

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting September 26, 2016 Lincoln

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

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

ABSENT: Stafford

A. OPENING

A.1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order

Chairperson Pattacini called the meeting to order 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 September 12, 2016. Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Thames seconded the motion.

8/0 – Voted in favor.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

B.1. Policy Committee

Ms. Hagenow reviewed the last meeting was held September 12, 2016 with herself, Ms. Jacobsen, Mr. Stafford, Mr. Thames and Mr. Geary in attendance. Mr. Geary had notified the Committee that he has invited First Choice Health Centers to attend the October 24th meeting to discuss a potential school-based

health center at Illing. At that time the Committee will also discuss revisions to the Wellness Policy.

Mr. Geary had reviewed the proposed revisions to Personnel Policy #4000. Mr. Geary will consult with legal counsel regarding some questions on this policy. He also reviewed proposed changes to the Social Media Policy. Proposed policy revisions are attached.

Mr. Geary requested the Board allow an increase in the credit limit from \$5,000 to \$20,000, which would allow for increased savings opportunities and requires a revision of Board Policy #3170.

Mr. Geary will draft language to be added to the Board of Education Policy on Closing a School that outlines steps to be taken to integrate students and families into their new schools. The language will be shared at the October 24th meeting.

Last, Board members had questions on how tuition for out of district students is determined. Mr. Geary will draft clarifying language that combines the Tuition Policy with the section on tuition in the School Enrollment Policy and share that language with the Committee on October 24th. _____

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Geary presented four 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 MHS World Languages Instructional Supplies & Materials account to MHS Guidance Field Trips account in the amount of \$414
- Transfer from Systemwide Special Education Library Books to Systemwide Special Education Rentals in the amount of \$5,000

C.3. Establish an appropriation for FY 16/17 for the Manchester Community College Career College Pathways Program in the amount of \$7,625

C.4. Increase the appropriation for the Manchester Regional Academy (MRA) for FY16/17 to \$300,000, bringing the total appropriation to \$1,100,000

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

Ms. Shania Stanton shared that the ribbon cutting and first game on the new turf was held on September 23rd. Manchester won the game against Enfield.

Ms. Nabila Hoor Un Ein spoke about Heartchase, being held on October 21st, to raise funds to fight heart disease. Last year about \$1,300 was raised and we hope to double that this year.

Ms. Stanton spoke about the Homecoming Parade. She reminded us of the Dr. Seuss theme and noted the freshman will focus on the Grinch. The Multicultural Club will have an All the Ways You Will Grow theme. The Homecoming Dance will be on October 22nd. There are tee shirts for sale, which Shania will bring to the next meeting to show off. The last item discussed was the Google Summit, which is being held September 30 through October 2nd at MHS.

Mr. Thames wondered about the time of the Homecoming Parade. Shania was not sure so she will find out that information.

Mr. Pattacini is looking forward to Homecoming.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Scott Aiken, 92 Laurel Street, was honored to hear that Washington Elementary is hosting a Syrian refugee family and two of their children are attending school there. He was proud of how welcoming the Washington community has been. He wondered where Governor Malloy is to help provide support now though. Mr. Aiken feels this has been dumped on the classroom teachers. The children speak no English and Mr. Aiken is upset that we do not have an ELL teacher that speaks Arabic. He notes that Google translate app is being used in the class to help with communication. He is sure other refugee families in the state are having the same problem. Mr. Aiken expects to hear a plan from the Board on how we plan to help these families. If he does not hear reasonable actions being taken by next month he plans to go to the press with his concerns.

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, spoke about 9/11. He recalled, as a US Postal worker, the Anthrax scare that happened back then as well, along with the Oklahoma and Federal Building bombings. Mr. Stringfellow recommended the book series "Who Is ____". He liked an article in *USA Today* about back to school time. There was an article on minority teachers in a paper from Waterbury he found interesting as well. Regarding special education, there was an article on ADHD in *Attitude* magazine. Mr. Stringfellow recommended the book *Thinking Differently*. He spoke about an African American History museum that just opened.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

F.1. Update on Cheney/Bennet and Waddell projects

Mr. Geary introduced Randall Luther from Tai Soo Kim Partners, who presented a Powerpoint detailing the work to be done at Waddell and the work currently happening at the Cheney Bennet site. Mr. Luther reviewed that the Waddell plan has been discussed with parents, administrators, and the Building Committee. The plan was presented to the Planning & Zoning Department last week and was well received. Mr. Luther also informed the Board that Tai Soo Kim has changed the name of their firm and will now be known as TSKP Studio.

Ms. Stefanovicz thought the presentation was amazing and she loves the plans for Waddell. She was concerned that the only elevator is located far from the entrance. Mr. Luther reviewed that the elevator is located near the classrooms, which they felt was an appropriate location.

Ms. Hagenow asked for clarification of the location of the metal panels in front of the windows. Mr. Luther explained the panels are about three feet from the window to allow for access. There are also spots where there are no panels as well. The panels will help block some of the sun, while allowing in the light. Ms. Hagenow wondered if the metal is treated. Mr. Luther noted the panels are aluminium and will not rust. They have a 20 year warrantee and after that point the aluminium may dull some. Last, Ms. Hagenow wondered if the slide can be used by adults. It can.

Mr. Leon had a concern about the plantings in the courtyard, noting in the past some project did not consider the need for access to water for plantings. Mr. Luther reassured Mr. Leon that they have planned for water access.

Mr. Leon asked that if there are funds left in the contingency account can they be moved to the Verplanck project. Mr. Luther assured him that they can be moved to Verplanck, or eventually returned to the town unused if they are not needed. Mr. Luther is optimistic that Verplanck will have plenty of funds as the Waddell projects seems to have an excess so far.

Mr. Pattacini is very excited about the Waddell plan. He feels it is welcoming and especially liked the nooks in the hallways and the space for the Family Resource Center. He feels it is a forward looking design with an eye towards community use. He wondered if the project is on budget and on schedule. Mr. Luther stated Waddell is doing great on the budget projections so far and is on schedule. The plan has to go to the state for approval by the end of the year. Downes Construction hopes to break ground in late spring.

Mr. Pattacini wondered if value engineering has been done. Mr. Luther reviewed the project has been under budget. Some minor changes have been made, including changes to stone and the antenna system. Mr. Luther feels there have

been no changes that impact the educational spaces. Mr. Pattacini thanked the Building Committee for supporting the project.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1. Policy Revision

Mr. Geary reviewed the changes to Policy 4025 - Use of Social Networking/Media. He noted we are now using open networks and social media such as Twitter and Facebook. The changes were discussed and the policy will come back at the next meeting for approval.

H.2. Policy Revision

Mr. Geary noted the current credit limit on the Board credit card is \$5,000. With the use of online retailers such as Amazon to save money and the need to book travel for grant funded activities, it is important to raise that credit limit to accommodate our needs. Mr. Geary is requesting the limit be raised to \$20,000 with revisions to Policy 3170 - Board of Education Issued Credit Card. He noted that area towns have limits from \$3,000 to \$50,000 and some towns have multiple cards, while some have one. This policy revision will come back at the next meeting for approval.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, supports the Consent Calendar, especially the MCC Career Pathways and MRA programs. He feels the principal is doing a great job. Mr. Stringfellow thought Mr. Luther gave a good presentation on the building projects and that it is money well spent. He feels students deserve a safe environment where they can grow and learn without distractions. Mr. Stringfellow recommended articles in the *Hartford Courant* magazine, the *Boston Globe* and *USA Today* along with *Mental Floss* magazine. He also spoke about the app Snapchat

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 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Scappaticci
Board Secretary