Acceptance of Bennet Middle School Project #077-0209 RNV/E as complete**

**Mr. Scappaticci** moved to amend and accept 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 \$37,477,410. Reimbursement from the State Bureau of School Facilities to the Town of Manchester for this project is estimated at \$22,969,409. Mr. Leon seconded the motion.

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

**G.3. Amendment and Acceptance of Highland Park Elementary School Project #077-0224 RNV/E as Complete**

**Mr. Scappaticci moved to amend and accept 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 \$13,100,000. Reimbursement from the State Bureau of School Facilities to the Town of Manchester for this project is estimated at \$8,404,545. Mr. Leon seconded the motion.**

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

**G.4. Transportation Contract**

**Mr. Geary** reviewed that the First Student transportation contract was voted down at the last meeting. Since then Mrs. Clancy has worked with DATTCO on a new contract. Mrs. Clancy noted that Mr. Gibson, CEO of DATTCO, is present tonight to answer any questions Board members may have. Mr. Geary noted that the pricing is a little over budget, but reasonable for year 1.

**Mr. Scappaticci moved for the Board of Education to enter into a five year contract with DATTCO. Mr. Thames seconded the motion.**

**DISCUSSION:**

**Mr. Leon** thanked Mrs. Clancy and DATTCO for working quickly to come to an agreement. He looks forward to better services for our parents and students.

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

**H. NEW BUSINESS**

**Mr. Geary** reviewed that the budget sheet now reflects accurate numbers instead of estimated figures. The early retirement incentive is not in here as that has not yet been calculated. Mr. Geary noted that the non-affiliated staff were moved to an HSA.

**Ms. Jacobsen** wondered when we will see how the additional \$400,000 will be funded. Mr. Geary noted that some of that is in the current numbers, but the rest will be calculated in the future.

**Mr. Thames** asked if there was news of any more concessions. Mr. Geary had no new information.

**Mr. Pattacini** noted we need to suspend two policies before passing the budget.

**H.1. Action to change the funding guidelines for Policy #3510**

**Secretary Scappaticci** moved to suspend the funding guidelines for Policy #3510 - Facilities Maintenance. Mr. Leon seconded the motion.

**8/1 - Voted in favor.**

**H.2. Action to change the funding guidelines for Policy #3511**

**Secretary Scappaticci** moved to suspend the funding guidelines for Policy #3511 - Educational Technology Maintenance. Mr. Leon seconded the motion.

**8/1 - Voted in favor.**

**H.3. Action to approve the 2017-2018 Manchester Board of Education Budget**

**Secretary Scappaticci** moved to approve the 2017-2018 Board of Education Budget in the amount of \$111,700,000. Mr. Leon seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Ms. Jacobsen** noted that a lot went into this budget. There were tough choices made.

**Mr. Geary** reviewed that we still have no information on the Alliance Grant and if that funding goes away there will need to be more reductions made.

**Mr. Pattacini** thanked everyone for their feedback, including administrators, staff, Board members and the community. This has been a tougher budget cycle due to the state budget crisis. The state will attempt to adopt a budget on June 30th.

**The vote was called.**

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

**H.4. Adoption of Educational Specifications dated 6/8/17 for a roof replacement at Manchester Regional Academy (MRA)**

**Mr. Geary** noted that we are seeking a replacement of the roof at MRA.

Mr. Peter Staye noted we are submitting this to the state before June 30th, when there is a potential change in reimbursement. The roof was last replaced in 1997.

Mr. Conyers asked how long the new roof will be good for. Mr. Staye noted it will be a 20 year roof. There will be a year for design and bidding and the work will be done in June 2018.

**Mr. Leon** wondered what the ballpark budget will be. Mr. Staye estimated the cost at \$500,000.

**Mr. Pattacini** asked what the funding source would be for the roof. Mr. Staye indicated that there is \$90,000 in the current budget to cover the architect and down payment on the project. The remained will come from the capital improvement and capital projects lines next year. The state will also reimburse some of the cost.

**Mr. Geary** noted that we take in tuition for MRA and some of those funds will also be used to support this roof.

**Secretary Scappaticci moved to approve item H.4. - Educational Specification dated 6/8/17 for a roof replacement at MRA, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit an SCG 049 Grant Application and Summary of Educational Specifications for a Building Project to the State Department of Education Administrative Services Office of School Construction Grants for a construction grant in accordance with GS 10-283 and Chapter 173 of the CT General Statutes and authorize the permanent building committee of the Town of Manchester to undertake the work. Mr. Leon seconded the motion.**

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

**H.5. Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract**

**Mr. Pattacini** noted that the Board met twice to review the Superintendent's self-evaluation and materials. He read a letter outlining Mr. Geary's accomplishments.

**Secretary Scappaticci moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign an employment agreement for Matthew Geary to serve as Superintendent of Manchester Schools. Mr. Leon seconded the motion.**

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

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

Mr. James Tierinni, Jr., 106 Henry Street, thanked the Board members who reached out to him regarding Saturday Math.

Ms. Joyce Murphy, 19 Waddell Road, has been a First Student driver for 19 years and she noted there are many dedicated drivers. Being a bus driver is a big responsibility and you have to contend with traffic and weather conditions in addition to the children.

**Mr. Pattacini** noted that the bus contract with DATTCO had nothing to do with individual drivers and DATTCO will be looking for experienced drivers who live in town.

**J. COMMUNICATIONS**

**Ms. Hagenow** wanted to acknowledge Kaylee Fetchler, who received Best in Student News Reporting for her story on the CT Humane Society.

**K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

**Mr. Leon** would like to hear about the recycling program in the schools. He stated there is an impression that trash and recycling is comingled. He also would like to know who, if anyone, receives funds from the water bottle deposits.

**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 9:16 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Scappaticci  
Board Secretary