

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

November 4, 2019

Buckley Elementary School - Gymnasium

PRESENT: Conyers, Hagenow, Heinrich, Hughes, Meggers, Scappaticci, Stefanovicz, Thames

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

ABSENT: Pattacini

A. OPENING

Mr. Thames called the adjournment of executive session at 6:47 p.m.

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

Chairperson Thames called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mr. Thames.

A.3. Secretary's Welcome

Acting Secretary Scappaticci stated that as Acting 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. Scappaticci 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. Scappaticci 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.

A.4. Recognition of Board of Education Members

Mr. Thames recognized two Board Members who will not be stepping down at the end of their term, making this their last meeting. Ms. Deborah Hagenow and Mr. Peter Conyers. Mr. Thames appreciated the time and dedication that Ms. Hagenow gave to the board, Manchester Public Schools and the Town of Manchester over the last ten-plus years and presented her with a token of appreciation on behalf of the board.

Mr. Thames recognized Mr. Conyers' three years of hard work and insight, appreciating that while they were on different sides of the aisle, it was very apparent that it's not necessarily one's affiliation, but rather one's dedication to the children that drives us. Mr. Thames wished Mr. Conyer's lot of luck in his future endeavours, and presented his with a token of appreciation on behalf of the board.

Mr. Thames also recognized the Board's newest member, Campfield Heinrich, who replaced Ms. Maio mid-term. Mr. Thames appreciated Mr. Heinrich for stepping in, and remarked that Mr. Heinrich is the youngest to serve on the Board of Education. Mr. Heinrich was presented with a token of appreciation.

A.5. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

APPROVED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of October 21, 2019. Acting Secretary Scappaticci moved and Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

8/0 – Voted in favor.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

B.1. Building & Sites Committee Meeting

Mr. Heinrich reported the last meeting was held October 21 with the following in attendance: Mr. Conyers, Mr. Heinrich, Mr. Geary and Ms. Clancy.

Ms. Clancy reviewed the outstanding punch list items at Waddell School. There is one major item, the installation of a radiant panel on the first floor, that will be addressed over December break. If weather impacts the work, it will be completed in April. It is anticipated that this project will be 100% complete in the spring of 2020. Mr. Conyers requested information on solar panel energy generation / costs.

Ms. Clancy distributed a copy of the outstanding punch list items at Verplanck School. There are approximately 4 pages of open items that are minor in nature. TSKP and Downes Construction are working to complete all open items. Mr. Conyers suggested temporary signage be posted at the exterior rear area of the building until such time that permanent lighting is installed for safety purposes.

Ms. Clancy updated the committee members on the status of the MRA roof project. Mr. Crowley, Mr. Till and Ms. Clancy met with the architect and the roofing contractor on October 9th for the pre-construction coordination meeting to review the schedule, staging, site access and other logistics of the project. The project should be complete by mid to late November.

Ms. Clancy updated the committee on a meeting held with the Town General Manager, Finance Director, Building Committee Chair, Public Works Director, Project Manager, Deputy General Manager and Project Accountant for the purpose of discussion on lessons learned with SMARTR school building projects and next steps for the SMARTR2 school building projects. Bidding and selection for architectural services and construction management services will begin between November 2019 and January 2020.

Mr. Conyers asked how Manchester Middle Academy was currently operating and about the plan for its future location. Mr. Geary responded that the operation is

filling a need and that we will have to consider options for a location moving forward. The intent is to remain at the Robertson location until the next school renovation project requires it for swing space which will be in the fall of 2021.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Geary presented five 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

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

C.3. Extended Field Trip Request Form - Illing - Grade 8 to Washington D.C., May 20, 2020, to May 22, 2020

C.4. Extended Field Trip Request Form - MHS - Fighting Against Common Teen Substances Club (FACTS Club) to Washington D.C., February 3, 2020 to February 7, 2020

C.5. Extended Field Trip Request Form - MHS - Broadcast Journalism Class to Washington D.C., March 11, 2020 to March 15, 2020

The Chairman called for a motion.

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

There was no discussion.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Krista Myrie was present to report the following:

- Homecoming week was a time filled with great creativity, student collaborations, and hard work. Juniors took 1st place and Seniors in 2nd.
- For the first time in 15 years MHS Boys XC advanced to the State Open as a team! Aidan Puffer runs fastest time ever (15:33) on the championship course. Sean Barkasy also finished in the top 25 and times in 16:43. Other top finishers included Anthony Amaral, Caleb Curtis, and Abdullah Barlas.
- Kate Hedlund ran another 5k in under 19:00 to finish runner up in LL.
- Students from SEAT (Student Equity Advisory Team) & Ms. Austermann's/Mr. Skrzypiec's Human Rights classes attended "The Great Debate" at the XL Center on Monday Oct 28th. They got to see Howard vs Harvard University debate teams use strategy and skill to debate big national issues in front of a crowd of 10,000 CT students.
- Students from APB, Junior Class Board and many other volunteers helped bring fun and joy to Manchester families this weekend at the annual Harvest Festival. Designing spooky cookies, making cotton candy, playing games were all part of the fun. Thanks to all students and staff who attended and helped make the event memorable.
- Future Business Leaders of American Club (FBLA) attended the CT FBLA Fall Leadership Conference at the University of Hartford. Future women business leaders! FBLA helps high school students prepare for careers in business through academic competitions events, leadership development, and educational programs.
- MHS has partnered with the Manchester Police Department to offer a variety of experiences that will allow students to work with police officers to earn community service hours AND explore exciting careers in law enforcement
- And finally, today marks the end of Quarter 1. There will be no flex until December, but students still have the opportunity to meet with teachers after school and during free periods.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, supported the items on the consent calendar and shared that last month, the holiday formerly known as Columbus

Day was changed to Indigenous People's Day. He presented several books representing our country's diverse history of explorers and supported the movie currently out in theaters, Dora The Explorer: The Lost City of Gold.

Mr. Ken Hagenow, 111 Olcott Street, recognized the two members of the Board of Education that are stepping down. He specifically wanted to share his experience and appreciation for his wife, Deb Hagenow, and her involvement over the last 10 years. Mr. Hagenow remarked on the number of hours that committee members dedicate to the town and school system, between being on the board, various subcommittees, and individual conversations that members have about issues. Mr. Hagenow is so very proud of his wife, and thanked her for her time, but more importantly he is excited to finally have his wife back.

Mr. John DeBaise, 788 Center Street, remarked on the lack of service and accountability that DATTCO, the school bus provider for Manchester Public Schools, is providing. He cited several incidents where the bus was extremely late in picking up his child, and even times that the bus never showed. Mr. DeBaise wanted to understand why he as a parent had to do the job of the transportation provider who is being paid to provide transportation for the students of Manchester to get to and from school.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

F.1. Buckley School Improvement Plan

Mr. Geary introduced the Mr. Matthew Daly, Principal of Buckley Elementary School. Mr. Daly, along with his assistant principal, staff members, and students, gave a presentation that is available on the website, outlining their school improvement plan.

Mr. Thames gave heartfelt thanks to the staff, remarking on his time as a grandparent to a student attending Buckley. He appreciated the staff welcoming all members of the students' families, including grandparents, as part of their own. Mr. Thames recounted the stories of his wife attending lunch bunches at

the school sponsored by the Family Resource Center, and appreciated the informal way it allowed students, staff and families to interact.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

H. NEW BUSINESS

None.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, took the time to thank Ms. Hagenow and Mr. Conyers for the service and wished them well in their future. Mr. Stringfellow remarked on the presentation given by the Buckley staff, and supports the idea of public schools succeeding. He recognizes the importance of after-school programs that can engage students and are an extension of what occurs at school during the day.

J. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Thames complimented Manchester High School students on a job well-done representing their classes in the Homecoming Parade.

K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Wednesday, November 20, 2019	Pre-Budget Workshop, 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Update on Humanities and Reaffirmation of BOE Bylaws
Monday, December 9, 2019	Fall Data Update
Monday, January 13, 2020	Budget Presentation

L. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thames called for a motion to adjourn.

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

8/0 - Voted in favor.

Adjournment 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Scappaticci
Acting Board Secretary