

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting November 13, 2018 Illing Middle School

PRESENT: Hagenow, Hughes, Meggers, Pattacini, Scappaticci, Stefanovicz

ALSO PRESENT: Deputy Superintendent Curriculum & Special Services Radikas, Director of Finance & Management Clancy, Director of Human Resources Sone-Moyano

ABSENT: Conyers, Maio, Thames, Superintendent Geary

A. OPENING

A.1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order

Chairperson Pattacini 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. Pattacini. Mr. Pattacini let the audience know that this evening there is a SMARTR 2 Meeting being held at Keeney School and Mr. Geary, along with Board members Thames, Conyers and Maio are attending that meeting. They will attempt to join the Board meeting if time allows, however since there is a quorum the meeting will continue without them.

A.3. Secretary's Welcome

Mr. Scappaticci, acting as Secretary of the Board of Education, 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 reviewed the mission of Manchester Public Schools, which is available for view on the website.

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. Management is the responsibility of the Superintendent.

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. Scappaticci noted he is proud of this school system and thanked the public for their interest in this evening's meeting and the Manchester Public Schools.

A.4. Recognition of Ms. Tracy Patterson

Mr. Pattacini explained that we are in an off cycle and the term Ms. Patterson was appointed to fulfil has ended. He, along with the Board, recognized Ms. Patterson's contribution to the Board and on behalf of the district, appreciation for her work was recognized with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Mr. Pattacini expressed his hope that Ms. Patterson would run for the Board in the future.

A.5. Swearing in of New Board Member

Town Clerk, Joseph Camposea was present to swear in returning Board member Scott Hughes, who assumed his post after being elected last year. Mr. Hughes promised to support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, and the Town Charter of Manchester and discharge his duties as a member of the Board of Education to the best of his abilities.

A.6. Introduction of New Board Member

Mr. Pattacini welcomed Mr. Hughes back to the Board, noting he served for a short time approximately a year ago.

A.7. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

APPROVED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of October 22, 2018. Acting Secretary Scappaticci moved and Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

6/0 – Voted in favor.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

B.1. Buildings & Sites Committee

Mr. Meggers reviewed the last Committee meeting was held October 22nd with the following attendees: Lindsey Boutilier, Karen Clancy, Peter Conyers, Matthew Geary, Tracy Maio, Peter Meggers, Tracy Patterson and Peter Staye. Members of the Public included: Mr. Rick Madore and Mr. Randall Madore of 152 Loomis Street, Manchester.

High School Synthetic Field Rental

MHS Athletics earned \$1,600 renting the field (at \$100/hr.) over the summer to an organization that used it Tuesday and Thursday nights, from 7 - 8:30. Funds are in a student activities account and are being used for equipment replacement. In general, there was very little interest in field use over the summer as most organized teams take the summer off. Manchester Soccer Club has expressed an interest in using the field starting next year. Signs have been posted saying field use is by reservation only. The current policy that prohibits use of the field by outside organizations will be revised to reflect paid use of the field as approved by Athletics.

Alliance Construction Grant Projects Update

All activities funded by the 2017 Alliance Capital Grant have been completed. Close out data, invoices etc., have been reviewed with the Grants department and the information is ready to be sent to the State. Of the \$1,080,000 grant, \$1,046,415 was spent. The \$33,585 balance is being returned to the State.

Bennet Classroom Space

Enrollment in the 6th grade is 70 students greater than what was expected at the end of last year. Though 5th grade enrollment is steady, as projected, it is

being watched carefully to see if a trend is occurring. Mr. Randall Luther, of TSKP Studio, is preparing some preliminary information to identify areas in the building, including lower level storage space, that could be converted to classrooms next summer. TSKP Studio will submit a report, including cost estimates, by the end of December or early January.

Waddell Playground

Funds originally intended to allow the relocation of parts of the Waddell playground to Bowers have instead been used to place four new playground elements in the upper playground (grade 2~4) at Bowers. This was necessary when it was determined that relocating parts from Waddell was not cost effective.

MRA Roof Replacement

Replacement of the MRA roof was put out to bid last spring. During the bidding period, one of the bidders indicated that the building's original roof was not removed when the current roof was installed. After confirming that the original roof was still in place, (previous test cuts showed no built up roofing or flashings) the bidding process was halted so that tests could be performed. Flashings of the original roof have been determined to contain asbestos. The budget has been revised to reflect the added cost of abating the asbestos and removing all roofing to the metal deck (a State requirement.) The revised project cost estimate is now \$588,883, with the state picking up \$352,674 and the town paying \$236,208. Town funding was to be provided from unspent bond funds. Mr. Geary will request that the town increase the funding allocation to \$250,000 to allow for a small contingency for any unexpected conditions that may be discovered during construction. Once town funds are formally reserved, the project will be re-submitted to the State for approval, with bidding to follow in early spring.

Re-use of Washington and Martin Schools

Presentations of possible elementary school renovation options continue through November. The overwhelming feedback from the public is that these plans should include information on what the closed schools will be used for and how much it will cost to renovate them for that use. TSKP Studio, which has been working with the SMARTR 2 committee, will be preparing preliminary data in that

regard. Ms. Maio asked how many town owned buildings in Manchester are closed. Mr. Geary will inquire.

Waddell Security

Committee members have received questions regarding how secure the cafeteria is at Waddell given that it is enclosed in glass. Mr. Staye described the different standards of glass, ranging from "tempered", the glass most commonly found in doorways, to "blast resistant." In terms of standards, there is no such thing as "bulletproof" glass. A bullet would pass through the laminated glass surrounding the cafeteria, but a person would then have to spend approximately three minutes trying to smash the glass to access the building. Glass enclosing the main entrance vestibule is the first level of blast resistant. A bullet would pass through it, but a person would need approximately five minutes to smash the glass and gain access. Installation of either laminated or blast resistant glass slows down access to a building.

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

- Transfer from System-wide Music Dues and Fees account to System-wide Music Other Purchased Services account in the amount of \$2,300.

C.3. Extended Field Trip Request - MHS Broadcast Journalism Class - Seattle, WA - STN Convention - 26 Students - 4+ Chaperones - Teachers and Parents - March 26, 2019 - April 1, 2019

C.4. Permission to Apply for FY 18-19 Heisman Scholars Grant, in the amount of \$12,000

C.5. Extended Field Trip Request - MHS Girls Cross Country - Manchester, NH - 2 Students - 11/9/18 - 11/10/18 - (1/2 day Friday) - 1 Head Coach Chaperone

The Chairman called for a motion.

Acting Secretary Scappaticci moved and Ms. Hagenow seconded the recommendation to adopt the Consent Calendar as outlined in Section C of tonight's agenda.

6/0 - Voted in favor.

D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

None.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, congratulated Mr. Hughes for his election to the Board and Ms. Patterson for her service. He hopes she is elected to the Board in the future. Mr. Stringfellow spoke about some World War I events recently, including one Sunday at the historic center and one at the hospital. He wishes the media would do an article on the 45 men Manchester lost in that war and the 7 nurses that were sent to help, including the Cheney sisters. Mr. Stringfellow spoke about a Veteran's Center opening in Ohio along with a history museum in Missouri. He recommended a book about the 101 Things We Need to Know About World War I, as well as a movie about Neil Armstrong, *First Man*. Mr. Stringfellow congratulated Ms. Gomero on her appointment as principal of Illing, noting the diversity and that we need to deal with hate and racism every day.

Ms. Julianne DeMello, 847 Center Street, spoke about the bus situation, which is currently being handled by the Superintendent. She hopes to see continued follow-up with Dattco. She spoke recently with a Dattco manager, Steven, and did not feel reassured after her child being missing for an hour and a half on a delayed bus. He did not seem too concerned and noted it might happen again. Ms. DeMello urged the administration to continue talking with Dattco about these issues and hopes they are taking it as seriously as it should be taken.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

F.1. Illing School Improvement Plan

Dr. Radikas welcomed Principal Iris Gomero and her team and was looking forward to hearing about the changes happening at Illing. Dr. Radikas feels we are in a good place. Ms. Gomero and her team's presentation is available for view on the website.

Mr. Meggers wondered if the School Governance Council is a new idea. Ms. Gomero noted it is not new, but they hadn't had one recently at Illing. The group is comprised of approximately 5-7 parents, community members, and teachers.

Ms. Stefanovicz wondered what Instructional Rounds looked like. Ms. Gomero noted it is different in different buildings, but she equated it with the way a doctor does rounds in a hospital, discussing the problems and such in each room. Groups of teachers, administrators and central office personnel visit classrooms for about ten minutes at a time and look for indicators (for example objectives on the board, student engagement, thinking, vigor level, classroom environment). They come up with an overall picture of Illing and what evidence is seen by the end of the day and then decisions are made on what needs to be addressed to help bridge the gaps.

Ms. Stefanovicz wondered how many students are on each team. Ms. Gomero noted that with 830 students in the school, there are approximately 100 students on each team.

Ms. Hagenow asked about a handout that noted grade 4 and 5 and wondered if that was the level some students were reading at. Ms. Walton agreed that when some students reach grade 7 they might be reading 2+ years below grade level. Ms. Hagenow wondered if this was the first year of implementation of this program and Ms. Walton noted they are in the 3rd year of implementation, however this year is the first that they have been able to respond to student growth so quickly, moving students a level in just 45 days. The plan is to move students quarterly instead of just once as in previous years. Ms. Hagenow felt programs like this should be implemented years earlier. Ms. Walton noted each school does similar programs, this is just the one used at Illing.

Mr. Scappaticci welcomed Ms. Gomero and noted he enjoyed her comparison of instructional rounds to doctor rounds. He wondered how the 3rd year of this program is comparing to the previous 2 years. Ms. Walton was not sure about exact comparison, but noted 65 students moved up a level in 45 days and in previous years they would not even be looking at moving levels at this point in the year.

Mr. Pattacini thanked the administration for the work they are doing at Illing. He noted the Board places an emphasis on reading K-12 so it is great to see this work at the middle school level. Mr. Pattacini thanked the Illing staff for their work, noting that working with the middle school aged child is challenging.

As far as Tiered interventions, Mr. Pattacini wondered what that looks like. Ms. Walton explained that depends on the needs of the student. Some students need behavioral as well as academic support. Rigor is increased depending on response. She noted they would like to have a more comprehensive way of following a student through tiered supports, to see who did well, who needs more intervention, etc.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

H. NEW BUSINESS

None.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, enjoyed the presentation by the Illing staff, noting middle school is a vital time for students to make new friends and deal with bus safety. He implored people to be sure to not take drugs and drive. He noted the NPR program, where doctors are now asking patients about gun safety. Mr. Stringfellow recommended an article in *Archeology* magazine about indigenous tribes. He noted science and math are vital. Mr. Stringfellow also told us he attended the state Board of Education meeting recently and he wishes the entire school system well this year.

J. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Pattacini reminded everyone that tomorrow evening is the first budget workshop, to be held at MHS Rm 293 at 6:00 p.m.

K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

November 26, 2018 - Fall Data Update; Reaffirmation of Board of Education Bylaws

December 10, 2018 - Update on Equity Informed School Climate Assessment; Update on Capital Projects

January 7, 2019 - Budget Presentation

January 22, 2019 - Update on K-12 Humanities Programming

L. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pattacini 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 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Scappaticci
Acting Board Secretary