

# MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Regular Meeting

August 29, 2016

Lincoln

**PRESENT:** Hagenow, Leon, Pattacini, Scappaticci, Stafford, Stefanovicz, Thames

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Geary, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Radikas, Director of Finance & Management Clancy

**ABSENT:** Jacobsen

### A. OPENING

#### A.1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order

**Chairperson Pattacini** called the meeting to order at 7:01 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

**ADOPTED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of July 11, 2016. Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Leon seconded the motion.**

**6/0/1 – Voted in favor.**

**Chairperson Pattacini** introduced and welcomed Karen Clancy. Mr. Geary explained Ms. Clancy is the Director of Finance & Management.

### B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### B.1. Policy Committee

**Ms. Hagenow** reviewed the last meeting was held on July 11th with Ms. Pazda, Mr. Thames, Ms. Hagenow, Mr. Geary and Imnaan Kahn present. The Committee reviewed the proposed revisions to the Community Relations Policy and suggested that the school liaisons visit schools while school is in session when possible rather than it being a requirement. Additionally, the Committee

requested that the Superintendent consult legal counsel about recording subcommittee meetings and adjust the policy accordingly.

The School Wellness Policy was reviewed and the Committee recommended the Superintendent clarify that 9-5-2-1-0 represents 9 hours of sleep, 5 fruits and vegetables, 2 hours or less screen time, 1 hour of physical activity, and 0 sugary drinks per day. They also recommended that the policy be revised to indicate the actual amount of time elementary students attend physical education classes.

The Committee reviewed the Religious Observances and School Prayer policy and have asked the Superintendent to survey families about which holidays they celebrate. A survey will be sent home in the fall.

The list of policies that will be reviewed during the 2016-2017 school year was shared with the Committee.

### **C. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Mr. Geary** presented eight 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 the following accounts for the end of year closeout: Employee Benefits (\$314,376.38), Professional Fees (\$147,415.72), Supplies (\$827,699.09), and Other (\$17,136.93) to Salaries (\$901,117.75), Contracted Services (\$299,068.21), Other Purchased Services (\$90,856.02) and Property/Equipment (\$15,586.14) accounts for a total transfer of \$1,306,628.12.
- Transfer from MHS Administration/Postage account to MHS Administration/Dues/Fees account in the amount of \$174.
- Transfer from MHS SAA Contracted Services account to MHS SAA General Supplies/Materials account in the amount of \$2,200.

- Transfer from Performance Evaluation Talent Development Professional Development account (\$4,000) and Performance Evaluation Talent Development Contracted Kelly Subs account (\$4,500) to Performance Evaluation Talent Development Printing/Advertising account for a total transfer of \$8,500.
- Transfer from world Languages Travel & Lodging account (\$1,000) and World Languages Contracted Kelly Subs account (\$1,000) to Language Arts Instructional Supplies & Materials account for a total transfer of \$2,000.
- Transfer from School Administration General Supplies account to School Administration Contracted Services account in the amount of \$1,200.

**C.3. Establish an appropriation for FY 16/18 for the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, Inc. grant in the amount of \$186,900**

**C.4. Establish an appropriation for FY 16/17 in the amount of \$627,514 for the Connecticut State Department of Education Grant for Manchester Adult Education**

**C.5. Establish an appropriation for FY 16-18 for the preliminary grant award under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) 611 grant in the amount of \$1,674,502**

**C.6. Establish an appropriation for FY 16-18 for the preliminary grant award under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) 619 grant in the amount of \$64,303**

**C.7. Establish an appropriation for FY 16-17 an appropriation for the Manchester Head Start, State Department of Education Link Grant in the amount of \$27,984**

**C.8. Establish an increase in appropriation for FY 15/17 anticipated revenue Head Start State Day Care Program by \$80,000, bringing the total appropriation to \$770,000**

**C.9. Create for FY 16/17 Manchester Head Start, State Department of Education Services Grant appropriation in the amount of \$98,523**

**C.10. Create for FY 16/17 Enfield Head Start State Department of Education Enhancement Grant appropriation in the amount of \$89,751**

**C.11. Create for FY 16/17 Enfield Head Start State Department of Education Services Grant appropriation in the amount of \$2,804**

**C.12. Create for FY 16/17 Enfield Head Start, State Department of Education Link Grant appropriation in the amount of \$33,850**

**C.13. Establish an appropriation for FY 16/17 for the Manchester Education Association (MEA), for Tom Nicholas, MEA President, in accordance with Article XXIII of the contract between the Board of Education and the Manchester Education Association (MEA), 0.5 release time for the 16/17 school year. The amount of his substitute's salary and Medicare expense of \$30,086 will be reimbursed by MEA**

**C.14. Permission to apply for the FY 16/17 Parent Trust Fund Grant for Parent Leadership Training in the amount of \$27,495**

**C.15. Establish an appropriation for FY 16/17 for the Preschool Development Grant in the amount of \$237,049**

**C.16. Establish an appropriation for FY 16/17 for the Community Use of Schools account and made available to cover repair and maintenance costs to Bailey Auditorium in the amount of \$15,800.21**

**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.**

**DISCUSSION:**

**Mr. Pattacini** asked the administration to explain item C.3. Mr. Geary explained this Nellie Mae Education Foundation grant is for Central Office redesign to support student-centered learning at a district level. Mr. Pattacini thanked the administration for continuing to find alternative funding sources.

**7/0 - Voted in favor.**

**D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

None.

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, noted the 135th anniversary of Labor Day is next Monday. He is a proud member of the American Postal Worker's Union and his father was in the Army. He wants to be sure this holiday is studied as part of the social studies curriculum, noting we all contribute to America. Regarding the centennial of World War I, Mr. Stringfellow informed us that Kansas is trying to build a memorial. Mr. Stringfellow also suggested several magazine articles, including one about the pledge of allegiance in *American History* magazine.

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

**F.1. Opening of School**

**Mr. Geary's** presentation is available on the website. He listed the new administration and noted they will be present at the first September meeting. Mr. Geary explained that the duties of Assistant Superintendent Radikas were reconfigured and she will be in charge of Pupil Personnel along with Interim Director Sarah Burke. Karen Clancy is the new Director of Finance & Management; Pari Ghetia is the STEAM Director; two new SPED supervisors are

Brienne Whidden and Angela Manhertz; the Assistant Principal of Bowers is now Anthony Brooks. There have also been two deans and an assistant principal hired for Illing as well as an assistant principal for Bentley. Mr. Geary noted there are still a few vacancies, including a social worker at Verplanck, but a final interview is scheduled later this week and he hopes to fill the other vacancies quickly as well.

Mr. Geary reviewed the school based professional development related to the school improvement plan that went on today. Tuesday offers staff the choice of four workshops. On Wednesday it is convocation for the district.

**Ms. Clancy** reviewed the work going on at Cheney-Bennet with the parking lots and cafeteria expansion. Currently the children have no access to the courtyard and outdoor physical education classes will take place at Charter Oak Park this year. Cheney has been gutted and construction is on target.

At MHS Ms. Clancy reviewed the turf field is 100% complete and the track will be installed within the next week. There is a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for September 23rd. She invited the Board members to attend.

The locker rooms at MHS are being renovated. The girl's locker rooms should be done in about a month and the boys locker rooms should be completed in October. Oil tank replacement at MHS is complete.

Unfortunately, scheduled renovations to the IOH pool at MHS came in at twice the budgeted amount so the project will be redesigned and rebid.

At MHS 27 classroom floors were replaced and lighting was updated. The AC in the library and main office was also replaced.

At Illing the Family & Consumer Science area had ten kitchens updated.

**Mr. Leon** wondered if the lighting was replaced with LED lights. Mr. Staye confirmed the new lighting is LED.

**Mr. Pattacini** asked about student safety at Bennet with the cafeteria expansion. Mr. Geary explained the work is being done from the outside and there are strict security guidelines enforced with the construction workers. No children are allowed in the courtyard and once the exterior work is complete the interior work will be done when school is not in session to convert the current windows in the cafe into doorways leading to the expanded area of the cafe.

**Ms. Stefanowicz** wondered with the locker rooms at MHS not being ready yet, would children not have to change for gym. Mr. Geary noted there are temporary spaces set up for PE classes, with the pool and sports locker rooms, and children are still expected to change.

**Mr. Geary** continued his presentation, reviewing the professional development choices on Tuesday being led by presenters from within the district. He reviewed the letter he sent to families and outlined the four points he made: Every student does not learn the same way; Students do not learn at the same speed; some students lack social and academic behaviors needed to succeed; and some students are behind in fundamental skills. Mr. Geary also reviewed the district improvement plan and climate scores.

**Mr. Leon** wondered how we get the message about how staff should talk to and welcome children out to bus drivers, custodians, cafeteria staff and others who won't be viewing the presentation. Mr. Geary noted they are working on that.

**Mr. Pattacini** asked about the four points above. Mr. Geary notes we used to teach kids as a whole group and that is not engaging. There is a shift towards the workshop model with a ten minute whole group lesson and then mini lessons. He noted we are also trying different experimental furniture in some classrooms. He also noted that excluding children from classrooms does not work.

Mr. Pattacini wondered what parents can do. Mr. Geary welcomes parents to social gatherings, but noted that parents need to know how well their child is

doing. They need to know how they can support learning and development and what goals are for the end of the year. Parents need to know how to take action and support their children's growth. Mr. Geary spoke about APTT (Academic Parent Teacher Teams) being rolled out at Bowers, Verplanck and Washington. It was also noted that home visits are being conducted for Kindergarten families as Robertson.

**Ms. Stefanowicz** asked about restorative practice. She wondered if there was any data on how well it is working. Mr. Geary noted that Oakland was using this practice and has had fewer suspensions. It is unknown yet if classroom communities are strengthened and there is nothing concrete about improvement of achievement scores. The hope is that children will see less physical aggression.

Ms. Stefanowicz likes the continued parent updates and likes to see student's achievement in relation to other students. As for the back to school BBQs, she wondered if non-pork options were made available. It was confirmed there are non-meat options available.

**Ms. Hagenow** wondered how many classrooms are experimenting with alternative seating. Mr. Geary noted this is a pilot happening in about 20 classrooms and they are working on how to expand that into other classrooms in the district.

#### **G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

#### **H. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **H.1. Policy Revisions**

**Mr. Pattacini** reviewed that there are two policy revisions being presented for a first read this evening.

- **Policy 1121 - Communication with Public & Media**



**Mr. Geary** outlined two minor changes in this policy. The first is to add “when possible” for school liaison visits. As for streaming a committee meeting on Facebook, which was done recently by a member of the public, Shipman & Goodwin said that can be done and the public has a right to tape record a meeting without permission as long as they are inconspicuous.

- **Policy 5141.4 - Student Wellness Policy**

**Mr. Geary** spelled out the meaning behind 9-5-2-1-0 - 9 hours of sleep, 5 fruits and vegetables, 2 hours or less screen time, 1 hour of physical activity and 0 sugary drinks per day. Also, it was clarified PE classes offer 40 minutes of physical exercise every three days.

**Mr. Pattacini** noted these policies will come back at the next meeting for adoption.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, supports the Consent Calendar, and feels adult education is important. All students should count. He offered congratulations to the new Director of Finance & Management. Mr. Stringfellow liked Mr. Geary’s presentation and feels we should look at student’s assets and not always the negatives. Mr. Stringfellow recommended some articles, including one on SATs from the *Boston Globe*. He suggested a book about overcoming stereotypes of black students. Mr. Stringfellow spoke about how sometimes minority groups use derogatory terms affectionately with one another. He is glad Manchester is being progressive and thinks it is a good town to live in.

**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.**

**7/0 - Voted in favor.**

**Adjournment 8:03 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Scappaticci  
Board Secretary