

# MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Regular Meeting

**Monday, February 27, 2012**

7:00 p.m.

Lincoln Center

**PRESENT:** Crockett, Cruz, Hagenow, Leon, Luxenberg, Pattacini, Scappaticci, Walton

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

**ABSENT:** Kidd, Dr. Richardson

### **A. OPENING**

#### **A.1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Leon at 6:40 p.m. with Ms. Luxenberg, Ms. Cruz, Ms. Walton, Mr. Leon, Mr. Scappaticci and Dr. Kisiel in attendance. Mr. Pattacini and Ms. Hagenow joined the group at 6:42, followed by Mr. Crockett at 6:47.

**Ms. Luxenberg made a motion to move into Executive Session regarding a personnel matter. Mr. Scappaticci seconded the motion.**

**5 - Voted in favor. (Luxenberg, Walton, Leon, Scappaticci, Cruz)**

**Mr. Scappaticci made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:01, seconded by Ms. Hagenow.**

**7 - Voted in favor. (Luxenberg, Cruz, Walton, Leon, Scappaticci, Crockett, Hagenow)**

#### **A.2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Chairperson Pattacini at 7:06 p.m.

**Secretary Leon moved and Mr. Crockett seconded the motion to move Item A4 to B3 for administrative purposes.**

**8/0 – Voted in favor.**

### **A.3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**ADOPTED** – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of February 13, 2012

**Secretary Leon moved and Mr. Crockett seconded the motion.**

**8/0 – Voted in favor.**

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

### **B.1. Student Representative Report – Ms. Ashley Mills**

**Ms. Mills** reviewed the events that occurred over the last several months.

The **Turkey Bowl** was held on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The Spirit Award, based on the number of fans in the stands, went to the Juniors. The Canned Goods Award, which is based on the number of cans collected at the game, was awarded to the Seniors, who raised 289 cans. Overall the school collected 511 cans which were donated to the MACC Food Pantry, in addition to the \$466 collected. The Sportsmanship Award was awarded to the class exhibiting positive sportsmanship in the stands and on the field, and that award went to the Juniors. The Seniors defeated the Juniors with a score of 42-7.

The **MHS VEX Robotics Team** was awarded the Judges Award at the New Canaan/Masuk High School VEX Robotics Competition on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The Connecticut VEX was held on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

The wrestling team hosted the **Skip Ardan Tournament** on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Noel Cardona, Jaime Doyle, and Ryan Jarewicz placed third, Bryan Donovan placed second, and Senior co-captain Justin Carlson placed first. Ryan Potterton and Joe Ruggiero also exhibited strong performances.

**Midterms** were held at MHS from January 24<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>.

The rescheduled **Snow Ball** was held on January 28<sup>th</sup> with 453 tickets sold and 439 in attendance.

The **Midwinter Concert** was held on January 25<sup>th</sup> in Bailey Auditorium.

**Spirit Week** was held February 13<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup>. The students had fun dressing the part for "Back in the Day" day, "Bro" day, "Pretend it's Summer" day, and "Ugly Sweater" day.

The MHS **Cupcake Wars** occurred on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and first place was won by Alexis Bard and Avery Beamon with their "Spring is in the Air" themed cupcakes. Second place went to Laura Barzottini and Jackie Ofria for their beach themed treats.

**Murder Mystery Dinner** tickets are on sale this Friday for \$6 for students/senior citizens, \$8 for general admission. The dinner will be held Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be a silent auction at the event, which will include a UCONN Men's basketball signed by the team.

**Upcoming Events:** CAPT testing starts the week of March 5<sup>th</sup>; Murder Mystery Dinner March 9<sup>th</sup>; the Spring musical "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" is slated for March 15<sup>th</sup>; and Mr. MHS will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Sports Updates:** Boys basketball has a 15-5 record, and the Girls team is at 17-3. The MHS Swimming team has a record of 10-1. All sports teams will be headed to the State Championship games.

**Mr. Pattacini** extended the Board's thanks to the students, especially regarding the can drive for MACC and the efforts of our students in giving back to the community. It is important to highlight these positive community efforts. We should all remember that the food pantry always needs donations, especially now that the holidays have passed and donations drop.

### **B.2. Bennet Academy School Highlight & Recognition of "fun work" recipients**

Dr. Kisiel introduced Mr. Welch, Principal of Bennet Academy. Mr. Welch, before starting the spotlight on Bennet, introduced Diane Sheehan-Burns, Associate Director of Teaching and Learning, to recognize the two students who earned awards for their work with "Test Prep Fun", which is a computer based program that prepares students for the CMT's. Mrs. Sheehan-Burns recognized Ryan Bebyn and Shawn Akomeah for their efforts with the program. The children had to log onto the computer at home and at school and participate in games and activities on the Test Prep Fun site that tested their math, science, and language arts skills. Shawn won six of seven weeks of mathematics games for Grade 6 and was one of three students in Connecticut to win the grand prize of a Kindle. Ryan, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader, consistently remained at the top of the leader board as well and earned many prizes.

Next, Mr. Welch introduced a program currently in place at Bennet regarding community service. Each of the seven 6<sup>th</sup> grade teams, as well as the 5<sup>th</sup> grade "Parks" team, had been asked to come up with a community involvement proposal. Mr. Welch feels it is vital to involve the children in the community, to have the students connect to the community and learn the importance of community service. He quoted Mohammed Ali, "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth." Ms. Danielle McGuire, Literacy Facilitator at Bennet, introduced the children representing each team at Bennet to tell the Board about the project their team took on. She then presented a power point with highlights from the entire school's efforts on the various projects.

It was heartwarming to listen to the students tonight as they spoke about the variety of projects they partook in, including: *Share the Glove* which collected hats, gloves and scarves for MACC; *Hope War* which is working on Crayons for Cancer currently; helping with the *Wounded Warrior* project by sending toiletries to the Walter Reed Memorial Hospital; raising Atlantic Salmon for the restoration of the almost-extinct fish; decorating Main Street, including scarecrows and ornaments for storefront windows; Valentine's cards for the Veterans; *Helping Hands*, which raised 70 pounds of candy for the patients of the Helen & Harry Grey Cancer Center; a bottle and can drive to benefit the Beautification Committee and for kids that cannot afford field trips; and visiting the Senior Center and sharing treats and visiting with the seniors. Mr. Welch recently received a letter from one of the seniors talking about her interaction with a young boy from the school and how it was the first time in many years that someone had paid her such compliments and it had warmed her heart.

One of the children quoted Mahatma Gandhi, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." Through these community service projects, the children are the change we wish to see. The students have seen that they can make the community a better place by the small acts they are participating in and that this will impact everyone's future.

**Ms. Walton** thanked the students for their presentation and noted that she feels we are looking at our future Board members, future Board of Directors, and future town leaders! She is grateful to hear about their experiences.

**Mr. Pattacini** added how great it was to see the students supporting these causes and that we are all proud of them.

**Secretary Leon moved and Mr. Crockett seconded the motion to move Item B3 to B4 for administrative purposes and move Item C1 to B3 for administrative purposes.**

**8/0 – Voted in favor.**

**B.3. Consent Calendar - Personnel Action**

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

**Secretary Leon moved and Mr. Crockett seconded the motion for the Board to accept and approve Item B3, Personnel Action.**

**8/0 – Voted in favor.**

**Chairperson Pattacini** formally introduced the new Manchester High School Principal, Matthew Geary. Mr. Geary's start date will be April 23, 2012. Mr. Geary has been at Watertown High School for the past 5-6 years and we look forward to having him at MHS.

**Mr. Geary** thanked the Board for the opportunity to work here in Manchester. He is excited to work with our students and he shared a quote from Pat Riley (former coach of the Lakers, Knicks, and Miami Heat), "Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better." This represents his goal and he is looking forward to raising the level of expectation for himself and the school. He had the opportunity to meet with about 15 students a couple of weeks ago and he sees great potential. Before his official start April 23<sup>rd</sup> he will be working with Mr. Ziogas to spend time at the high school.

**B.4. Communication from Legal Council**

Chairperson Pattacini stated that, given the recent events, he felt it important to consult the Town attorney. Ryan Barry, who is the attorney for the Board of Directors, the Board of Education, the General Manager, and the Town, presented a written legal opinion regarding the two questions posed by Chairperson Pattacini. The first question was: "What authority does the Board of Education have to discipline a Board of Education member?" The second question was: "Does the Chair of the Board of Education have the power to unilaterally remove a member of the Board of Education from his or her subcommittee assignments?" Mr. Barry provided Board members and administration with written responses to the questions and highlights the report tonight.

With respect to the first question, it was determined that the Board has limited authority to discipline a member. The Board may censure one of it's

members in certain circumstances, as permitted by the bylaws, if the member has not conformed to the standards of ethical conduct. The authority for the Board of Education to censure is found in Article IV, Section 12 of the Bylaws. The standards of ethical conduct are enumerated in Article IV. Those standards largely reflect not using public office for personal gain. Attorney Barry did note that the Board is free to amend its bylaws to include clauses concerning civility and behavior towards each other. This is a policy matter for the Board of Education at its discretion. The only potential legal issue would be if the amendment were made, enforcing it retroactively could be in violation of a member's due process rights. A member can be removed from the Board of Education only if he or she is no longer a resident elector of the Town of Manchester. Members are elected for three year terms and hold that position unless they resign or cease to become resident electors of Manchester. That position would then become vacant and would be filled pursuant to Section 2-11 of the Charter, which sets forth the ways in which a vacancy would be filled. It was noted that not even a special recall vote by the town voters is permitted to remove a member of the Board of Education.

Regarding the second question, Attorney Barry states that yes, a Chair is authorized to remove a member from his/her subcommittees. The Chair is authorized to appoint members to standing and special subcommittees in Article II, Section 13, which usually occurs at the November organization meeting or soon thereafter. A member's term of service on a subcommittee is not set for a fixed period of time, so their service on that subcommittee is considered "at will". By contrast, if a member is elected as Chair or Secretary by his/her fellow members at the November organizational meeting, election to that office is for a fixed term of one year, as outlined in Article II, Section 3. The Board officer (Chair or Secretary) can be removed during his/her term for cause by the elected Board, as outlined in Article II, Section 18. Service as a Board officer is a privilege, not a right. Attorney Barry stated that, "While the bylaws only provide for the appointment of Board members to subcommittees, and the bylaws are silent as to removal, it is understood that under Connecticut law, the power to remove is incidental to the power to appoint."

**Ms. Walton** asked Attorney Barry if a Board member were to continue to exhibit behaviors creating a hostile work environment for Board employees, community members, and fellow Board members, would that type of behavior put the Board and the District at risk, i.e., is the Board responsible for a member's behaviors and comments? Attorney Barry stated that as he has not been asked that specific question in advance, he cannot thoroughly answer it tonight, though he welcomes a formal inquiry to the Town Attorney's office and he will respond in writing.

### **C. CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

#### **C.1. Personnel Action –Appointments/Tenure**

Details had already been provided to the Board members in their agenda folders and this was voted on above, as Item B.3.

#### **C.2. Appropriation increase for the Head Start USDA appropriation of \$3,003. This brings the total appropriation to \$93,003**

#### **C.3. Transfer of funds**

Transfer of \$100.00 from Illing Middle School Technology Education Dues and Fees to Illing Middle School Technology Education Instructional Supplies and Materials Account. Transfer of \$760.00 from MHS Guidance Rental to MHS Guidance Field and Athletic Trips account. Transfer of \$220.00 from Buckley School Administration Workshop to Buckley Contract Kelly Substitute Professional Development account.

#### **C.4. 2012-2013 Healthy Food Certification Statement**

Regarding certifying that all food items sold to students will meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards.

#### **C.5 Extended Field Trip Request Form – Manchester High School – Science Research Course UConn – March 11, 2012-March 12, 2012**

**Secretary Leon moved and Mr. Crockett seconded the motion to adopt the Consent Calendar, Item C of the agenda.**

**8/0 – Voted in favor.**

### **D. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, congratulated Principal Welch and Bennet Academy for their efforts with community service, stating it is good to see that the students can reach out to many different age groups and organizations to give back.

Mr. Stringfellow extended his congratulations to Mr. Geary on his new position at MHS. He states we need new leadership to move on and hopefully he will inspire students to learn and make Manchester a top school.

Mr. Stringfellow spoke about Black History Month, this being the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On C-SPAN this weekend they highlighted the National Museum of African American History and Culture, covered in February 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of *USA Today*. They have broken ground and the museum should open in approximately three years. Mr. Stringfellow reminds us that African

Americans have contributed to this country in many different ways, including slavery, the armed forces, inventions, etc. CP-TV also had some good documentaries on the subject, one was "Slavery by Another Name", another was on South Africa last month, as well as many other programs.

This year marked the 100 year anniversary of the tragedy of the Titanic. The March issue of the *Smithsonian* had an article on this. This is also the 100 year anniversary of the Girl Scouts.

Mr. Stringfellow also mentioned *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Campus Safety*, which is a good book for new college students.

Education Digest, February issue, had an article entitled *Welcome to the Class of 2012*, on getting minority students ready for college; another article in that issue was *Is College Worth it?*

Mr. Stringfellow asked Ms. Matfess to give a presentation regarding the mental and physical health of students, as it is not all academic. Students coming to school hungry or with any other problems it can effect learning.

Ms. Jackie Madore, 45 Northfield Street, stated that it was great to hear the students from MHS and Bennet tonight and what they are doing to help the community out. On another note, we then heard from the Town Attorney regarding legal actions against a Board of Ed member, who has sent some disturbing messages through Facebook to another Board of Ed member. While she did make an apology, via email, to the Board of Ed members, Ms. Madore feels she should be here and make a public apology to the residents of Manchester. Ms. Madore does not feel this is a political issue, this is an issue that Mrs. Kidd has had for years. Ms. Madore said her heart goes out to the Board member who received the messages, and states that she also has been the recipient of messages from Mrs. Kidd and she is upset that this has happened to somebody else in town. She tells us that when Mrs. Kidd was elected she informed Mr. Pattacini about harassing emails she had received from Mrs. Kidd and stated that if she heard about Mrs. Kidd doing this to another community member she would expose these emails. Ms. Madore finds it appalling that the Democrats and Republicans are going back and forth on this subject. It is not about the politics, it is about right and wrong. Mrs. Kidd harassed somebody and if that was one of our students we would all be mortified because it happened. This should not be happening and Ms. Madore would like to see Mrs. Kidd step down from the Board because she was wrong. We are trying to teach our children, and obviously we are doing a good job, we should not take a step backwards.

Stephanie Knybel, 138 Bobby Lane, said it was a pleasure to see Bennet's presentation tonight. She thanks Mr. Welch for his community service and

the example he sets for his students. She went on to talk about Relay for Life, which is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> at Northwest Park. Mr. Welch has sat in the dunk tank to earn money for the event many years in a row and Ms. Knybel challenges Mr. Geary to take his turn this year!

Ms. Knybel also speaks to us as a former Illing parent. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Washington D.C. trip is fast approaching and Seanna Francouer, one of the teachers sponsoring the trip, is seeking donations for some students that may not be able to afford the trip. It has been posted on Facebook and Ms. Knybel asks the Board members and the community for their help in donating to this worthwhile trip.

Ms. Knybel also officially welcomes Mr. Geary to town and as the parent of a senior at MHS, she is looking forward to seeing him at the school. Ms. Knybel ended with a "Happy Spring" to everyone.

## **E. OLD BUSINESS**

### **E.1. Composition of the School Modernization and Reinvestment Team Revisited (SMRTR)**

This is a Board enacted group in conjunction with the Board of Directors to look at our school buildings, as well as formulate a strategic plan for moving forward. This has been an item before the Board at prior meetings, and we are ready this evening to take action on it.

**The Chairman called for a motion.**

**Secretary Leon moved that the Board of Education adopt the School Modernization and Reinvestment Team Revisited (SMRTR) Committee to comprise of 4 Board members of the Board of Education selected by the Board of Education, 4 members of the Board of Directors selected by the Board of Directors, 1 member of the Building Committee recommended by the Committee to the Board of Directors for approval, and 4 members of the public to be approved by the majority and minority leaders of both Boards. Mr. Crockett seconded the motion.**

#### **Discussion:**

**Mr. Crockett** inquired if this was the exact same motion that the Board of Directors had approved on the subject. **Mr. Pattacini** confirmed that was true.

**8/0 - Voted in favor.**

**Mr. Pattacini** announced that the members the Board of Education has recommended for this committee will be: Mr. Crockett, Mr. Leon, Ms. Walton, and Ms. Hagenow. We look forward to this initiative.

**E.2. Board of Education Policy Changes and Revisions**

Dr. Kisiel reviewed the recommended policy revisions and new policies being presented that were introduced at the last meeting.

**A. Recommended Policy Revisions:**

**Board Policy #51412.4 – Wellness:** Changes were recommended by the Health & Wellness Committee based on changes in the Public Law 108-265.

**Secretary Leon moved that the Board of Education adopt the policy revision A. Recommended Policy Revision Board Policy #5141.4 – Wellness. Mr. Crockett seconded the motion.**

**8/0 - Voted in favor.**

**B. Recommended New Policies:**

**Board Policy #6212(a) – Adult/Continuing Education –** Dr. Kisiel initiated a policy, with the help of Dianne Kearney, regarding Adult Education since Manchester oversees and has full responsibility for its adult education program.

**Board Policy #5141.6 – Crisis Response –** Providing for the formation of crisis response teams to determine what actions and follow-up will occur in response to a crisis.

**Board Policy #6114 – Emergencies and Disaster**

**Preparedness –** Regarding specific regulations and procedures for fire, bomb threats, civil defense, and other emergencies.

**Board Policy #3516 – Safety –** This policy stipulates that the administration in our schools will comply with all safety requirements established by state and local government.

**Secretary Leon moved that the Board of Education adopt new policy #6212(a) – Adult/Continuing Education, #5141.6 – Crisis Response, policy #6114 – Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness, and policy #3516 – Safety. Mr. Crockett seconded the motion.**

**8/0 - Voted in favor.**

Chairperson Pattacini thanked the administration for their efforts in bringing forth these new policies, some of which were on the recommendation list of CABA that was presented in the Fall. Mr. Pattacini stated that he is excited to

have these policies in place that are typically policies that School Boards do not have and it affords our community planning and preparedness for ensuring the safety of our students.

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

**F.1. Board of Education Policy Changes and Revisions**

Dr. Kisiel discussed the recommended policy revisions and new policies being presented.

**A. Revised Policy Recommendations:**

**Board Policy #3541 - Transportation:** Changes were recommended by Dr. Kisiel and the Policy Committee outlining Bennet as an elementary school for purposes of walking distance. Other wording was edited for grammar and to remove outdated information, including not being required to send bus complaints to the DMV.

**Mr. Leon** questioned if we still log bus complaints internally and Dr. Kisiel confirmed we do.

**Board Policy #3260 – Sale and Disposal of Obsolete Books, Equipment, and Supplies Sales, and Rentals of Property:**

The portion of the policy dealing with Obsolete Books was removed, as it is covered in another policy.

**Board Policy #3240 – Tuition Fees:** Wording was edited, no substantial change to policy.

**Board Policy #3150 – Adoption of the Budget:** Wording was edited, no substantial change to policy.

**Board Policy #4234 – Injury:** Clarification of procedure regarding employee injuries. Such injuries will be reported to the Benefits Specialist at Central Office.

**Board Policy #3280 – Gifts, Grants and Requests:**

Clarifications were made to the policy as well as adjustments to the dollar amounts the Superintendent or the Principals can accept as gifts to the District/Schools to reflect the current standards. Mr. Pattacini pointed out a type in the dollar amount listed. That will be corrected.

**Board Policy #3260.2 – Disposition of Obsolete Books:** The policy for disposing of obsolete books was streamlined.

**Board Policy #8001 – Authorization to Sign Contracts and Written Documents:** This change allows the Superintendent to designate a signer (which would be the Assistant to the Superintendent) to sign certain contracts through the Business Office.

Chairperson Pattacini stated that these policies will be brought back at the next meeting for adoption.

### **F.2. Manchester Public Schools Calendar 2012-2013**

**Dr. Kisiel** presented a proposed Calendar for 2012-2013, with the first day of school being proposed for Tuesday September 4<sup>th</sup> and the last day of school as Monday June 17<sup>th</sup>. Once again, no February break has been scheduled, with February 18<sup>th</sup> off for President's Day. April vacation is suggested for the first week of April (actually starting with Friday March 29, Good Friday). While feedback regarding the April break dates was considered, Dr. Kisiel felt that the period of time from January 2<sup>nd</sup> to the current scheduled break of March 27<sup>th</sup> was already 12 weeks, and adding additional wait time for a later April break was not advisable.

**Ms. Luxenberg** inquired about community feedback regarding dropping the extra-long weekend in February that coincided with President's Day that was originally scheduled for this year. She also questioned whether there had been more illnesses noted in the schools. Dr. Kisiel stated that the extra day off was dropped for next year because of the required late start due to ensuring time for Highland Park Elementary to receive a certificate of occupancy, and the policy to avoid school the last week of June. We need to have available snow dates June 18-21. Regarding illnesses in the school – while it is widely believed that evacuating schools and disinfecting them helps reign in the spread of germs, those germs return to the school when the children return, so there is little, if any, benefit.

**Mr. Pattacini** pointed out that if we have more than 4 snow days, the plan is to take days from April vacation starting with Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. He notes that since we already have Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> off for Good Friday, it might be wise to take April vacation days from Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> and work backwards instead. Dr. Kisiel agreed and the change will be made. Mrs. Brooks pointed out that in the past when the vacation days were taken from Friday working back there were more staff absences. A discussion ensued regarding previous years April vacation and whether there was a Good Friday start to the week.

**Mr. Leon** asked when the calendar will be adopted. Mrs. Brooks stated that normally the calendar is adopted in February, but with the Highland Park

project, we had put it off until we had an update on an anticipated completion date.

**Mr. Crockett** inquired about moving the April break to the week prior, the last week of March, so as to save one day as we already have Good Friday off. Dr. Kisiel explained that was not possible as that week is used for CMT make-up exams.

**Chairperson Pattacini** stated the calendar will come back for adoption at the next meeting.

## **G. COMMUNICATIONS**

**Ms. Luxenberg** shared that she had shadowed a teacher for a day at MHS in the Social Studies Department, as offered by the MEA at a previous meeting. She thanked the MEA for the opportunity and she was "Wowed" by the quality of the staff and students at the high school. She felt it was a great learning environment. She was also able to observe a student teacher. After her Ms. Luxenberg feels she has a better understanding of the high school issues. One thing that did disturb her was the ID situation, which is not fully enforced and students are missing class time because of it. Dr. Kisiel assured her that issue is on Mr. Geary's radar and will be addressed.

**Mr. Crockett** announced that the New York Yankees had recently signed Alex Smith, who was a 2007 Manchester High School graduate. Mr. Crockett, on behalf of himself and the Board, wishes Alex the best for a long and prosperous career. Congratulations to the coaches who worked with him along the way.

**Mr. Pattacini** pointed out that NBC 30 had recently highlighted Illing's enrichment program and thanked David Lee, who heads the group.

**Mr. Pattacini** also updated us on the Superintendent search. A brochure has been released to all Superintendents in the state. Applications are being accepted with a deadline of April 3<sup>rd</sup>. On March 12<sup>th</sup> we will receive another update.

## **H. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **H.1. Policy Committee**

**Ms. Cruz** stated the last meeting occurred on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, with herself, Ms. Hagenow, Mr. Crockett (new member of the Policy Committee), and Mr. Scappaticci in attendance. Dr. Kisiel had presented 11 policies for review, some earmarked for deletion, others with revisions, and some with no changes required. One policy had been placed on hold for a future discussion and the others were detailed above by Dr. Kisiel.

## **H.2. Building and Sites Committee**

**Ms. Luxenberg** detailed that the last meeting occurred on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, as a two-part meeting with the first part being on site at Highland Park with herself, Dr. Kisiel, Mr. Crockett, Mrs. Brooks, Mr. Leon, Mr. Zeigler, Mr. Shanley, Mr. Pattacini, Mr. Till, Aaron Kruger, and Marcus Brennan in attendance. The purpose was to see where we were with the renovation and to introduce the group to Aaron's replacement, Marcus, whom we met at our last Board meeting.

The second part of the meeting occurred immediately following at Central Office and they were joined by Scott Sprague, Paul Rubin, and Jackie Madore.

One of the topics of presentation was a proposal by the Manchester Little League for new lighting at Bagshaw Field at Waddell School. The Little League will assume all costs associated with adding lighting to the baseball field to allow for more games to be scheduled.

The fee structure for building use fees for community use was examined and found comparable to other districts and not in need of updating.

## **H.3. CREC**

**Ms. Walton** updated the Board on the last CREC meeting, held on February 15<sup>th</sup>. The current new schools in the planning process through CREC, including a Reggio Emilio School in Avon, The Public Safety Academy, The International Baccalaureate Academy in East Hartford. She reported that they had impressive buildings designed around the particular curriculum theme of each school.

The legislative update by CAFE (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) was presented by Patrice McCarthy.

Ms. Walton provided Board members with CAFE's legislative agenda in their packets.

Ms. Walton wanted to bring to attention the 2012 Education Reform, which can be found online at [www.governor.ct.gov/malloy](http://www.governor.ct.gov/malloy), and she encourages Board members, District leadership, and building leadership to go through and review the Department of Education's aggressive reform agenda. This document is fairly brief and outlines the six principles the governor has chosen to focus on. Each principle deserves our attention and efforts to become familiar with and they are all items we have discussed at our Board meetings in terms of early start, making sure we can be familiar with what the State is doing, as they will be supporting Districts that are willing and

supporting the reform efforts that will be put forth by the State. The legislative session is coming up soon.

Lastly, Ms. Walton informed the Board that the CAFE Day on the Hill is scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 at the Bushnell with Governor Malloy speaking at 10:30. Board members were provided details in their packets.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, again informed the Board he is not going away. Mr. Stringfellow announced his support of the Consent Calendar. He informed us that March is National Nutrition Month and he did watch a forum on CTN dealing with school lunches and how that can be changed. Regarding the new policies he concurs with Dr. Kisiel and hopes all goes well with the new Adult Education program.

Mr. Stringfellow shared with us several articles and television shows he feels are worth looking at:

- An article in *Diverse* magazine, March 1<sup>st</sup> edition, in which they talked about the plan to raise the dropout age, on Page 7.
- In yesterday's *Hartford Courant* there was an article on para educators, a quiet but important presence in schools.
- In *Hartford* magazine, March edition on pages 64-65, there was an article regarding getting into college. It is good information for both parents and students.
- In Saturday's *Boston Globe* there was an article on smart phones and the top pick for the deaf, using video. He will pass this article on to Ms. Matfess.
- A Chance to Make History a book by Wendy Kopp, came out last year and is a good book regarding changes in education and technology.
- There was an education documentary on February 9ths on CPTV, regarding the achievement gap and how to deal with that. It was a 90 minute 3-part series worth seeing.
- In the February 9<sup>th</sup> *Reminder* there was an article on how to prepare for an emergency.

Mr. Stringfellow felt that the recent lockdown at MHS, due to a bomb threat, was handled very well. He hopes to hear some positive stories in the media regarding the high school. Lastly, he offered well wishes to incoming principal Mr. Geary, who has his work cut out for him.

**J. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

**Mr. Leon** wants to take a look at the bylaws, possibly by the Policy Committee, after hearing from the Town attorney tonight regarding the censure issue. Dr. Kisiel made note of that.

**Ms. Luxenberg** inquired if possibly the Green Club at MHS could brainstorm a solution to the use of water bottles at meetings, since the Board is trying to “go green” as evidenced by the recent use of IPADS in an effort to save paper.

**Mr. Pattacini** would like either a guided overview by the administration or a Board discussion regarding the Governor’s plan discussed by Ms. Walton. Also, Mr. Pattacini would like to take a look at the Kindergarten start age and dates and discuss whether that needs to be adjusted.

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

**8/0 – Voted in favor.**

**Adjournment 8:46 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Neal Leon  
Board Secretary