

MPS NEWS ONLINE



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Forum on Grade 5-6 School Proposal February 5th 7:00 p.m. . Bennet Academy- Cone Gymnasium

Board Adopts School Facility Planning Process and Schedule

The Board of Education adopted at its meeting this week a planning process and schedule that will conclude in early May with a recommendation to the Board of Directors on a plan to improve elementary school facilities. The Board will kick-off the process with a public forum on the proposed grade 5-6 academy at the Bennet Academy and the neighboring Cheney Building. The forum will provide residents with information about this school project, its educational purpose, design, and cost. The public will have the opportunity to ask questions and comment about the building project endorsed by the town's school facility planning committee, SMARTR.

If the Board of Education continues to support the grade 5-6 academy, it will begin to review the recommendations of the SMARTR committee to consolidate elementary schools resulting in the closing of one or two elementary schools. The Board will also study other consolidation options not previously considered by SMARTR. A decision not to consolidate any schools will require the Board to devise its plan for a new or like-new reservation of eight of its elementary schools. The Board of Education will hold a public hearing on its final proposal before it makes any recommendation to the Board of Directors.. The website will have continuing updates on the Board's progress.

Manchester Public Schools District Recipient of Risk Management Award (CIRMA)

The Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA) selected Manchester Public Schools as a 2014 recipient of its Risk Management Award for substantially reducing the impact of costs associated with wearing improper footwear. One of the major causes for slip/trip and fall injuries throughout the district was caused by wearing improper footwear. Determined to reverse the trend, the district office leadership, working with the teachers' association and succeeded in implementing a formalized footwear policy. As a result of this effort, the district has experienced a 50% drop in slip/trip and fall injuries. Bruce A. Wollshlager, CIRMA's president and CEO said in his letter of congratulations that this award "...is testament to the district's dedication to improve safety, lowering loses, and ultimately saving the taxpayers dollars."

MEETING DATES:

- February 5, Public Forum at Bennet Academy 7:00 p.m.
- February 8 BOE Workshop
- February 10 BOE Meeting 7:00 p.m.

District to Receive Funding to Support Science Education

The Manchester Public Schools will partner with Connecticut Center for Advance Technology (CCAT) to pursue improvements in science and technology education in the district. This partnership offers a unique opportunity to combine the technical background and expertise provided by CCAT with the district's effort to improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics curriculum and instruction in the schools. Through the partnership, the district will seek to achieve a K-12 science education program based on the Next Generation Science Standards resulting in a coherent program to reflect these standards.

Board of Education Revises Several Policies

Based on the recommendation of the Board's Policy Committee and the Superintendent the Board recently adopted revisions to three policies. These policies include: Student Attendance and Truancy, Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Student Policy), and Transportation. Copies of these policies are now available on the district website listed under the Board of Education drop down menu.



Manchester High School Musical Honor

Twenty-five Manchester High School students earned a very significant musical honor by virtue of their acceptance into the 2014 CMEA Eastern Region Music Festival. Students are selected for this honor by taking a rigorous audition in the fall in front of a judging panel of music experts. Once selected every

student receives a packet of music to prepare for the 2-day festival experience held on the UCONN main campus. On January 10 and 11, MHS students and their musical peers spent upwards of nine hours in rehearsals culminating in a Saturday afternoon public performance in Jorgenson Auditorium. The MHS Music Faculty is proud to have our school represented in each of the five musical ensembles: Concert Band, Chorus, Treble Choir, Orchestra, and Jazz Ensemble.