

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

June 26, 2017

Lincoln

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

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

ABSENT: Stefanovicz

A. OPENING

A.1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order

Chairperson Pattacini called the meeting back to order from Executive Session 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 June 12, 2017. Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Leon seconded the motion.

8/0 – Voted in favor.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Geary presented seven 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

- Transfer from Keeney Street Elementary School Administrative Dues & Fees account to Keeney Street Elementary School Administrative Office Supplies & Materials account in the amount of \$511
- Transfer from System-wide Medical Services Printing & Advertising account to System-wide Medical Services Office Supplies & Materials account in the amount of \$483

C.3. Permission to apply for FY 17-19 Barr Foundation Grant in the amount of \$300,000

C.4. Permission to apply for the FY 17-18 Manchester Head Start Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

C.5. Establish an increase in appropriation for FY 16-17 for MRA in the amount of \$263,791, bringing the total appropriation to \$1,363,791

C.6. Move that the Manchester Board of Education authorize Matthew Geary, Superintendent of Schools, to enter into a 5-year lease agreement for the period from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2022, for the property located at 555 Main Street, Manchester, CT to house the Adult Education Program

C.7. Move that the Manchester Board of Education authorize Matthew Geary, Superintendent of Schools, to enter into a 5-year lease agreement for the period from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2022, for the property located at 555 Main Street, Manchester, CT, to house the Office of Family & Community Partnership Program

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.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

None.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, recommended a book called *Teaching Kids How to Think*, which is about raising children. July marks the 240th anniversary of the 4th of July holiday. Mr. Stringfellow is concerned with discrimination, racism and sexism. He hopes for a better year. In the *Hartford News* is an article on Habitat for Humanity that Mr. Stringfellow recommends. On September 19th on TV will be a documentary on the Vietnam War by Ken Burns. Last, Mr. Stringfellow recommended a book about remembering women's right to vote and a TV series, *Turn*.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

F.1. Update on Office of Family & Community Partnership

Mr. Geary announced that Dr. Scott Ratchford, Director of the Office of Family & Community Partnership, is leaving the district for a position in West Hartford. He reviewed that we are taking this opportunity to pause and think about the work going on that started 2 ½ years ago.

Mr. Geary reviewed the goals of the FCP Office:

Goal 1: Building capacity of:

- Leaders and staff to strengthen family and community engagement
- Families to support their children's learning
- Community leaders to partner with schools and families

Goal 2: Strengthen relationships

- Build trusting and collaborative relationships among all stakeholders to ensure student success
- Guarantee that all Manchester schools value and support families and community partners as a vital component of educating all children.

Goal 3: Provide Opportunities

- Expand the Family Resource Centers to all schools to meet the needs of all students and families.

Goal 4: Coherence and Sustainability

- Develop an infrastructure within the school district to assure district-wide coordination, alignment, and sustainability of FCP efforts.
- To guarantee all Manchester schools value and support families and their community as a vital partner in educating all children.

Mr. Geary revealed the Family & Community Partnership Office will now be called the Office of Equity and Partnership. Latasha Turnquest will become the Director of Family Partnerships; Equity Coordinator is Rhonda Philbert; Coordinator of Afterschool Programming and Outreach is Luis Moyano; Coordinator of Program Planning and Development is Erin Ortega; and Coordinator of School/Business Partnerships will be Beth Hayes.

Mr. Geary revealed many plans for the office, including relocation to 555 Main Street, adding a welcoming center, and a school-based health center at Illing. His full presentation is available on the website.

Ms. Jacobsen asked about the APTT program at Bowers, wondering if it would be expanding to all schools. Mr. Geary noted the pilot was also in Verplanck and Washington for year 1. For year 2 each of those schools will add a grade. Currently it is being investigated as to what language might look like to add to teacher contracts to cover the extra hours this program requires before rolling it out to all schools.

Ms. Jacobsen wondered about the stability of the grants we rely on. Mr. Geary noted we are in the midst of the Hartford Foundation grant, which will decrease each year over the next 3-5 years. That grant is helping us save money and figure out how to sustain services.

Ms. Jacobsen is worried that redistricted children will not feel welcomed in their new schools. Mr. Geary revealed a plan for all 5th graders to engage in a Discovery Center program in the fall. Waddell PTA and staff are already reaching

out to Robertson families. Next, we will work with Washington parents and families. In the fall it will be decided which schools each child will attend in the future.

Mr. Conyers asked Mr. Moyano for an example of a home visit. Mr. Moyano reviewed that 2 staff members, including one teacher, attend the visit. This is purely a relationship-building visit, so no notes are taken. It is important for the student to be home during the visit. Mr. Moyano revealed the model for these visits came from Sacramento, CA, where they do two visits, the first being relational and the second more academic. He hopes to expand to a second visit in the future. Mr. Conyers wondered if there are interpreters available for these visits. Mr. Moyano noted that the second person on the visit will typically speak the language if possible.

Mr. Thames thanked Dr. Ratchford for his work in the district. He congratulated Ms. Turnquest on her new position, noting she is passionate about her work and is the right person for the district.

Mr. Pattacini thinks the administration is doing great work. He likes to see the progress the district is making in getting parents involved and is excited to see what comes next.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1. Policy Recommendation

Mr. Geary reviewed Policy 5144 - Discipline. The revisions are available for review on the website. Mr. Geary explained that the policy is being cleaned up per state statute and more state guidelines will follow. This is a first read and the policy will come back at the next meeting for a vote.

Mr. Pattacini revealed that the revisions were reviewed by council.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, enjoyed the presentation on Family & Community Partnership. He reminded the Board that he has asked several times for a presentation from Rhonda Philbert. Mr. Stringfellow recommended an online safety article as well as an article in the *New York Times* about expressing oneself with body language. He feels we need to understand what equity is about. He does not want people of color to become second class citizens again.

J. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

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.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

Adjournment 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Scappaticci
Board Secretary