

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

June 9, 2014

Lincoln Center

PRESENT: Crockett, Cruz, Leon, Pattacini, Pazda, Scappaticci, Stafford, Thames

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kisiel, Assistant to the Superintendent for Finance & Management Brooks, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services Matfess, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Radikas

ABSENT: Hagenow

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 and Boy Scout Troop 123, who were here this evening working on a merit badge. Mr. Pattacini also thanked Mr. Scappaticci for working with the troop earlier in the week regarding community service and what being a Board member entails.

A.3. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

ADOPTED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of May 27, 2014. Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Crockett seconded the motion.

7/0/1 – Voted in favor. (Mr. Leon abstained)

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

Dr. Kisiel presented eight items on the Consent Calendar for Board approval.

B.1. Personnel Action

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

B.2. Transfer of Funds

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

- Transfer from Systemwide Equity Field Trips account to Systemwide Equity General Supplies and Materials account in the amount of \$754
- Transfer from Systemwide Science Field Trips account to Systemwide Science Professional Development account in the amount of \$536
- Transfer from Systemwide Science Inservice (\$691) and Systemwide Science Print and Advertising (\$2115) accounts to Systemwide Science Instructional Supplies and Materials account in the total amount of \$2806
- Transfer from MHS Instructional Supplies and Materials account to MHS Music Other Purchased Services account in the amount of \$595
- Transfer from Systemwide Math Professional Development (\$1,899), Systemwide Math Travel/Lodging (\$489) and Systemwide Math Dues/Fees (\$1465) accounts to Systemwide Math Instructional Supplies and Materials in the total amount of \$3,853
- Transfer from Systemwide Science Travel/Lodging (\$391) and Systemwide Science Dues/Fees (\$293) accounts to Systemwide Science Instructional Supplies and Materials account in the total amount of \$684

B.3. Establish an appropriation for FY 13/14 in the amount of \$4,500 for the Connecticut State Personnel Development Grant that involves three Manchester Schools (Early Childhood Education Program/Head Start, Verplanck, and Bowers)

B.4. Establish an appropriation for FY 14/15 for the Manchester Head Start Program in the amount of \$1,093,278 which is received annually by the Federal Government

B.5. Establish an appropriation for FY 14/15 for the Manchester Head Start Training and Technical Assistance in the amount of \$15,312, which is received annually by the Federal Government

B.6. Establish an appropriation for FY 14/15 for the Enfield Board of Education's Head Start Program in the amount of \$760,362, which is received annually from the Federal Government

B.7. Establish an appropriation for FY 14/15 for the Enfield Board of Education's Head Start Training and Technical Assistance in the amount of \$11,137, which is received annually from the Federal Government

B.8. Increase the appropriation in the amount of \$240,000 for FY 13/14 for the Manchester Regional Academy (MRA), bringing the total appropriation to \$1,040,000

The Chairman called for a motion.

Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Crockett seconded the motion to adopt the Consent Calendar as outlined in Section B of tonight's agenda.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, reminded us this past Friday was the 70th anniversary of "D Day" and pointed out several commemorative magazines. He suggested articles on heroin in your neighborhood in *Your Teen* magazine and about boy's issues and tips for parents. Mr. Stringfellow spoke about the Children's Defense Fund and a foster care article he had read. He also attended last week's State Board of Education meeting last week and noted there were tips on closing the achievement gap presented. Last, Mr. Stringfellow recommended an article concerning the Common Core from *Education Next*.

D. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

D.1. Student Representative's Report

Dr. Kisiel introduced Joseph Coyne, a junior at MHS. Mr. Coyne highlighted the following events from the last several weeks at MHS:

- Spring Eggstravaganza, April 12 at MHS was hosted by the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) for local children who participated in an egg hung and fun spring games as well as a number of basket raffles.
- 16th Annual Day of Silence was held on Friday, May 2nd and was sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN). This event is designed to protest the bullying and harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender students and their supporters.
- The Talent Show was held April 25th and was hosted by the Multicultural Club.
- April 29th there was an assembly called Shattered Dreams, which dealt with distracted driving, DUI, and underage drinking.
- Junior Prom was held May 10th at Rentschler Field and over 250 students attended.
- The Activities Planning Board awards ceremony and inductions was held on May 28th.
- Senior Picnic was on May 30th and over 150 seniors participated in a fun day at Holiday Hill in Cheshire.
- Senior Prom was held on May 31st at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell and over 350 seniors and guests enjoyed the evening.

- Mr. Coyne passed on a thank you from Mrs. Wabble for reinstating Student Activities Board.
- The Spring Concert held June 5th showcased the various chorus and choral singers but held a special tribute to Mr. Tyler as well. Over 20 former students came out to surprise Mr. Tyler with a performance at the end of the evening, to commemorate his 25 years of teaching at MHS.

D.2. Introduction of New Principals

Dr. Kisiel welcomed Sinthia Sone-Moyano, new principal of the PreSchool Center. The selection process conformed to strict Head Start guidelines along with our own district procedures. Ms. Sone-Moyano is currently a vice-principal at MHS. Dr. Kisiel feels her leadership abilities, management skills, business background, and interpersonal skills are important attributes that will serve us well. Ms. Sone-Moyano will work hard at the goal of an articulated and coordinated Pre-K to grade 3 program. Dr. Kisiel reviewed Ms. Sone-Moyano graduated from Southern Connecticut State University; received her Master's in Business Management from Albertus Magnus; and earned her certificate of educational leadership from Sacred Heart. Ms. Sone-Moyano thanked the Board, committee, administration, and Policy Council and is excited about this new position, which starts in July. She will work diligently to provide service to Manchester residents. Ms. Sone-Moyano thanked her family for their support.

Mr. Pattacini welcomed Ms. Sone-Moyano aboard and thanked her for her commitment to Manchester.

Dr. Kisiel next welcomed Jill Krieger, the new principal of Manchester High School. Ms. Krieger is currently a principal in Enfield, where in her short time there she has made curriculum and climate changes and increased the number of AP students. Prior to that she was an assistant principal in Wethersfield and began her career as a social worker at EO Smith. Ms. Krieger graduated from Providence College; earned her master's degree from UCONN; and her educational leadership certificate from Sacred Heart. Ms. Krieger appreciates the opportunity to lead MHS. Over the past weeks she has met many people connected with Manchester Public Schools and MHS and the consistent theme that has been present was the importance of a positive climate and high expectations for all students. She feels MHS is the right fit for her and she expressed how much she loves working with high school age students. Ms. Krieger is excited to continue to the work that has been going on over the last two years. She thanked the Board and administration for the opportunity to serve Manchester and she takes this responsibility seriously and is committed.

Mr. Scappaticci welcomed Ms. Krieger and suggested, as she is getting to know this new community, that lunch at Shady Glen is a must!

Mr. Pattacini also welcomed Ms. Krieger and noted that in the site visit to her current school the folks all spoke very highly of her.

E. NEW BUSINESS

E.1. Waddell Elementary School Construction Project

Dr. Kisiel reviewed that over the last month he has worked with administration and staff to finalize the educational specifications for both Waddell and Verplanck. These schools are being considered for referendum to become schools supporting 530 students.

Dr. Kisiel explained that "ed specs" (educational specifications) define for the community and the architect what the schools should look like. Both plans for Waddell and Verplanck are identical. The plans include a STEM lab, library with computer lab and video production lab as well as expanded kitchens and cafeterias. They also include plans for a Family Resource Center adjacent to the cafeteria. Dr. Kisiel explained that he worked with Mr. Till and the financial department to finalize the documents and he expressed his appreciation for the town's cooperation.

Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Crockett seconded the motion that the Manchester Board of Education adopt the educational specifications for the Waddell Elementary school project and authorize the Superintendent to request the Manchester Board of Directors to:

- 1. Establish a building committee for the project;**
- 2. Authorize the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the project; and**
- 3. Authorize the Superintendent to file an application for a School Construction Grant.**

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Pattacini noted that these ed specs create equality in the district and insure the facilities are in line with what we want to offer in Manchester, especially the STEM lab, as well as provide sufficient space for support staff and the Family Resource Centers.

The vote was called.

8/0 – Voted in favor.

E.2. Verplanck Elementary School Construction Project

Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Crockett seconded the motion that the Manchester Board of Education adopt the educational specifications for the Verplanck Elementary school project and authorize the Superintendent to request the Manchester Board of Directors to:

- 1. Establish a building committee for the project;**
- 2. Authorize the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the project; and**
- 3. Authorize the Superintendent to file an application for a School Construction Grant.**

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Leon thanked Dr. Kisiel for championing the facilities projects over his time here. Mr. Leon recommends to the Board of Directors that they package the referendum for these schools along with the 5/6 Bennet plan for the betterment of education of our students. To Mr. Geary, Mr. Leon asks him to keep in mind that in the past sometimes corners were cut in building projects, but he feels that the small amount of money saved by using value engineering can cost much more in the end.

The question was called.

8/0 – Voted in favor.

Mr. Pattacini noted that the Board of Directions will discuss this topic tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m.

E.3. Proposed Referendum for School Security Upgrades

Mr. Pattacini noted that with proper motion and vote, the Board can move into executive session if there are Board members with specific questions that cannot be discussed in open forum.

Dr. Kisiel noted that a little over a year ago the Board of Education authorized a safety and security audit of the schools, which was presented one year ago in March. This audit identified some security and safety issues. Since that time, the cost of these items has been researched, such as improvements to cameras, access issues, and improvement of phone systems. Dr. Kisiel stated that town staff helped to confirm the estimated costs included in this proposal. They also suggested a 20% contingency be added, which was.

Mr. Leon wondered, if we send this to the Board of Directions, could they change the dollar amount. Dr. Kisiel stated they could, but as the town has worked

cooperatively with us and understand the necessity, he was not concerned. Mr. Leon would hate for anything to be cut and encourages the Board of Directors to keep the number intact.

Ms. Pazda understands school security and is curious if this will complicate the facilities projects referendum. Dr. Kisiel hopes not and noted that some of these costs may be absorbed if the facilities projects are approved. He does not know if the town will issue this as a separate referendum or incorporate it into the other proposed referendum. Dr. Kisiel noted the town can use the funds as needed and can make adjustments as needed.

Mr. Stafford wondered, if this passes and upgrades are made and then facilities are upgraded, would the items be reused or have to be done new again. Dr. Kisiel stated the projects may be coordinated so there is no double spending.

Mr. Leon wondered if there are any state or federal grants available for security upgrades. Dr. Kisiel stated the state has \$10 million available for grants, however the district must spend the money first and ask for reimbursement and \$10 million statewide does not go far.

Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Crockett seconded the motion that the Board of Education proposes that the Board of Directors consider in a November 2014 Referendum to encompass security upgrades in the amount of \$2,254,792.

Ms. Cruz wondered when the Board of Directors would see this. Dr. Kisiel stated they would be provided tomorrow morning and they would discuss it at their meeting tomorrow night.

Ms. Pazda proposed a friendly amendment to change the word "consider" to "incorporate". There was no objection from Mr. Scappaticci nor Mr. Crockett so the motion was restated:

Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Crockett seconded the motion that the Board of Education proposes that the Board of Directors incorporate in a November 2014 Referendum to encompass security upgrades in the amount of \$2,254,792.

8/0 – Voted in favor.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F.1. Policy Revisions, Additions, and Deletions

Dr. Kisiel previously presented policy revisions, additions, and deletions, including:

- a. Revision to Board Bylaw Article 1, Section 5: Regular Meetings of the Board
- b. Revised Policy 5125: Emergency Card Information
- c. New Policy: Non-Discrimination (Personnel)
- d. Revised Policy 6212 (a) Adult/Continuing Education
- e. Revised Policy 6140 Curriculum
- f. Deletion of Policy 6142 (a) and (b)

Mr. Pattacini noted that in the agenda Item f was listed twice and the two are part of one policy and have been corrected above.

Secretary Scappaticci moved to approve the recommended new, revised, and deleted policies as recommended by the Policy Committee including policies listed as "a" through "f" on the agenda. Mr. Crockett seconded the motion.

8/0 – Voted in favor.

F.2. Proposed Revisions to Section 13 of the Board of Education Bylaws

Ms. Pazda reviewed the Policy Committee met at 5:30 this evening with Mr. Scappaticci, Ms. Cruz, Ms. Pazda, Dr. Kisiel, and Mr. Geary present. The committee reviewed Section 13 of the bylaws as asked by the Board at the last meeting, including the roles and responsibilities for both standing and special committees. There are changes being made and the revised document will be presented at the next meeting. Ms. Pazda reviewed that changes to Policy 4118, Alcohol, Tobacco & Drug Free Workplace, will be presented at the next meeting.

G. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Stafford received a letter (which was also sent to other members of the Board and the Superintendent) from Sharon Fish a local realtor. Ms. Fish praised Mr. Welch for the three years her child has been in a school run by Mr. Welch, including both Bennet and Illing. She feels he has made positive changes regarding discipline and respect in our schools and the test scores are rising. She hopes the Board will continue to support Mr. Welch.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

H.1. Curriculum & Instruction Committee

Ms. Pazda reviewed the last meeting was held May 27th with herself and Dr. Radikas along with the following members of the district: Ms. Martin-Beaulieu, Ms. D. Bushnell, Ms. H. Bushnell, Mr. Farrell, Mr. Geary, Ms. O'Coin, Dr. Oliver, Dr. Ratchford, and Ms. Woble present.

A team of kindergarten teachers, administrators, and pupil personnel has formed to discuss and plan how to add opportunities for constructive play into each kindergarten classroom. A national speaker will address kindergarten teachers in August.

The committee reviewed two textbooks for AP Literature and Italian. Both texts will be in place for the start of the school year.

Representatives from MHS shared the recommendation to incorporate a flex period into the schedule to afford students the opportunity during the school day to meet with teacher to make up work, seek extra help, or enrich their academic or co-curricular experience. MHS eagerly anticipates this scheduling concept next year.

The next meeting will be held June 16th at 5:30 p.m.

H.2. Buildings & Sites Committee

Mr. Crockett reviewed that the last meeting was held June 5th with himself, Mr. Stafford and Mr. Ziegler in attendance. The committee reviewed the updated priority projects spreadsheet and recommends the spreadsheet should be submitted to the full Board for their review. The Illing renovations and electrical upgrades at Buckley and Keeney are on schedule and will begin June 20th.

The next meeting will be held July 10th at 6:00 p.m.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, supports the Consent Calendar, especially MRA. He congratulates the two new principals. Mr. Stringfellow suggested the book *Guide for Preschool Educators – One Child, Two Languages*. He felt the student representative report was good. Mr. Stringfellow attended the State Department of Education meeting. They talked about getting a voice out in the community by the students. We need to talk with youth not just for them and at them. Mr. Stringfellow feels all stakeholders, with or without children, need to be listened to. He feels Manchester is a good town to live in. *Why Public Schools Outperform Private Schools* is a book he recommends. He spoke about Pride in Manchester week and an event at Cheney Hall Saturday. He is proud to be a resident of Manchester. Mr. Stringfellow

suggested a guide regarding treating people with respect, including gay or lesbian students.

J. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Mr. Stafford would like the Policy Committee to review Section 13 in regards to adding the Community Relations and Transportation/Residency subcommittee's. Mr. Stafford would also like the Board to research adding a position of Vice-Chair. Ms. Pazda noted that the two committees had been added in and a revised document will be presented by the Policy Committee.

Ms. Pazda would like Policy 3510 regarding capital improvements to be reviewed. Mr. Pattacini stated that would be sent to the Policy Committee.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pattacini called for a motion to adjourn.

Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Crockett seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

Adjournment 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Scappaticci
Board Secretary