

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting September 14, 2015 Buckley Elementary School

PRESENT: Crockett, Hagenow, Pattacini, Pazda, Scappaticci, Stafford, Thames

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Geary, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Management Brooks, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Radikas

ABSENT: Cruz, Leon

A. OPENING

A.1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order

Chairperson Pattacini called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. He welcomed everyone to Buckley School. 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 August 24, 2015. Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Crockett seconded the motion.

7/0 – Voted in favor.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Geary presented nine 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

- **Transfer from System-wide Science Printer/Advertising account (\$2,500) and System-wide Science Instructional Supplies & Materials account (\$5,100) to System-wide Science Professional Development account for a total transfer of \$7,600**

- **Transfer from System-wide Math Textbooks account to System-wide Math Professional Development account in the amount of \$1,600**
- **Transfer from System-wide Math Contracted Substitutes account (\$20,000) and System-wide Math Textbooks account (\$8,800) to System-wide Math Professional Development account for a total transfer of \$28,800**

B.3. Establish an appropriation for FY 15/16 in the amount of \$518,470 funded by the Connecticut State Department of Education Grant for Manchester Adult Education

B.4. Establish an appropriation for FY 15/16 in the amount of \$4,245,648 for the Alliance District Grant

B.5. Establish an appropriation for FY 15/16 in the amount of \$20,000 for the National School Lunch Program School Equipment Grant

B.6. Establish an appropriation for FY 15/16 in the amount of \$7,203.47

B.7. Permission to Apply for the Bilingual Education Program Grant for FY 15/16 in the amount of \$11,397

B.8. Extended Field Trip Request - Bennet Academy - September 23-25, 2015, 2 Teacher Chaperones, 50 Students - Discovery Camp, Tem Bldg., Peer Relation and Diversity Education, Woodstock, CT

B.9. Extended Field Trip Request - Illing Middle School - March 31 - April 2, 2016; Teacher Chaperones, 200-400 Students - 8th Grade Curriculum Enrichment, Washington D.C. trip

The Chairman called for a motion.

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

7/0 - Voted in favor.

C. COMMITTEE REPORTS

C.1. Personnel & Finance Committee

Mr. Crockett reviewed that the Committee met August 24th. In attendance were Ms. Hagenow, Mr. Thames, and Mrs. Brooks. Mrs. Brooks provided the Committee with the June 30, 2015 Financial Statement and budget transfers. The next meeting will be held November 23, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Director's Room, Lincoln Center.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, reminded us that August marks 95 years that women have had the right to vote. He recommended an upcoming Meryl Streep movie along with the book, *Who Was Susan B. Anthony?*. Mr. Stringfellow recommended articles in *National Geographic* on Sacagawea and Rosa Parks, noting it is important to understand Native Americans were here first and what an inspiration Rosa Parks was. Mr. Stringfellow hopes that equity and diversity mean something and that people would understand everyone's history, not just children of color. He wants us to stop the lip service. Mr. Stringfellow recommended articles in *Popular Mechanics* regarding astronomy as well as information on packing lunch and growing a garden.

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

E.1. Buckley School Improvement Plan

Mr. Geary introduced Matthew Daly, Principal of Buckley Elementary. Mr. Daly gave us a glimpse of Buckley, with presentations by teachers, student ambassadors, and coaches. His presentation is available on the website.

Ms. Pazda thanked everyone for sharing and noted that the Board looks at the district improvement plan and it is helpful to see the individual schools and how

that plays out. Ms. Pazda noted that students are the heart and soul of Manchester Public Schools and she felt Buckley offered them a great leadership opportunity.

Mr. Pattacini thanked everyone for the great work going on in the school. He was excited to hear about the student leaders and noted how well spoken the children were. They are great ambassadors of the Town of Manchester.

E.2. Imagine College

Mr. Geary introduced Jill Krieger, Principal of MHS. Ms. Krieger also welcomed Ms. Claire Shea, Consultant, Ms. Katelyn Miner, Assistant Principal, Ms. Lisa Young, Language Arts teacher, and Ms. Denise Batista, Guidance Counselor. They all took part in explaining Imagine College, which grew from an idea three years ago. Private colleges were often criticized for being elite and not in touch with the population. They have taken that to heart and changed admission policies to diversify their campuses and provide more financial support. Many of our students in Manchester need financial aid. This program is a one on one mentoring program for juniors and seniors to work with staff to find the best college match. Imagine College helps broaden the student's horizons and encourages risk taking. Last year 10 of the 50 students who participated in Imagine College received full rides to college.

Mr. Scappaticci felt the presentation was impressive and inspiring. He wonders if the teachers and staff mentors undergo training. Ms. Krieger noted that these volunteers do have training over the summer. Mr. Scappaticci noted that one-third of the Image College students were first generation college students in their families and wondered if there was an effort made to reach out to more first gen students. Ms. Batista noted efforts to support parents and involve them in the process. Mr. Scappaticci wondered if the visits to college were free. Ms. Batista noted that any costs have been covered by the Nellie Mae funding and sometimes the colleges will provide lunch. The trips are first offered to those in the Imagine College and then if spots are available, they are opened to the rest of the student body.

Ms. Pazda noted the option for grade 9 students to participate and wondered if all freshman had the opportunity. Ms. Krieger reviewed the pilot was for 60 students but now the program will be open to all students.

Mr. Stafford thought it was an awesome program. He noted the pictures showed predominantly female participants and wondered the ratio. Currently approximately 60-65% of Imagine College is female, however some of the pictures shown were from a trip to a women's college, so boys did not participate in that trip. The group noted they are trying to reach out to more boys, which is one of the reasons the cut-off was dropped from the top 30% to the top 45%.

Mr. Thames appreciated the presentation. He feels early introduction to college is a plus and it is good to expose students to campus life. He would like to see this start even earlier, by 6th grade. He feels if this starts in 6th grade a student has a better chance of going to college. Mr. Thames feels the top 35% of students will go to college anyway. He wants to know what resources are needed from the Board to expand the program. Ms. Shea pointed out that Nellie Mae funding is solely for high school programs and the program might be a financial burden without that grant.

Mr. Pattacini thanked the staff for making this happen and is encouraged that the program is expanding and evolving.

Ms. Pazda does not recall the survey sent regarding mentoring and asks that it be resent.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

G. NEW BUSINESS

None.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, enjoyed the Buckley presentation. He suggested an article in the *East Hartford Gazette* about Representative Jeff Curry. Mr.

Stringfellow reminded us that he was a 1974 MHS graduate and he enjoyed the presentation. He would like to see a presentation for the non-college bound student, suggesting the tech department, a teacher of color, trades, or 2 year colleges, noting one size doesn't fit all. Mr. Stringfellow suggested an article on careers in digital design from *USA Today*, and an article on special education and college readiness in *Attitude Magazine*. Last, he is glad to see mentors of diverse backgrounds.

I. COMMUNICATIONS

Lori Fogg, Student Representative MHS, noted that Homecoming is approaching. The parade is October 16th and the theme for the floats is "circus". The welcome back dance was held September 19th and this Thursday is Open House.

J. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Ms. Pazda would like to hear more about Capstone Projects at MHS. She would also like to have the Policy Committee look at the agenda and where communications are placed so the Student Representative may speak earlier.

Mr. Stafford would like a report on the elective music program at Illing and the other electives, such as cooking and art.

Mr. Pattacini would like an update on the Professional Learning Communities.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pattacini called for a motion to adjourn.

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

7/0 - Voted in favor.

Adjournment 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jason Scappaticci
Board Secretary