

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

October 7, 2019

Bowers Elementary School

PRESENT: Conyers, Hagenow, Heinrich, Hughes, Meggers, Pattacini, Thames

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Geary, Deputy Superintendent Curriculum & Special Services Radikas

ABSENT: Scappaticci, Stefanovicz

A. OPENING

A.1/2. Meeting Called to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Thames 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. Thames.

A.3. Secretary's Welcome

Mr. Pattacini stated that as Secretary of the Board of Education, he wished to extend a warm welcome to everyone present and to the television viewers. He, along with the Board and the Superintendent, were pleased to be joined in celebrating the achievement, reviewing information, and discussing areas for growth, along with making policy decisions related to the effective operation of the Manchester Public Schools. Mr. Pattacini explained that this is a regular meeting of the Board and all items that will be discussed or voted on this evening have been posted, as required by state law.

Mr. Pattacini explained that as the Manchester Board of Education, they are here to set goals, listen to reports of the Superintendent, approve budgets, contracts, and personnel appointments, and to create policy for the district. They are not here to make management decisions or solve the problems of individuals. Members of the public with individual concerns may contact the Superintendent directly. It was explained that meetings of the Board are open to the public, but

are not meetings with individual members of the public. Therefore, comments from the audience will be confined to the time designated for the public to address the Board.

Last, Mr. Pattacini noted he is proud of this school system and appreciates the public for their interest in this evening's meeting and the Manchester Public Schools.

A.4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

APPROVED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of September 23, 2019. Secretary Pattacini moved and Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

7/0 – Voted in favor.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

B.1. Personnel & Finance Committee

Mr. Hughes reported the last meeting was held September 23 with the following in attendance: Mr. Pattacini, Ms. Hagenow, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Geary, Ms. Clancy, and Intern, Tayarisha Batchelor.

Ms. Clancy reviewed the 2018-19 End of Year Financial Report and Budget Transfers. The end of year transfers are approved by the Board of Education. This process offsets any negative budget lines so that they are adjusted to a zero balance.

Ms. Clancy provided the committee with an update on the status of the current budget. Overall, the budget is adequately funded at this time. Ms. Clancy reviewed with the committee the budget lines that have deficit projections. Adjustments and transfers will be made to cover areas of concern. An object code has been created entitled Grounds Beautification. This account will track expenditures associated with supplies and materials for our school grounds to

ensure that we are properly funded to maintain the landscaping of our newly renovated buildings.

Ms. Clancy distributed a draft copy of the 2020-2021 Budget Development Calendar and reviewed the information with the committee. A pre-budget workshop has been scheduled in November and will provide board members with a current services budget, which takes existing staff and services and rolls them forward, considering contractual obligations, to the next fiscal year. Mr. Pattacini had suggested the administration meet with new Board members to provide them with an overview of the budget process prior to the official start to budget season.

Ms. Clancy updated the committee with information relative to the transportation contract, the level of service that DATTCO provides, and the impact of the change of bell times on our transportation system. She reminded the committee of the work that has occurred over the previous 9 months in an effort to improve the timely arrival of buses. The work is ongoing and will be shared with the Board accordingly.

The next meeting will be held December 9, 2019.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Geary presented three 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. Establish an appropriation for FY 19/20 for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Student Organization Grant (CTSO) in the amount of \$10,000

C.3. Establish an appropriation for FY 19/20 for the Adult Education Program Improvement Projects in the amount of \$40,000

The Chairman called for a motion.

Secretary Pattacini moved and Ms. Hagenow seconded the recommendation to adopt the Consent Calendar as outlined in this evening's agenda.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Geary reviewed the Perkins Grant is a one time grant for the creation of a student organization.

7/0 - Voted in favor.

D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Krista Myrie was present to report the following:

- Approximately 60 visitors visited MHS on Thursday from the Barr Foundation and other grant recipient high schools. Our students led an equity themed fish bowl after school and provided tours and visits to classes.
- Student Equity Advisory has continued to meet to make suggestions to ensure that Homecoming is an inclusive event.
- Interest in Red Hawk gear is high . . . the school store is now selling both at the store and online. Pop-up t-shirt giveaways happen in the cafeteria to tables that are completely cleaned.
- Spirit Week and Homecoming are coming up the week of October 22.
- INvolvement fair was held and there were over 700 sign ups for clubs / activities. There are several new clubs being considered this year as well .
- Flex daily intervention / enrichment has begun now that we are in the second half of the first quarter.
- Students in PAC American Experience had the chance to engage in a Community Discussion around race, use of force & healing. Guests from Manchester were invited in to work together to discuss, plan & brainstorm solutions to a fictional yet relevant scenario happening in town, and propose solutions to healing community division.
- The Marching band is going to their second competition of the season in Rockville, CT on Saturday the 12th

Mr. Thames asked about the date of Homecoming. Ms. Myrie noted it is October 25th.

Mr. Pattacini is interested about the Barr Foundation Grant work being done at the high school. Mr. Geary noted it is about making students college and career ready, providing alternative scheduling, internships and hands on work opportunities.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, was impressed with the report from the student representative and Mr. Geary regarding the Barr Foundation. Students need the right guidance, whether they are going to college or not. Mr. Stringfellow noted the MHS academies are doing well, as reported to him by the principal in a private meeting. Mr. Stringfellow recommended a movie currently showing at the Parkade Cinemas - *Dora The Explorer*. He pointed out we are in Indigenous People's Month and we should learn about all explorers, including Ferdinand Magellan, Chinese explorers, and realize many different people contributed to this country and other discoveries. Mr. Stringfellow recommended a book about Connecticut inventors and noted Connecticut is an interesting state. He pointed out that UCLA is doing a study on kindness. Lastly, Mr. Stringfellow noted that he met the new State Board of Education Commissioner and hopes that he visits our district.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

F.1. Bowers School Improvement Plan

Mr. Geary introduced the principal of Bowers, Dr. Mary Lou Ruggiero-Colwell. Dr. Ruggiero, along with her vice principal, several staff members, and many students, gave a presentation that is available on the website, outlining their school improvement plan.

Mr. Pattacini thanked the staff and students for bringing to life what happens in a classroom at Bowers. It is helpful for the Board to see.

Ms. Hagenow thought the idea of teaching students to solve their problems with each other instead of just telling them they did something wrong and to not do it again was powerful. It lays the groundwork for how to handle problems as they age. Mr. Hughes also loved this peace path work.

Mr. Thames felt the presentation was interesting. It is good to have the opportunity to share ideas and passions. Mr. Thames noted that writing challenges students and is a way for them to connect with the world. He liked that the students understood it could help with stress and provide coping skills. Mr. Thames also appreciated the conflict resolution piece. One of his grandchildren attends Bowers and he noted the boy had a good start to the school year.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

G.1. Policy Recommendation

Mr. Geary noted this is the second reading of this policy, which captures current practice in the district. There were no questions.

Secretary Pattacini moved for the Board of Education to adopt Policy 5131.111(a) - Video Surveillance. Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

7/0 - Voted in favor.

H. NEW BUSINESS

None.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, enjoyed the presentation. He was impressed with the diverse crowd in the audience, and with the staff and students. Mr. Stringfellow pointed out an article in the fall edition of *Teaching Tolerance* about black minds matter. He feels history lessons need to be balanced and that prejudice is learned. He is concerned for our student's welfare. Mr. Stringfellow mentioned the crime statistics in New York City as well as the Children's Defense Fund.

J. COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Hagenow acknowledged a former MHS student from the Class of 2013, Ryan Anthony Dube, who recently had a book published, *The Bandana Boy*. She noted this book is adult themed and appropriate for high school age and older and she is proud of the writer, whom she cared for as a child when she ran a daycare.

Mr. Thames enjoyed the opportunity for an open and honest conversation about race leading to equity for students and the community. It is critically important to have these discussions as racism is more apparent now and we must not allow our children's minds to be poisoned.

K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Monday, October 21, 2019 - Update on Human Resources and Teacher Evaluation

Monday, November 4, 2019 - Buckley School Improvement

Wednesday, November 13, 2019 - Pre-Budget Workshop

Monday, November 18, 2019 - Update on Humanities and Reaffirmation of BOE Bylaws

L. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thames called for a motion to adjourn.

Secretary Pattacini moved and Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

7/0 - Voted in favor.

Adjournment 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Pattacini
Board Secretary