

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

June 27, 2022

Lincoln/Virtual

PRESENT: Eisenthal, Kohls, Meggers, Mix, Ntem-mensah, Orsene, Ott, Pattacini, Patterson

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

ABSENT:

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.

A.3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

APPROVED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of June 13, 2022. Secretary Patterson moved and Mr. Ott seconded the motion.

9/0 – Voted in favor.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Geary presented six 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

None.

C.3. Establish an increase in appropriation for the State of Connecticut Public Educational and Governmental Programming and Education Technology Investment Account (PEGPETIA) Grant Program in the amount of \$10,788.63 for a final grant award in the amount of \$40,462 for the FY 21-23

C.4. Permission to apply for the Manchester Head Start Services Grant for the FY 22/23 in the amount of \$145,127

C.5. Permission to apply for the Manchester Head Start Innovative Enhancement Grant for the FY 22/23 in the amount of \$66,098

C.6. Permission to apply for the Enfield Head Start Innovative Enhancement Grant for the FY 22/23 in the amount of \$104,917

The Chairman called for a motion.

Secretary Patterson moved and Mr. Eisenthal seconded the recommendation to adopt the Consent Calendar as outlined in this evening's agenda.

9/0 - Voted in favor.

D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

None.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, talked about a Juvenile Justice Conference in Glastonbury held last week. He also suggested several news articles, magazines, books

and TV shows he found interesting about mental health, social justice, religions and history.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

F.1. Close of School Update

Mr. Geary presented a slide show that outlined the top three things each school was proud of accomplishing this year. The entire presentation can be found on the website, but some highlights included jumps in test scores, increase in family participation and excitement over after school activities resuming.

Mr. Geary also mentioned that Mr. David Stetson recently retired after 30 years in our Guidance office. He thanked him for his many years of service.

Mr. Eisenthal asked about the Brand Strategist position and what that role will accomplish. Mr. Geary noted that the person started 2 weeks ago and will focus on how we use communication with a new generation of families. We need to revolutionize how schools communicate in 2022.

Mr. Eisenthal has a sense that the Student Engagement Specialists are doing great work. He wondered if they had yet had an impact on our chronic absenteeism numbers. Mr. Geary noted that due to COVID we have not yet seen a benefit in numbers, however they are doing a ton of outreach and work and we have a good plan in place for next year.

Ms. Patterson wondered if the Student Engagement Specialists connect parents with resources. Mr. Geary confirmed they are connected to the FRC, CHR therapists and social workers and they do make referrals. He also noted that in some multi-generational households the fear around the risks of COVID are increased.

Ms. Patterson asked about the floating secretary. Mr. Geary reviewed that this individual has been cross trained in our systems so she can backup anywhere, such as a maternity leave or other absence in a school building. Otherwise she is utilized in HR.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1. Superintendent's Evaluation

Mr. Pattacini explained that the Board has been working on the Superintendent's evaluation for the last 6-8 weeks. The evaluation starts with the Superintendent's own self-evaluation. The Board's letter to the Superintendent can be found here.

Secretary Patterson moved to accept the written evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools for the 2021-22 school year. Mr. Ntem-Mensah seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Ott noted that he first met Mr. Geary in 2013, when he was the MHS Principal. He feels he has done an excellent job thus far and outlined the objectives moving forward. He looks forward to working with Mr. Geary.

Mr. Eisenthal has spent the last year watching Mr. Geary and the district, first paying attention when he decided to run for the Board. He has been impressed with the leadership, both educationally and financially. He thanked Mr. Geary for his work.

Mr. Ntem-Mensah also expressed his pleasure at the work of Mr. Geary and told him to continue the good work.

Last, Mr. Pattacini added his personal thanks. He could not think of a person who works hard for Manchester Students and he looks forward to continuing the work.

The vote was called:

9/0- Voted in favor.

H.2. Superintendent's Contract

Mr. Pattacini explained that we can only hire a Superintendent under contract for a 3 year duration.

Secretary Patterson moved to authorize the Board Chair to enter into a contract for July 1, 2022- June 30, 2025 with the Superintendent of schools. Mr. Eisenthal seconded the motion.

9/0 - Voted in favor.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, gave his approval to the Consent Calendar. He enjoyed the presentation by Mr. Geary. Mr. Stringfellow suggested several books and articles on mindfulness, metaverse, Watergate, Title IX, Covid long haul, monkeypox, and opiate use. He thinks we have a good school system and wishes Mr. Geary the best of luck.

J. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Monday, July 25, 2022 - Spring Data Update

Monday, August 29, 2022 - Opening of School Update

Monday, September 12, 2022 - Opening of School Update

L. Adjournment

Mr. Pattacini called for a motion to adjourn.

Secretary Patterson moved and Mr. Ott seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

9/0 - Voted in favor.

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Adjournment 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Patterson
Board Secretary