

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting September 22, 2014 Lincoln Center

PRESENT: Crockett, Cruz, Hagenow, Leon, Pazda, Scappaticci, Stafford, Thames

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Geary, Assistant to the Superintendent for Finance & Management Brooks, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services Matfess, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Radikas

ABSENT: Pattacini

A. OPENING

A.1.& 2. Meeting Called to Order

Acting Chairperson Scappaticci reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., noting the meeting had previously been called to order in executive session. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mr. Scappaticci.

A.3. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

ADOPTED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of September 8, 2014. Acting Secretary Cruz moved and Mr. Leon seconded the motion.

6/0/1 – Voted in favor (Cruz abstained, Thames not yet present).

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Geary presented five items on the Consent Calendar for Board approval.

B.1. Personnel Action

Details had already been provided to the Board members with their agenda.

B.2. The Manchester Federation of Paraeducators, Local #3175, AFT, AFL-CIO

B.3. Accept the appropriation in the amount of \$4,608 for FY 14/15 from grant provided through the Manchester Community College, College Career Pathways program

B.4. Establish an appropriation for FY 14/15 in the amount of \$16,026 to be placed in the Community Use of Schools account and made available to cover repair and maintenance costs to Bailey Auditorium

B.5. Permission to apply for Title III, Part A, Subpart 1 – English Language Acquisition and Language Enhancement Grant for FY 14/15 in the amount of \$57,731 to support a TESOL teacher to co-teach with other teachers and tutors

The Acting Chairman called for a motion.

Acting Secretary Cruz moved and Mr. Crockett seconded the recommendation to approve the Consent Calendar #1, 3, 4, and 5 and request a friendly amendment to #2 to include dates FY 2013-2014 thru 2016-2017.

7/0 - Voted in favor with the proposed amendment.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, told the board he is not going away. In yesterday's *New York Times* there was a story about education he found interesting. He does not think the Common Core is going away. An article in the *Reminder* about hands-on learning was suggested. Mr. Stringfellow recommended an article in the August *Entrepreneur* magazine about passion, a book entitled *Family Pride*, an illustrated book *Rough Riders*, as well as an article in this week's *TIME* regarding football and concussions.

D. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

D.1. Curriculum & Instruction update on Mathematics & Science

Mr. Geary reviewed that at the last meeting we saw an overview of the Curriculum and Instruction work by Dr. Radikas. This evening STEAM Director, Dr. Santosha Oliver, would talk about Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Mathematics. Dr. Oliver's full presentation can be seen on the website. The four areas of focus were on curriculum, instruction, professional learning and student, family & community engagement.

Ms. Pazda was pleased with all the work and excited to see the curriculum maps, which is a road map for teachers. Last week Ms. Pazda read an article about

women lagging behind in STEM careers and she hopes both men and women thrive and the women catch up. She thinks adding art to the STEM program is wonderful.

Mr. Scappaticci wondered where the Envision pilot was taking place. Dr. Oliver stated this was a K-6 pilot, so all elementary schools plus Bennet would be taking part across all grade levels. Mr. Scappaticci wondered how we would assess the program. Dr. Oliver explained that data will be compared between participating and non-participating classrooms in the same building.

Mr. Geary added that there was a significant amount of work done by teachers this summer on curriculum and that work will continue.

D.2. English Language Learning Program Update

Mr. Geary noted that multiple departments do not fall under the direction of a director, including music, Gifted, Physical Education and ELL. This evening Dr. Radikas spoke about the English Learners program, now being referred to as EL instead of ELL. The full presentation is available online.

Dr. Radikas reviewed the current program in the district. The four areas she focused on were programs, resources, outcomes, and professional development.

Data from 2010-2014 was presented. The numbers of EL students varies year to year. Presently we have both pull out and push in models to support students. Services will be coordinated based on student need. Students in EL can span from #1 to #4, with 4 being mastery and only requiring monitoring. An outside consultant reviewed our EL program from CREC.

Dr. Radikas reviewed we have 17 ELL tutors, 2 bilingual tutors, 3.6 teacher, and 1 coordinator in the district. She reminded the Board that we previously tried to move two of the teaching positions into the Board budget last year, but ultimately moved them back into the Alliance Grant budget. However, that funding will not always be there so we need to think hard about the resources. Additional funding is found in grants and Title III funding.

Mr. Leon liked that the information was not sugar coated, but that there is a plan in place. He pointed out that the grant money is not a huge amount, but is helpful. He also appreciated that we are going after more grant money than in the past.

Ms. Pazda felt this was a comprehensive analysis for ELs and a plan for success. She wondered what the difference is between an ELL tutor and a bilingual tutor. Dr. Radikas explained that not all ELL tutors speak a second language, but bilingual tutors do. Dr. Radikas noted it is hard to find ELL teachers and we need to work on

this. Ms. Pazda wondered if any core subjects are taught in another language. They are not.

Mr. Scappaticci thanked Dr. Radikas for the update and Ms. Lapuk, the Coordinator of ELL, for her hard work.

D.3. Update on Building Projects

Mr. Geary reviewed the plan for getting the information out about the proposed referendum through multiple school visits, visits to PTA meetings and faculty meetings, and the plan to host open forums. The dates and times will be published in the newspaper in a day or two.

E. NEW BUSINESS

None.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

G. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

H.1. Buildings & Sites Committee

Mr. Crockett reviewed the last meeting was held on September 8th with Mr. Leon, Mr. Scappaticci, Mr. Stafford, Mr. Geary, Mrs. Brooks, and himself in attendance. The summer renovation at Illing was reviewed. The referendum sessions and facilities staffing was discussed. The next meeting will be held October 2nd at Central Office.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, enjoyed the STEAM presentation by Dr. Oliver. He feels it is vital to have representatives of color in science and arts come speak as role models. In relation to ELL, he feels it is important to get siblings and parents involved. Previously he was confused about the terms ESL, ELL and bilingual. He is glad we make everyone feel welcome. Mr. Stringfellow suggested an article on poverty in the fall *YES* magazine. He spoke about the stigma of free lunch and diversity. He again asked for a presentation by Ms. Philbert on equity and Dr. Eastlake on the Gifted program.

J. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Scappaticci called for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Leon moved and Ms. Cruz seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

Adjournment 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Cruz
Acting Board Secretary