

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

June 11, 2018

Lincoln

PRESENT: Conyers, Hagenow, Maio, Meggers, Pattacini, Scappaticci, Stefanovicz, Thames

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

ABSENT: Leon

A. OPENING

A.1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order

Chairperson Pattacini called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mr. Pattacini.

A.3. Secretary's Welcome

Mr. Thames 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. Thames 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. Thames reviewed the mission of Manchester Public Schools, which is available for view on the website.

Mr. Thames explained that the Board of Education governs the school system. It was explained that meetings of the Board are open to the public, but are not meetings with individual members of the public.

Last, Mr. Thames 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. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

APPROVED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of May 14, 2018. Secretary Thames moved and Mr. Meggers seconded the motion.

8/0 – Voted in favor.

Mr. Pattacini noted that there were a couple of necessary additions to this evening's agenda that needed to be voted on.

Secretary Thames moved to add "Ratification of the Manchester Federation of ParaEducators Local 3175 AFT CT AFL-CIO Contract dated July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2022" as item C.9. to the agenda. Ms. Stefanovicz seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

Secretary Thames moved to add item L. "Executive Session regarding Superintendent's Evaluation" to tonight's agenda. Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

B.1. Buildings & Sites Committee

This item was initially tabled, but later in the evening Ms. Hagenow presented the report:

Ms. Hagenow reported the last meeting was held May 14 with the following in attendance: Karen Clancy, Peter Conyers, Matthew Geary, Neal Leon, Randall Luther, Tracy Maio, Peter Meggers, and Peter Staye.

A school construction update was given. Cheney is nearing the end of the punch-list phase. Construction at Waddell is expected to be complete in August. Work has started at Verplanck. Overall, the program of projects is \$5 million under budget with significant amounts of contingency left at Waddell. Technology bids for Verplanck and Waddell have been opened. Network equipment and classroom technology bids were received and are being evaluated. No bids were received for computers and phones so those packages will be rebid. A second round of millwork bids will be opened on May 17, 2018.

The SMARTR2 Committee consists of Peter Conyers, Stephen Gates, Cheri Eckbreth, Matt Galligan, Deb Hagenow, Pamela Floyd-Cranford, Tracy Maio, Brian Murphy and Chris Pattacini. The first meeting was held May 8th and Mr. Luther reviewed a basic summary of the characteristics of each school and potential options. Some schools have too many square feet for the student population and others have less than what the state would consider the maximum.

The drawings for two playgrounds at Waddell were reviewed, one for the Kindergarteners and one for grades 1-4. The cost comes in at just over \$295,000, which is under the \$300,000 budget. State approval is expected May 16th and installation will begin several weeks after approval with a completion date in August.

Mr. Staye summarized the capital projects, as requested by Ms. Hagenow previously, that have been delayed over the last two fiscal years due to budget cuts. There was a general discussion on the impact to the schools.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Geary presented eight 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 Information Services Other Purchased Services account to System-wide Information Services Computer Supplies and Materials account in the amount of \$21,731.
- Transfer from System-wide Special Education Printing and Advertising account to System-wide Special Education Telecommunications Equipment account in the amount of \$566.

C.3. Approval of State Department of Education Addendum to Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (ED-099) - Healthy Food Certification Statement for 2018-2019 that includes Consideration 1 - Healthy Food Option and Consideration 2 - Exemption for Food Items

C.4. Approval of an increase in school lunch pricing by \$0.10 (10 cents) for all schools, increasing the 2018-2019 school year prices to Elementary \$2.35; Middle \$2.60; High School \$2.75

C.5. Permission to apply for FY 18-19 Manchester Head Start Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), which is prorated cost of living adjustment of 2.6% for staff salaries and fringe benefits

C.6. Permission to apply for FY 18-19 for the Honda STEM Grant

C.7. Permission to apply for FY 17-18 for the United Way Planning Grant in the amount of \$25,000

C.8. Establish an appropriation for FY 17-19 for the Arts in Education HOT Schools Grant in the amount of \$8,000

The Chairman called for a motion.

Secretary Thames moved and Mr. Scappaticci seconded the recommendation to adopt the Consent Calendar as stated on the Board of Education agenda of June 11, 2018.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Patrick Doherty shared current events happening all around the MHS community as the year comes to an end.

Manchester's annual project Red storm was a great success last week. For those of you who don't know, RedStorm is an annual lip dub performance where teachers and students lip sync to a song of the school communities choice. RedStorm has been going on since 2012, and the first ever red storm, was led in part by Mr. Geary. This year's song was "All-Star" by Smash Mouth. The RedStorm video can be found on youtube @ MHS RedStorm 2018!

The academic MHS Awards night was held last Thursday night. Book awards, subject awards, scholarships and honors students were recognized. Matt Kropp was named the valedictorian of the Class of 2018. Matt will be attending Brown University this fall.

Choral excellence and Manchester tradition were prominent as more than 85 alumni from as far back as Class of 1958 spent last weekend at MHS in preparation for the very special 80th Anniversary of the MHS Roundtable Singers concert, which was held this evening. The MHS choral department was on display as were Alumni Handbell, Choir and Roundtable performances.

MHS has partnered with Bob's Discount Furniture and Alex's Lemonade Stand to raise money for children's cancer research. Bob's raises money each quarter for a different charity and saw the opportunity to partner with us in their third-quarter efforts. Any money raised in this effort will be matched by Bob's and combined with efforts at every store across the country.

Senior Scholars were recognized at a special luncheon last week where they ate lunch with the teacher of their choice, along with the other students invited. This event was a great way to recognize the top 30 students of the Class of 2018!

Graduation is set for June 19th at the CT Convention Center. The ceremony begins at 6:30 PM. MHS seniors will walk in a practice ceremony the day before at Bailey Auditorium, where they will also be given their caps and gowns.

Project Graduation is still hosting the car raffle in partnership with Manchester Honda Dealer. For just \$35 seniors can enter to win a brand new car, which will be raffled off at the Project Grad event. Project grad is a safe, drug free graduation party that is run all by the senior parents. These parents have been hosting fundraisers for their kids all year long!

All of the spring sports teams seasons have concluded. Jevin Frett will be headed to nationals to run the 400 meter dash next week.

And lastly, Patrick was proud to point out that Manchester High School's Teacher of the Year, Ms. Kelly Shea, has been recognized as Manchester Public School's Teacher of the Year!

Mr. Pattacini thanked Patrick for his report, especially the information about Alex's Lemonade Stand.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, noted that 2-3 months ago marked the anniversary of the end of the Civil War and he recommended a biography about Abraham Lincoln entitled *The Man Who Saved America*. He noted it was 100 years since World War I ended.

Mr. Stringfellow congratulated the Student Representatives on a great year and wishes them well next year, noting they have done a fine job representing the students.

Mr. Stringfellow recommended an article in the *New York Times* about young drivers and the best cars for safety. He also noted the retirement of the MCC President and the incoming President.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

Mr. Geary first introduced Iris Gomero, the new Illing Principal. Ms. Gomero recently was a principal of Jumoke Academy, however prior to that was a Vice Principal at Illing. Ms. Gomero expressed her passion about education and helping students of all backgrounds and skill levels achieve. She would like to develop a blueprint of excellence at Illing that will be replicated at other schools.

F.1. Teacher of the Year Celebration

Mr. Geary introduced each of the building's Teacher of the Year as well as the District Teacher of the Year. Family and friends were present for a small celebration. Mr. Pattacini thanked the educators, on behalf of the Board, for all the work they do on the front line of education today. They are role models for their peers.

Bennet - Tina Fioriello

Buckley - Lisa Miner

Illing - Kim Gohla

Martin - Shannon Rodowicz

MRA - Cynthia Henderson

Verplanck - Deanna Frankovitch

Washington - Brian Gordon

Bowers - Cheri Beaulieu

Highland - Jill Kilgus

Keeney - Rhonda Steiger

MHS - Kelly Shea (District)**

Robertson - Giulietta O'Coin

Waddell - Amy Sanchez

A recess was called at 7:42 to allow the families to enjoy cake. The meeting was called back to order at 8:01.

F.2. Update on Manchester Adult Education

Dr. Clare-Kearney and Mr. Roland Axelson gave a presentation on Adult Education. Present were several newly sworn in citizens of the United States that participated in their program. The presentation is available for view on the website. Also participating were representatives from Squire Village and The Pavilions, who spoke about their partnership with us for community building. There are many programs at Squire Village, which is an affordable housing property. The Pavilions, which is a market rate lifestyle community, offers use of their community room for ESL classes to their tenants.

Ms. Scappaticci was interested in the apartment complexes providing the connection to the Adult Education ESL classes. It fosters a sense of community. To Mr. Axelson, he noted that it is not typically academics that stop students from pursuing higher education, but life gets in the way. These wraparound services are what help students. Mr. Scappaticci wondered if we have numbers on how many students have been connected with careers or are in the pipeline to shadow or intern through the ESL program. Dr. Clare-Kearney noted that this PEP (Program Enhancement Grant) is new, coming in January this year, so there

are about 10-12 students in the pipeline but we will have more information in the future. Mr. Scappaticci congratulated the new citizens, as did Mr. Pattacini.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

G.1. Updated 2018-2019 School Calendar

Mr. Geary reviewed changes proposed to the 2018-2019 School Calendar. If there are more than 4 snow days prior to February 15th then school will be held February 19th. Also, weather delays will be 2 hours instead of the current 90 minutes. In addition, there are options for 3 hour delays and emergency dismissal (extra-early dismissal). April vacation will encompass Good Friday.

Secretary Thames moved to approve the updated 2018-2019 School Calendar. Mr. Scappaticci seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1. 2018-2019 Board of Education and Budget Workshop Dates

Mr. Geary pointed out the meeting dates suggested for next year and noted that one falls on Rosh Hashanah. He asked for feedback. Historically, it is typical of a meeting to fall on this holiday. These dates will be brought to the next meeting for discussion and a vote.

H.2. Negotiation Committee - Manchester Education Association Contract

Secretary Thames moved to appoint members to the Manchester Education Association Contract Negotiation Committee [Scappaticci, Maio, Conyers, Hagenow; Board of Directors Observer Castillo]. Mr. Conyers seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

H.3. Negotiation Committee - Manchester School Administrators Association Contract

Secretary Thames moved to appoint members to the Manchester School Administrators Association Contract Negotiation Committee [Thames, Meggers, Pattacini, Conyers; Board of Directors Observer Jones]. Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

H.4. School Modernization and Reinvestment Team Revisited 2 (SMARTR2)

Secretary Thames moved to appoint Peter Conyers, Deborah Hagenow, Tracy Maio, and Christopher Pattacini to the SMARTR2 Committee. Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, supports the Consent Calendar, especially the STEM grants and HOT schools. He is glad for free breakfast and lunch and healthy food for kids. He does not want to see kids food shamed. Mr. Stringfellow enjoyed the presentation by Dr. Kearney and her staff. He would like to see us present before the State Board of Education on our Adult and Continuing Education Program and show them the great things we are doing. He was also glad to see the naturalized citizens this evening. It is nice to hear good immigration news. We are all one. Mr. Stringfellow also pointed out articles on the royal wedding, UCONN, immigration, and Cambodian refugees with mental health trauma. He pointed out that immigrants provide many positive things to us.

J. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Scappaticci was at Verplanck a couple weeks ago and there were three authors there reading to children...the authors are current students in Manchester Public Schools and he would like to see them present at a meeting.

K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Mr. Scappaticci would like an update on our partnership with the Manchester Police Department around community building.

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Secretary Thames moved for the Board to go into Executive Session in order to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation format. Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryl Thames, Snr.
Board Secretary