

## MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Regular Meeting December 19, 2016 Lincoln

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

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

**ABSENT:**

#### **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 November 28, 2016. Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Leon seconded the motion.**

**9/0 – Voted in favor.**

#### **B. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **B.1. Buildings & Sites Committee**

**Mr. Leon** reviewed the last Buildings and Sites meeting was held on November 28<sup>th</sup>. In attendance were Mr. Caldwell, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Conyers, Mr. DeSanti (Downes Construction), Mr. Geary, Ms. Hagenow, Mr. Leon, Mr. Pattacini, Mr. Scappaticci, Mr. Smith (Downes Construction), Ms. Stefanovicz and Mr. Staye.

A tour of the Cheney Building was led by Mr. Smith and Mr. DiSanti. The project is on schedule for completion in the summer of 2017. The next Building & Sites Committee meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2017 at Lincoln Center.

### **C. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Mr. Geary** presented six items on the Consent Calendar for Board approval.

#### **C.1. Personnel Action**

None.

#### **C.2. Transfer of Funds**

- Transfer from System-wide Language Arts Contracted Services account (\$500) and from System-wide Language Arts Travel/Lodging account (\$2,200) to System-wide Language Arts Consultants account for a total transfer of \$2,700.
- Transfer from Buckley School Administration Computer Supplies/Materials account to Buckley School Administration Contracted Services account in the amount of \$90.
- Transfer from Gifted & Talented/Enrichment Elementary Enrichment Field Trips account to Gifted & Talented/Enrichment Elementary Enrichment Dues/Fees account in the amount of \$600.
- Transfer from Illing Middle School Music Computer Supplies/Materials account to Illing Middle School Administration Travel/Mileage account in the amount of \$600.
- Transfer from System-wide Curriculum and Instruction Field Trips account to System-wide Curriculum and Instruction Dues/Fees account in the amount of \$4,570.
- Transfer from Illing Middle School Physical Education Repairs account (\$300) and from Illing Middle School World Language Dues/Fees account (\$330) to Illing Middle School Administration General Supplies/Materials account for a total transfer of \$630.
- Transfer from Illing Middle School Science Repairs account (\$150), from Illing Middle School Science Dues/Fees account (\$650) and from Illing Middle School Art Repairs account (\$500) to Illing Middle School

Administration General Supplies/Materials account for a total transfer of \$1,300.

**C.3. Establish an appropriation for FY 16-18 for the Title I - Improving Basic Programs Grant, to be funded by the Connecticut State Department of Education, in the amount of \$1,850,849**

**C.4. Establish an appropriation for FY 16-18 for the Title II - Part A Grant, to be funded by the Connecticut State Department of Education, in the amount of \$177,006**

**C.5. Establish an appropriation for the FY 16-17 for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Secondary Basic Grant, to be funded by the Connecticut State Department of Education, in the amount of \$100,371**

**C.6. Establish an increase in the appropriation for the FY 16-17 for the Preschool Development Grant by \$4,134, for a total appropriation of \$241,183**

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.

9/0 - Voted in favor.

**D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

**Shania Stanton** reviewed the Snow Ball will be held January 28<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be on sale December 4-13 and are \$20.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade elective fair will take place January 11-12 with an open house January 19<sup>th</sup> (snow date 1/23).

There is a new club starting at MHS – The Religious Tolerance Club. More information to follow.

The Senior class is in full swing with fundraisers. They are selling tumbler cups, senior wear, staff wear, and there are some restaurant nights to be announced. Ms. Stanton will bring flyers for the staff wear next time.

**Nabila Hoor Un Ein** reminded us the Winter Concert is this Wednesday December 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Hour of Code will be held in the library at MHS on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, sponsored by the National Honor Society and the Activities Planning Board.

#### **E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, recommended a series of books for children through grade 4, specifically one about thanksgiving. He noted that 100 years ago J.F.K. was born. Mr. Stringfellow recommended an article in *Life* magazine about Pearl Harbor.

#### **F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I**

##### **F.1. Connecticut Kid Governor State Finalists**

**Mr. Geary** announced that one of two Manchester finalists for Connecticut Kid Governor was present this evening. Dr. Radikas introduced Avery Mercier, grade 5 at Martin. Avery is one of 7 finalists in Connecticut for this contest, which is in its second year in Connecticut. This contest is open to all 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Avery had to come up with an important civics thought about something that needs fixing. He made a video about homelessness. Avery was presented with a certificate of congratulations. The other finalist for Manchester was Madelyn Spina, from Highland Park, who could not be here this evening. Congratulations to these fine examples of Manchester Public Schools.

##### **F.2. Athletic Update**

Mr. Lindsey Boutilier, Athletic Director at MHS, presented an update on the athletic department. He noted there were low numbers of participants for girls soccer, but all other teams had a good turnout. The 2017-18 budget request

was reviewed. Mr. Boutilier noted that we sold 10 signs for advertising, making about \$2000. Game day programs earned about \$2,500. Other fundraisers include the golf tournament, casino trip, and fundraising sales. All the monies earned go directly back to the student athletes for coaching clinics, summer and fall camps, team dinners, and additional gear. The department is working on an app which will have advertising as well, and it is in the beginning stages.

Mr. Larson presented the Pulse student broadcasters, Tyler, Cammy, and Jason. We viewed a clip of the show, available online. The students reviewed the final records of the teams: Football ended 5/5; Volleyball had 2 wins; Varsity girls soccer 6/6/4 with new coaching staff; boys soccer had a great season with 9/3/4; girls cross-country 5/2 and boys cross-country was 5/1 and both did some great community service; girls swim 4/7 and the cheerleaders have 32 members and also did some community service.

The students also reviewed the upcoming season, including boys swim, girls and boys basketball, cheer, and unified cheer, wrestling, and boys and girls indoor track.

Mr. Conyers and Mr. Boutilier reviewed the field maintenance. Early on the field was swept once a week and fluffed once a month. It is easy and does not need to be done as often now.

**Mr. Pattacini** thought this was a great presentation. He noted the students were great examples of MHS, very well-spoken, prepared and professional.

### **F.3. Manchester Public Schools App**

Erin Orteca, Coordinator of Program, Planning & Development in the Family & Community Partnership office reviewed the Manchester Public Schools App.

**Mr. Leon** felt this is one of the best things to come out for the community. He likes the ability to push information out instead of parents having to pull the information. He noted that flyers cost money and often don't make it home. He uses the app all the time and notes it is also great for separated parents so both have easy access to grades, assignments, and communication with the teachers.

**Ms. Jacobsen** also loves the app. She wondered why when a text was sent only 73% received the message though. Ms. Ortega explained that numbers get changed and disconnected, but she can see immediately who needs help and target them. Texts can be sent by the principal or by the district.

**Mr. Scappaticci** wondered if many other districts in Connecticut have apps like this. Ms. Ortega noted Farmington uses a similar system. She was unaware of other towns using the same system.

**Mr. Thames** sees the excitement Ms. Ortega has for her job. He wondered how data was pulled for the app. Ms. Ortega noted the information communicates with our systems such as Munis, Eschool and EZ pay and data is pulled nightly. Ms. Ortega reviewed that prior to rolling out this app there were pilot groups of parents to work out any issues. Mr. Thames wondered if college application services could be somehow linked to the app in the future.

**Ms. Stefanovicz** commended Ms. Ortega and the district for doing this right the first time. This app provides powerful, useful data and is connecting families.

**Mr. Pattacini** likes that the administration can communicate with the district and a principal can communicate with their school community. He wondered if teachers can communicate with their class. Ms. Ortega noted that teachers have access to the Remind app for that and there is a link to that on the MPS app. We may implement a teacher component to the Blackboard app in the future.

#### **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 Pulse presentation. He supports the Consent Calendar, especially the tech-ed grant. Mr. Stringfellow attended the State Board of Education meeting a few weeks ago. As for the apps, he thinks they are excellent. He does worry though about the digital divide and notes that some families cannot afford cell phones and internet access. Mr. Stringfellow is glad the Nathan Hale

area is being revitalized with the Family & Community Partnership office in the community center.

**J. COMMUNICATIONS**

**Mr. Pattacini** noted that the Board of Education has a responsibility to meet with the Board of Directors for a joint meeting annually. He has asked for this joint meeting regarding the budget to be held after the first budget workshop and a date is being worked on.

**K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

None.

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Pattacini called for a motion to adjourn.**

**Secretary Scappaticci moved and Ms. Jacobsen seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**9/0 - Voted in favor.**

**Adjournment 8:16 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Scappaticci  
Board Secretary