

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**Special Meeting****August 3, 2017****Central Administration Board Room A**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Director of Finance & Management Clancy, Facilities Director Staye, Bowers PTA President Amy Newman and Bowers PTA Member Jessica Mendelsohn

ABSENT: Leon, Scappaticci, Stefanovicz

A. OPENING:

A.1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order

Chairperson Pattacini called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Mr. Pattacini.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

C. NEW BUSINESS:

C.1 Bowers School Playground Grant

Mrs. Clancy explained that the purpose of the meeting was to request approval from the Board of Education for authorization for Mr. Geary, the Superintendent of Schools, to sign a Letter of Agreement in acceptance of a Grant awarded to Bowers PTA for the purpose of expanding the Bowers Playground/Playscape. Mrs. Clancy explained that the grant is in the amount of \$20,000 (of which \$7,000 is a discount from one of the preferred playground contractors). She also explained that the PTA is responsible for any additional costs associated with the purchase/installation of the playground/playscape. The grant requires that the organization must spend at least \$24,000, up to a maximum of \$50,000 on the playground/playscape. Mrs. Clancy explained that the PTA has raised money through fundraising and will continue those efforts. She stated that Mrs. Ruggiero has attended meetings and is very supportive of this project. She also stated that Mr. Staye has attended meetings and has been involved in the project. She then asked Mrs. Newman and Mrs. Mendelsohn to share additional information.

Mrs. Newman explained the background and need for the playground. She also discussed fundraising that has taken place and stated that they raised \$4,000

in the first year. She also shared a fundraising video that was created by a Bowers Music Teacher. She explained that Jessica Mendelsohn located the grant and was instrumental in the application process.

Mrs. Mendelsohn explained that Bowers was one of five top applicants and ultimately was awarded the grant. She further explained that the committee liked one of the key requirements of the grant which is a community volunteer commitment. The grant is through KaBOOM/Let's Play/Dr Pepper Snapple Group. They award grants to schools. In addition to the \$24,000 minimum cost requirement, the PTA will need to raise approximately \$10,000 for equipment shipping and resurfacing costs. She said that the grant requires regular check-ins/progress reports as well as the submission of a press release. She also stated that the deadline for completion of the playground build is June 26, 2018. She explained that Mr. Staye suggested that the target build date should be over spring break in order to reach the deadline.

Mrs. Newman described additional fundraising opportunities and stated that there was a lemonade stand in front of Bowers that evening and again on September 9th. They plan to schedule a Color Run around Bowers Playground, a Fall Festival in September, and the sale of bricks around the new Bowers garden. They are very excited for these fundraising opportunities.

Mrs. Mendelsohn described the location of the playground and stated that it would be at the bottom of the hill near the swings. She said that currently 3rd, 4th and 5th grades do not utilize the existing playground and that this would be accessible for them. She further explained that the grant lists four preferred vendors and that one of the vendors will provide a plan and photos next week. The PTA will utilize those photos in requesting donations from community businesses. She also said that there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony once the project is complete.

Mrs. Newman said that the playground/playscape committee has a great team of individuals committed to this project.

Mr. Thames asked Mrs. Newman to explain the grant cost structure. Mrs. Newman explained the grant award of \$20,000 and the minimum expenditure requirement which ranges from \$24,000-\$50,000. She further explained the additional costs for resurfacing.

Mrs. Jacobsen asked if the new playground/playscape structure fits in with the current structure. She also asked if the ongoing maintenance would be an issue. Mr. Staye responded that there would not be an ongoing maintenance issue.

Mr. Conyers thanked Mrs. Newman and Mrs. Mendelsohn for their work. He asked if future Bowers building renovations would be an issue for the playground/playscape. Mr. Staye responded that this is an unknown at this point.

Mr. Conyers also asked about the current condition of the playground. Mr. Staye responded that it continues to be inspected and maintained on a regular basis.

Mr. Pattacini commended and thanked Mrs. Newman, Mrs. Mendelsohn and the committee for their work. He is glad that KaBOOM offers these grant programs and is excited for the project. He also said that the Board would like to do whatever they can to help and is looking forward to its success.

Mrs. Mendelsohn shared that the committee has set up a GoFundMe.com page as well as a Facebook page if anyone is interested. The committee is very active in sharing out project information.

Mr. Pattacini asked that the committee provide updates to Board members when they hold events.

Mrs. Newman agreed and also said that she would be happy to provide copies of the progress reports to the Board.

Mrs. Jacobsen asked if the playground/playscape would be accessible to all children including those with mobility limitations? Mrs. Newman responded that this would be their goal as they continue to expand the equipment.

Mrs. Mendelsohn said that the committee would like to have lemonade stands set up at future events. The possibility of the Manchester Road Race and Imagine Main Street are being considered.

Mr. Conyers suggested the possibility of a lemonade stand at Cruise on Main Street.

Mr. Pattacini called for a motion.

Mr. Thames moved that the Manchester Board of Education authorize Matthew Geary, Superintendent of Schools, to sign A Letter of Agreement in acceptance of a Grant awarded to Bowers PTA for the purpose of expanding the Bowers Playground/Playscape. Mr. Caldwell seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

E. ADJOURNMENT:

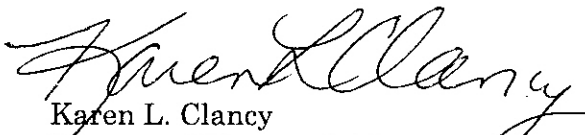
Mr. Pattacini called for a motion to adjourn.

**Mrs. Jacobsen moved and Mr. Thames seconded the motion
to adjourn the meeting.**

Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Karen L. Clancy
Director of Finance & Management