

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting October 24, 2016 Lincoln

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

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

ABSENT: Stefanovicz

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

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

8/0 – Voted in favor.

A.4. Recognition of Carl Stafford

Mr. Pattacini announced this is the last meeting for Mr. Stafford, who has served two separate terms on the Board. Mr. Pattacini thanked Mr. Stafford for his hard work.

Mr. Geary told Mr. Stafford he appreciated his efforts and his focus on the students.

Mr. Leon told Mr. Stafford he appreciated his dedication.

Mr. Thames thanked Mr. Stafford for his time and thoughtful and persuasive arguments and child-centered decisions. He appreciates Mr. Stafford's efforts.

Ms. Hagenow noted it has been a pleasure working with Mr. Stafford and hopes he serves again in the future.

Mr. Scappaticci knows he will see Mr. Stafford in the future, as they both work at MCC. He noted it has been great serving with him on the Board, even when they may have disagreed it led to thoughtful conversations.

Mr. Pattacini wished Mr. Stafford well and appreciated his passion about public education and doing what was right for the students.

Mr. Stafford thanked everyone for their kind words. He noted sometimes disagreements were contentious and other times great. He will miss some aspects of the job and he wishes well to his incoming replacement, Mr. Conyers.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

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 Enrichment Program Transportation Field Trips account to Enrichment Programs Dues & Fees account in the amount of \$3,350
- Transfer from Illing Family & Consumer Science Instructional Supplies and Materials account to Illing Family & Consumer Science Equipment Repair account in the amount of \$250
- Transfer from Illing Music Instructional Supplies and Materials account to Illing Music Dues and Fees account in the amount of \$110

C.3. Extended Field Trip Request - MHS Broadcast Journalism Class, Anaheim, CA, STN Convention - March 27, 2017 - April 1, 2017 - 30 students, 4 chaperones

C.4. Establish an appropriation for FY 16/17 for the Alliance District Grant in the amount of \$4,071,324

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

Shania Stanton reviewed the Homecoming activities, noting the sophomores won the parade with a phenomenal float and amazing performance. Unfortunately MHS lost the football game to Glastonbury with a score of 27-37.

Turkey Bowl will be on November 10th and admission is either \$2 or 2 cans of food to be donated to MACC Charities.

Heartchase was rescheduled to tomorrow, 10/25, on the practice field.

Thursday, 10/27, is Financial Aid night in the MHS cafe from 6:30 to 8:30.

Nabila Hoor Un Ein reminded everyone that the Community Halloween Party is being hosted by APB and FBLA this Saturday, 10/29 from 11 to 1 for elementary age children. There will be games, snacks, and activities.

Shania noted 11/2 is class ring night where parents can view options in the lobby. SAT day is November 5th.

Nabila noted the holiday craft fair to benefit the class of 2018 will be held November 12 from 10 to 3 in the MHS cafe.

Last, Shania mentioned the VEX competition at MHS at 9am.

Mr. Pattacini asked the girls for a written list of their events.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, noted this is the end of Hispanic Heritage Month and he suggested an article on stereotypes of Latin Americans along with an article in the *NY Times* on how children can learn and unlearn prejudice. On the 13th there is a documentary he suggests on the imprisonment of persons of color. Mr. Stringfellow recommended an article on white power in Appalachia. He noted it is the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Last, Mr. Stringfellow hopes people understand who they are voting for.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

F.1. Fall Data Report

Mr. Geary reviewed the district data dashboard, which is looked at three times a year. This information is available on the website.

Ms. Jacobsen was confused about the dip in grade 3 from 15/16 to 16/17. Mr. Geary explained these are different students.

Mr. Pattacini sees the trend shows we are making improvements across the board, though there are gaps in individual schools and various groups.

Mr. Geary noted that leadership gets this report three times a year. Lit Life is being utilized two days a month to work out strategies. We also have literacy coaches, reading consultants and Lit Night's to engage kids with books.

Mr. Pattacini feels we are identifying what each child needs to get to mastery. He noted that the kindergarten ESI improved except for at Robertson and he wondered if that population is underserved. Mr. Geary noted that the majority of Head Start students attend Verplanck and Washington and very few attend Robertson, so it may be that less students there had a preschool experience.

Regarding suspensions, Mr. Geary noted that we have done a good job knocking down the number of suspensions, but not as good a job in monitoring who and why. Anti-defamation league meetings are being held. We are utilizing a social and emotional learning curriculum across the district. Previously schools used two different systems to log discipline and now everyone will be using Eschool to log all discipline in the same place so it is easier to understand.

Ms. Jacobsen noted our math fluency seems better than reading. She wondered if special education students are tested at grade level or ability level. Mr. Geary noted most are tested on grade level, though some modifications are made.

Mr. Pattacini was encouraged by the focus on understanding and acting on this data and that we can see this data as a community.

F.2. SAAM Update

Mr. Geary introduced Dr. Radikas and her staff. Dr. Radikas presented a powerpoint on the summer program, which is available online. The data showed that students either maintained or increased their achievement level over the summer, avoiding the summer slide.

Ms. Hagenow wondered why some students increased their level during SAAM and then went back to their previous level in the fall. Dr. Radikas noted that if students are not reading that impacts them, however she pointed out students did not exhibit the summer slide usually evident and maintained their pre-summer levels. Ms. Hagenow wondered how many students were served in previous summers. Dr. Radikas stated that about 375 were in previous SAAM classes, however this summer we served one fewer grade.

Ms. Jacobsen was amazed with the results and loves the progress. She wondered if the 42 disenrolled students scores were included. Dr. Radikas stated they are not as some students disenrolled right away and some part-way into the program and there were too many variables to include that data. Ms. Jacobsen wondered if these SAAM students will accelerate levels during the school year quicker. Dr. Radikas noted they have kept copious notes on students and have visited schools as well.

Ms. Jacobsen wondered how many parents filled out the survey. Dr. Radikas noted about 65 parents did.

Mr. Scappaticci asked how students are recruited. Dr. Radikas noted the Fountas & Pinnell testing is done three times a year. Students who are below grade level for the winter assessment data are invited to participate in SAAM. Mr. Scappaticci was impressed that these at-risk students were able to maintain their level over the summer. He thanked the staff and Norma from Mary Cheney Library for her work with the program.

Mr. Caldwell thanked Dr. Radikas for her hard work and he is excited about the progress. He wondered if we have data to compare SAAM to non-SAAM student progress. Dr. Radikas does not have that data and points out that we do not know what non-SAAM students do over the summer. We would like to see how SAAM students due throughout the year.

Mr. Pattacini notes SAAM is a significant investment and he is encouraged by the impact it is having on student achievement. He is also excited about the partnerships within the community.

Dr. Radikas introduced the various staff from MELC, the library, and Central Office that participate in SAAM. She singled out Heather Elsinger, Improvement Support Specialist, for her hard work in organizing the program over the past several years and presented her with a small gift as a token of appreciation.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

H. NEW BUSINESS

None.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, thought Mr. Geary and Dr. Radikas gave good presentations. He likes to see the SAAM students engaged in reading and states that education can be positive. He feels we are doing the best we can. He likes the data tracking and is glad to see we are not using the term sub-groups. Mr. Stringfellow recommended an article in *Attitude* magazine regarding strategies for helping students with autism. He also pointed out the CT Science Center and the Discovery Museum are assets Connecticut should be proud of.

J. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Leon noted the National Honor Society Banquet will be held November 22nd in the MHS auditorium at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Geary introduced Jen Olsen, who is doing an internship with him.

K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pattacini called for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Stafford moved and Ms. Jacobsen seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

Adjournment 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Scappaticci
Board Secretary