

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

MAY 29, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Lincoln Center

PRESENT: Atwater, Cruz, Leon, Luxenberg, Pattacini, Scappaticci,
Walton

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kisiel, Assistant
Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services Matfess

ABSENT: Crockett, Hagenow, Assistant to the Superintendent for
Finance & Management Brooks

A. OPENING

A.1&2. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. by Chairperson Pattacini.

Mr. Scappaticci moved to go into Executive Session. Ms. Walton seconded the motion.

7/0 - Voted in favor.

7:05 p.m. back in public session

All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Chairperson Pattacini.

A.3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

ADOPTED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of March 13, 2013.

Acting Secretary Cruz moved and Mr. Atwater seconded the motion.

5/0/1 – Voted in favor. Ms. Cruz abstained, Mr. Leon not yet in attendance.

Acting Secretary Cruz moved to add item G.1. Building Security, to the agenda. Ms. Luxenberg seconded the motion.

6/0 – Voted in favor.

B. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

B.1. Student Representative Report

Dr. Kisiel introduced Anna Manser, who has served as Board of Education Student Representative from Manchester High this year. Anna reported that:

- Multicultural & Latino Club Family Dinner Night was 4/19.
- The Multicultural Club hosted the annual Talent Show on 4/26 with overall winner junior Lindsey Lentocho. Other winners included JonCarlo Cortese, Taylor McCoy, Leo Lucas, and Vesliah Ellison.
- Junior Prom for the Class of 2014 was held 5/11 at Rentschler Field.
- Student Leadership Awards Program was 5/23 to recognize students who served as Class and APB officers and to induct new officers.
- Senior Picnic and Prom tickets have been on sale; Senior Picnic is this Friday and about 150 seniors are expected to attend. Saturday is Prom and about 350 tickets have been sold.
- All spring sports teams have finished another great season as some prepare for the state tournament. Varsity baseball is playing tonight against Shelton; tennis and golf were both in the state tournament; track and field prepares for the state meets starting tomorrow.
- Upcoming events: 6/3 Performing Arts Awards 7:30 in the auditorium; 6/4 Community Awards 6:30 in the auditorium followed by the Art & Fashion Show in the cafeteria; 6/6 Scholar Luncheon at 12:30 in the Faculty dining room; 6/10 Yearbook distribution 2:30 in the cafeteria; 6/11 Super Senior Dinner at 6:00 in the cafeteria.
- Exams run June 13-24th.
- June 20th is Graduation – 6:30 at the Convention Center in Hartford.
- June 20th is Project Graduation Party at MCC starting at 10:00 p.m.

Ms. Manser announced that with her senior year approaching, she has to step down as Board Student Representative and is passing along the position to Joseph Coye and Dylan Burns.

Mr. Pattacini thanked Anna for her service and wished her well.

B.2. PTA President Report

Jackie Madore, District PTA President, reported on the spring happenings with the PTAs in town. Many book fairs, dances, and other events have been held throughout the district. On April 25th the CT Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner was held and several Manchester schools were recognized. Bennet,

Highland Park, and Robertson received 100% participation awards. Bennet, Bowers, Keeney, and Robertson were recognized for having a 10% increase in membership. Bennet and Robertson both had at least 10 outside community members that did not have children attending the school. Bennet received all the mentioned awards plus had a 25% increase in membership and received a \$200 award from the CT PTA!

Ms. Madore noted that May 7th was teacher appreciation day. However, many of the PTAs decided to take the entire week to shower the teachers with goodies, breakfasts, or lunches to show their appreciation.

May 18th was the first town golf tournament and over \$2,000 was raised. Ms. Madore thanked all the participants as well as the businesses that sponsored the event.

Ms. Madore noted a new initiative this year is PTSA "mini-grants". Teachers can apply for these grants to help fund things not in their budget. This year Ms. Lister, an English teacher at the high school, received a grant for hands-on plaster masks. Mr. Gouche, also at MHS, received money for chess club clocks.

The Essence Awards are next Tuesday, and are awarded based on student character. There are five medals to be given.

Ms. Madore was excited to report that the MHS PTSA has received a \$5,000 grant to improve the front entry appearance.

Ms. Madore made note of the Project Graduation Party that will be held after graduation, starting at 10:00 p.m. at MCC. She invited everyone to stop by.

Ms. Madore announced the new officers for town-wide PTA next year: She remains President. Melissa King will be Vice President; Christine Cardosa will be Treasurer; and the Secretary will Cortessi Anderson.

The Science Fair Committee has been meeting to get ready for next year. The fair next year will be held January 11, 2014 at Illing. This year Ms. Burns, Principal at Highland Park, and Ms. Melesko, a Bennet teacher, are on the Committee.

Last, Ms. Madore thanked the two retiring principals, Mr. Axelson and Mr. Saimond, for their many years of service to the district.

Mr. Pattacini thanked Ms. Madore for her hard work and dedication to the students of Manchester.

B.3. Foundation for Manchester Public Schools

Dr. Kisiel informed the room that the Foundation for Manchester Public Schools awards grants to teachers for innovative programming. He introduced Melissa Pattacini, President of the Foundation. Ms. Pattacini noted this is the 9th year of the Foundation and reviewed these grants are for “extra” things that there is no funding available for in the regular budget. She also stated that the Foundation needs new Board members and is reaching out specifically to parents of young children, noting childcare for the monthly meetings will be provided.

Mr. James Hurd, Vice President of Distribution, announced the two grant winners this season. Ms. Sandy Lambert, from Waddell, received funding for first graders for an “apple fractions” puppet show. Ms. Stephanie Dominello at MHS received funding for 11th and 12th graders to visit Six Flags for a “Physics in Motion” field trip.

B.4. Introduction of new Principals

Dr. Kisiel introduced the two new principals in our district who will replace Mr. Roland Axelson and Mr. Michael Saimond, who are both retiring this year.

Mr. Michael Moynihan will be the new principal at Waddell. He is currently the Assistant Principal at Birch Primary School in Tolland. Mr. Moynihan informed the Board that he grew up here in Manchester and lives in town and is happy to be joining our District. Mr. Moynihan attended Nathan Hale Elementary and was a 1994 MHS graduate. He student taught at Bowers and Robertson and did his administrator internship at Robertson.

Mr. Nicolas Jones will be the new principal at Verplanck. He has been Principal at Simpson Waverly in Hartford for the past six years. He looks forward to preparing his “scholars” to be critical thinkers at Verplanck. He has already enjoyed getting to meet some of his new students and staff at various Verplanck activities.

Mr. Pattacini thought it was great that both incoming administrators were already getting acquainted with their new schools and hopes for a smooth transition.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

Dr. Kisiel presented seven 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. Establish an appropriation for FY 12-13 for the Heisman Scholars-Achieving by Reading Program Grant in the amount of \$20,000

C.3. Increase the appropriation for MRA out-of-town tuition to provide services to special needs students ranging in age from 14 to 21 in the amount of \$88,867 for FY 12-13, bringing the total appropriation to \$888,867

C.4. Establish an appropriation for FY 12-13 for the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, Inc. Grant in the amount of \$449,650

C.5. Transfer of Funds

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

- Transfer from Enrichment Professional Development to Enrichment Other Purchased Services Account in the amount of \$700.00
- Transfer from Special Education Consultant to Special Education Office Supplies (\$11,800), Instructional Supplies (\$16,500), and Computer Supplies/Materials (\$4,780)Accounts in the amount of \$33,080.00
- Transfer from Keeney Elementary School Administrator Printing and Advertising (\$181) and Keeney Elementary School Social Studies and Field Trips (\$800) to Keeney Elementary School Contracted Kelly Substitutes accounts in the amount of \$981.00
- Transfer from Illing Middle School Administrator In-Service to Illing Middle School Contracted Kelly Services account in the amount of \$1,000.00
- Transfer from Elementary Art In-Service (\$3,000) and Elementary Art Periodical (\$1765) to Elementary Art Instructional Supplies/Materials (\$3,000) and Elementary Contracted Services accounts (\$1765) in the amount of \$4,765.00

C.6. Permission to apply for \$98,001 for FY 13-14 for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Secondary Basic Grant provided through the State of CT

C.7. Extended Field Trip Request – Manchester High School – Future Business Leaders of America – National Leadership Conference – Anaheim, CA – 6/27/13 to 7/2/13 – 3 students

The Chairman called for a motion.

Secretary Leon moved and Ms. Cruz seconded the recommendation to adopt the Consent Calendar, Item C in our agenda.

7/0 - Voted in favor.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Melissa Pattacini, 49 Timber Trail, is the Project Graduation Chair. She noted that the Project Graduation party is alcohol free and is scheduled for June 20th at 10:00 p.m. at MCC. She invited the community to check out the party and appreciates the support given.

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, notes Memorial Day just passed and there was an article in the *Reminder* about the Korean War recently. He recommended the book *All Black Rangers*. Mr. Stringfellow noted the 150th anniversary of Gettysburg is in July. He recommended articles in the *US Navy* magazine along with the *Journal Inquirer* regarding Common Core and school closings.

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART II

E.1. Replacement plan for the portable classrooms at Illing

Dr. Kisiel reminded everyone that last fall the voters approved improvements across the district. Part of that referendum called for the demolition of three portable classrooms at Illing Middle School and the addition of a three classroom wing. Due to the fact that the wing would not be eligible for state reimbursement and inefficiencies found in the building, a new plan was crafted to relocate those classrooms inside the current structure. This plan would also cost less than the \$1.2 million earmarked for the original project and those savings could be used in other projects in the district.

Dr. Kisiel introduced David Stein and Lynn Panagotopoulos, architects from Silver Petrucelli, whom the town hired for the project. Mr. Stein and Ms. Panagotopoulos reviewed the new plan, which is divided into two phases. The full presentation is available on the website.

Phase I takes two rooms, the current self-contained Special Education Room and the choral room, and divides them into four classrooms. Three of those rooms will house the classes formerly in the portables. The fourth will house the self-contained classroom. The choral program will temporarily move to the area between the stage and cafeteria. This is a temporary solution to the immediate need to demolish the portables.

Phase II will involve some interior reconstruction in the tech ed classrooms, adding an internal corridor and performing some asbestos abatement. The result will be a more efficient use of space and the relocation of those classrooms, returning the choral space to music and possibly allowing for the self-contained classroom to reclaim space, or allocate that space elsewhere.

Mr. Leon inquired about the costs of the project. Mr. Stein was not sure of the exact numbers yet. Dr. Kisiel noted there is approximately \$200,000 in potential savings and he is impressed with the plan.

Mr. Leon wondered if there will be an issue with noise with the new classrooms in the tech ed wing? Mr. Stein reviewed the area is masonry construction and easily insulated for noise reduction, calling it a "simple fix".

Ms. Panagotopoulos noted the Phase II plan also improves the instructional space of the music program.

Mr. Pattacini was encouraged by this approach to the project.

Dr. Kisiel noted the portables will be demolished this summer. He stated no Board action is necessary until next Spring, when bids for the interior project are acquired.

E.2. Report from SMARTR Committee

Dr. Kisiel reviewed that previously the Board had approved the SMARTR plan for a new or like new renovation at Robertson and Washington Elementary Schools. The SMARTR Committee has asked for approval of a resolution, the full text of which is in the agenda, regarding the projects.

Brian Murphy, a member of SMARTR and also a member of the Building Committee, was present to share an explanation of the motion and the reasons SMARTR decided to slow down the elementary project and suggest the 5th/6th grade project move forward first. His full presentation is available on the website.

Mr. Murphy explained how the state figures reimbursement based on a specific square footage per student ratio and that in order to achieve the highest reimbursement, which is close to 65%, approximately 530-550 students per school is ideal. With under 600 students the core spaces, such as the gymnasium, administrative offices, art and music areas, can accommodate the student body and only the cafeteria needs to possibly be made a little bigger. Having a building that can accommodate more students allows for a greater number of students to have access to the latest technology.

Mr. Murphy went on to note that with the redistricting that will be needed for the Cheney/Bennet project alone, there will be enough movement to allow for the closure of at least one elementary school. That empty school could then be utilized for a whole school swing space in other projects in town. With larger buildings proposed at Robertson and Washington, another school could possibly be closed in the future. The long-term operational cost impact of this is obvious.

The question of why the Cheney/Bennet project should be first was explained. If that project fails referendum, then the plan to make the elementary schools into K-4th grade schools cannot be accomplished. If 5th grade were to remain in the elementary schools, different building planning would be required.

Mr. Murphy also noted another reason for slowing down the elementary projects was that there are answers needed for the architects that SMARTR does not yet have, such as do we use the Highland Park Ed Specs for design or do we need to alter those? Those Ed Specs call for 900 square foot classrooms. The classrooms at Highland are closer to 820 square feet and at Washington & Robertson classrooms vary from 700-800 square feet.

We also do not know how many students the Board will approve at each school. With 530-550 students the town can receive up to maximum state reimbursement, and it allows the most students access to the latest technology. It also allows for the possibility of 1-2 schools closing. However, in order to do this, the state requires a redistricting plan endorsed by the Board of Education prior to the grant application for reimbursement.

Due to these factors, SMARTR was not sure we would be ready for a November referendum. Mr. Murphy noted that the Board of Directors might be inclined, for the referendum in November, to include funds for a final design on the projects at Washington and Robertson, so that we would not lose an entire year on the project and we could still do a grant application for June 2014.

Mr. Leon stated he respected Mr. Murphy's insight on the project. He wondered if SMARTR had discussed which buildings might be closed? Mr. Murphy replied that was not discussed and would be a Board decision.

Mr. Leon understood the reasoning for wanting the Cheney/Bennet project accomplished first, but he wants Washington and Robertson too. He questioned why not do Washington and Robertson first K-5, then later do Cheney and move 5th? Mr. Murphy noted there are difficulties with making a school to accommodate upper grades (i.e. 5th) and lower grades. Kindergarten classrooms are generally larger. They require bathrooms in the

classrooms and smaller fixtures. Specific grades are also required to be on ground level.

Mr. Leon suggested that if we did a K-5 plan, when we moved 5th to Cheney later we could have room to bring in Pre-K to the elementary schools. He notes frustration that Washington keeps getting delayed. Mr. Leon reviewed that 14 months ago SMARTR was created as a reaction to the critical assessment report and he has a problem with putting just Cheney on the ballot. That just delays Washington and puts a band-aide on the problems there. He wonders if the plan is to eventually close one or two schools, why not close Washington and Robertson? Mr. Murphy reviewed that the North End population is growing, so a bigger Robertson is much needed in that area. He further noted Washington hosts the community center. Mr. Leon noted he is not advocating for the closure of those schools, stating Washington is extremely important to the community. Mr. Leon stated he feels investing in Cheney makes no sense if we will then be closing other schools that are in better condition. He further noted that the town has not reacted well to redistricting in the past and he feels that plan would lessen the change of a referendum passing.

Ms. Walton reframed the history of SMARTR. She noted that:

- The SMARTR Committee came to the conclusion that the concept of neighborhood schools is no longer feasible in the long-term. The Board endorsed this notion.
- The Board endorsed the grade configuration model of a K-4 and 5-6 grade configuration.
- The Board asked SMARTR to come forth with ideas for swing space if we are to do a sequence of elementary school building renovations.

Ms. Walton notes this plan allows for the technology and 21st Century learning that the Board requested; more palatable options for swing space as full buildings get renovated; supports the Board's notion for a new grade configuration across the town. This plan also addresses the need for the Board to take into account operating costs for long-term planning with the possibility of one or more schools being closed in the future. As for why Robertson and Washington and not other schools, she notes the SMARTR Committee went with the Board's priority list of Washington and Robertson. Ms. Walton reviewed the concept of "newer – fewer schools" that was discussed at a prior SMARTR meeting. Ms. Walton reviewed that approximately \$13 million in reimbursement funds will be lost if we have Washington and Robertson stay at approximately 350 pupil schools. She feels redistricting is more palatable when it means attending new schools with state of the art technology, noting many families opt to send their children to other towns to attend new schools. The 530-550 student school

size would mean classrooms with approximately 18-22 students per class. Smaller school populations may mean classrooms with up to 25 students per class.

Mr. Scappaticci was curious, with the optimal size for state reimbursement being 530-550 students, what is the optimal size for educational reasons? Ms. Walton reviewed that SMARTR had commissioned a study from CREC on schools size and the findings were that under 600 students per school was educationally appropriate and there was no impact on learning until approximately 800-1,000 student schools where a deterioration was noted. Mr. Scappaticci stated that it then seems a 530-550 pupil school will not effect the quality of education.

Ms. Cruz questioned the timeframe of the official plan to be adopted. Mr. Murphy noted the Board should engage the services of a demographer for a redistricting plan. At this point, the Board could simply advise SMARTR that the idea sounds good, which is the first step to let the architects know. Then a redistricting plan needs to be achieved.

Ms. Cruz wondered when a plan needs to be approved to make a Fall referendum. Mr. Pattacini noted that would be this summer. Mr. Murphy added that the plan has to be on the agenda for the August Board of Director's meeting to make referendum timelines. Ms. Cruz reviewed that would only give this Board 30-45 days to craft a plan. Mr. Murphy agreed, noting that is the reason SMARTR asked for the elementary project to be slowed down, as they did not feel we could make that deadline with these questions afloat.

Mr. Leon noted he is not opposed to redistricting or to bigger schools/fewer schools, but he feels the voters need to understand the full plan. He feels we owe it to the public to make a full plan and then fully inform the public, which includes deciding which schools may eventually be closed, before we ask them to vote.

Ms. Walton feels we do not need to craft that full plan in the next 40 days, we just need to be on board with the Cheney/Bennet project going forward and the sequence of events that will take place. Mr. Murphy agreed, noting that in the next 30-45 days the Board of Education has to agree to plan for redistricting, even if just for the fact that Cheney will require that, and if there will be bigger schools, then another redistricting will need to take place with school closures. In his personal opinion, Mr. Murphy agrees we need to tell the voters the long-term plan.

Ms. Walton noted that if the Board endorses the sequence of the 5th/6th grade academy being first, that allows time for a demographic study and then the

opportunity for public hearings to hear their input. Mr. Murphy added that also gives time for the architects to come back with the full costs as well, after the needed answers are given to them.

Dr. Kisiel was confused as to the urgency for answers for the Robertson and Washington architects. He notes the Board of Directors has made up their mind to put only Cheney on the ballot in November already. Mr. Murphy stated the urgency is the Board of Education's goal to put Washington and Robertson on the ballot in November as well. SMARTR did not feel that was a good plan, which is why they asked to slow down plans for those two schools at this time.

Dr. Kisiel also noted there are other considerations at this point, including the status of Preschool programming in our elementary schools. He notes that if that happens, those students would take space that is currently occupied by 5th graders. Another factor to consider is racial balance, which complicates any redistricting plans and cannot be accomplished in 45 days. Lastly, Dr. Kisiel wondered who pays for this demographic study, SMARTR or the Board of Education? This will not be an inexpensive proposition.

Mr. Pattacini feels we are headed in the right direction. He is unsure what SMARTR is asking the Board of Education or Administration to do. Mr. Murphy reviewed the questions: First does the Board endorse the concept of 530-550 pupil schools? Next, do we need to amend the Highland Park Ed Specs. He also notes he is there because the Board asked for an explanation of why SMARTR voted to delay Robertson and Washington.

Mr. Pattacini restated the two questions: 1) Do we support 500+ student schools; and 2) Do we proceed with the Highland Park School Ed Spec or amend it.

Dr. Kisiel noted the Highland Park Ed Spec needs to be modified to meet current educational standards. Mr. Pattacini notes that Board needs to develop a new Ed Spec.

Mr. Pattacini stated the future may have Preschool in many buildings as that is the direction the state seems to be moving in and the Board would like to plan for. Having a K-5 school that has the ability to convert to a Pre-K-4 school provides a flexibility that the Board would like. Mr. Murphy reviewed that the state would have issue with a plan like that, because the 5th graders would be "counted" twice, once in the elementary school and again in the Cheney project.

Mr. Pattacini then noted that the Cheney project for 5th graders places in jeopardy the reimbursement funding for Highland Park, as we need to

redistrict to fill the two classrooms of 5th graders that would come out of that building to keep the numbers for reimbursement. Mr. Pattacini notes there are a lot of moving parts here, and we need to understand the proposed solution front to back first.

Mr. Walton cautioned the Board about asking SMARTR to do the “how to”, feeling it is beyond their scope and that is Board work. SMARTR came up with the concept.

Mr. Leon does not disagree, noting the state will be asking for redistricting even before Cheney is put on the ballot. Mr. Murphy states for Cheney it would be just Highland Park redistricting to replace the 5th graders. Mr. Leon agreed, but noted that a piecemeal plan is not the right way, he feels it is only fair to have a full plan in place.

Ms. Walton agreed with Mr. Leon, adding that endorsing Cheney will require Phase I of a redistricting plan. Agreeing to a 530-550 student school will require Phase 2 of a redistricting plan. She notes redistricting is not a “dirty word” and it means offering more students the ability to attend Highland Park or other new schools. This poses a challenge and she wants to see if it is feasible with demographers to do a phased redistricting plan.

Dr. Kisiel agreed, but notes the Board cannot agree on a 550 size school until we see the impact on racial balance, pre-K, and redistricting. He urges no decisions be made until we have that information.

Mr. Leon notes we cannot accomplish this in 45 days. We don’t even know at this point how to fund that study. We should do this, but not for a Fall referendum.

Ms. Walton asked if that means Cheney should not be done first, and the entire project should wait for all three to be done together? Mr. Leon felt a full plan should be done together. Dr. Kisiel agreed.

Ms. Walton notes these are the roadblocks that SMARTR was talking about. She is disappointed, but agrees if we cannot do it right and meet deadlines, then it is better to slow down and do it right.

Dr. Kisiel suggested the Board direct the Administration to consult with a demographer to get a timeline. Mr. Pattacini authorized that, wondering if a motion was required? Dr. Kisiel felt no motion was necessary. Though he worries about who will pay for that, it is his job to figure that out.

Mr. Pattacini recalled that at a prior meeting we had requested a joint meeting with the Board of Directors and asked for guidance from

administration on the timing for that. Ms. Walton felt we still need that meeting, however we should wait until we have some answers to more questions prior to holding that meeting.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

G. NEW BUSINESS

G.1. Building Security

Mr. Leon moved to request a joint meeting with the Board of Directors in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing school building security matters and the funding for security improvements. Mr. Scappaticci seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Pattacini noted this is to present a safety plan to the Directors. It is being requested under executive session to protect the safety of the students, which is protected under the Freedom of Information Act.

7/0 – Voted in favor.

H. COMMUNICATIONS

H.1. Manchester High School Accreditation Status

Dr. Kisiel was delighted to announce that the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) has lifted Manchester High School off warning status. The Commissioner of Public Schools has recognized the improvements to the leadership of MHS and the improved learning climate. While Mr. Geary has a lot of work ahead of him, still needing to address items in the report, it is clear the high school now has the leadership and vision as a school of the future required to accomplish these goals.

H.2. Odyssey of the Mind

Dr. Kisiel announced that Illing Middle School's Odyssey of the Mind team had recently traveled to Michigan for the World Finals competition. The team placed 10th worldwide out of 69 teams in their division! He congratulated Mr. Lee and his students, staff, and supporters for their hard work. Mr. Pattacini added this is the third year in a row that our enrichment program has brought a team or teams to the World Finals.

H.3. SMARTR RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENT

Mr. Pattacini noted that Mr. Leon had previously resigned from the SMARTR Committee due to scheduling conflicts with meeting times. He thanked him for his efforts and wisdom on the Committee and Mr. Pattacini appointed himself as the newest Democratic representative on that Committee.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

I.1. Curriculum & Instruction Committee

Mr. Scappaticci reviewed the last meeting was held May 23 and in attendance were: himself, Mr. Atwater, Ms. Hagenow, along with Principal Geary. Mr. Geary provided the Committee with information on a proposed Attitudes and Behaviors Survey to be given to students in grades 6-12 that will measure student access to 40 Developmental Assets. These assets are considered the building blocks of development that help young people grow into healthy, caring, responsible adults. The anonymous survey would give parents the option of opting their student out and the survey would be given during the school day for approximately one hour. Results will be shared with the Board, staff, MAPS, and parents and will inform the development of programs, supports, and interventions at the school and district level. A similar survey was done by the town approximately five years ago as part of the development of the Children, Youth, and Family Master Plan. Ms. Walton could not make the meeting, but did review the survey and expressed she was in favor of the survey, along with the other members of the Committee.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, felt Ms. Madore and Ms. Pattacini gave good reports. He supports the Consent Calendar, especially the MRA appropriation. Mr. Stringfellow recommended articles in the summer edition of *Attitude* magazine on ADHD; the spring issue of *Black Journal* on job seeking; *NY Times* on school security and safety; and in today's *USA Today* on guns in the home. He felt the Illing project presentation was good. He hopes they will have better space and room for better learning. He hopes for 2013 to be a good school year next year.

K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Mr. Pattacini requested a subcommittee or policy committee look at Policy 3110, the budget policy. He feels the policy is outdated, written in 2000, and needs updating. Noting that we approached the budget cycle differently this year, we might want to consider adopting that approach in our policy. Personnel & Finance may be where it starts, before going to the Policy Committee and then back to the full Board.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pattacini called for a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Walton moved and Ms. Luxenberg seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

6/0 - Voted in favor.

Adjournment 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal Leon
Board Secretary