

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting December 14, 2020 Lincoln/Virtual

PRESENT: Gundersen, Heinrich, Hughes, Luna, Meggers, Pattacini, Patterson, Thames

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Geary, Deputy Superintendent Curriculum & Special Services Radikas, Director of Finance & Management Clancy, Director of Human Resources Sone-Moyano

ABSENT: Stefanovicz

A. OPENING

A.1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order

Chairperson Thames called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mr. Thames.

A.3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

ADOPTED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of November 18, 2020. Secretary Pattacini moved and Ms. Patterson seconded the motion.

8/0 – Voted in favor.

A.4. Approval of Budget Workshop Minutes

ADOPTED - Minutes Budget Workshop of the Board of Education of November 18, 2020. Secretary Pattacini moved and Mr. Heinrich seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

B.1. Building & Sites Committee

Mr. Heinrich reported the last meeting was held November 9, 2020 with the following in attendance: Mr. Pattacini, Mr. Meggers, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Heinrich, Mr. Geary, Karen Clancy and Lindsey Boutilier.

The department structure of the B&G department was reviewed and consists of three supervisors, each assigned equal responsibilities for designated school buildings.

The Daily Cleaning Checklist was shared and reviewed by committee members.

Reviewed was the list of projects submitted and approved by the Office of School Construction Grants & Review. The grant amount of \$1,079,152 was awarded to MPS for capital projects at MHS and Illing.

An update on the MHS Roof Project for replacement of large areas of old roofing was given. This will be addressed by the town through an application to the Office of School Construction Grants & Review for a roof replacement project.

Three employees from the Office of Attendance & Communications will be relocated to space in Washington School.

Last, the possible spaces for relocation of Manchester Middle Academy was discussed. MMA will be relocating at the end of the current school year.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Geary presented three 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. Transfer of Funds

- **Transfer from Plant Maintenance System-wide Maintenance Capital Repair account to Plant Maintenance System-wide Maintenance Contracted Services account in the amount of \$3,477.00**
- **Transfer from Plant Maintenance System-wide Maintenance Capital Repair account to Plant Maintenance System-wide Maintenance New Vehicles account in the amount of \$3,000**
- **Transfer from System-wide Social Studies Dues & Fees account to System-wide Language Arts Instructional Supplies & Materials account in the amount of \$2,500.00**
- **Transfer from Martin School Administration General Supplies & Materials account to Martin School Administration Postage account in the amount of \$700.00**
- **Transfer from Manchester High School Information Services Repairs account to Manchester High School Information Services Computer Supplies & Materials account in the amount of \$3,000.00**

C.3. Establish an appropriation for the National School Lunch Program School Equipment for the FY 20/22 in the amount of \$18,293.04

C.4. Establish an appropriation for the Title III, Part A English Language Acquisition and Language Enhancement Grant for the FY 20/22 in the amount of \$59,834

C.5. Establish an appropriation for the Nellie Mae Black Lives Matter for Black Educators Grant for the FY 20/21 in the amount of \$30,000

C.6. Establish an appropriation for the Nellie Mae Education Foundation Supporting Districts Addressing Two Pandemics Grant for the FY 20/22 in the amount of \$250,000

The Chairman called for a motion.

Secretary Pattacini moved and Mr. Meggers seconded the recommendation to adopt the Consent Calendar as outlined in this evening's agenda.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Thames noted the Nellie Mae Foundation grants and acknowledged the Superintendent for developing a relationship with Nellie Mae. He thanked the Foundation for being a friend to the district. These initiatives allow us to go above and beyond our budget and are appreciated.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Three students were available for the meeting this evening, including return representative Tiffany Henry and new representatives Leila Affini and Alexandra Hamza. As the students are currently learning remotely, there are no activities to report on. When asked by Mr. Thames how things were going remotely, Ms. Henry was hoping for a schedule change to start later in the morning.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

F.1. Fall Data Update

Mr. Geary reviewed that the Directors of STEAM and Humanities, Ms. Burns and Ms. Ghetia, had provided overviews at the last meeting. There is a multi-pronged approach to student learning. This is a challenging time and we need to rethink how we do what we do. Mr. Geary also noted there is no spring data from last year when we moved to virtual learning with no notice. Mr. Geary's presentation is available to view on the website. The hope is for significantly increased spring learning and plans to fill in the gaps next year.

F.2. Update on COVID-19

Mr. Geary reviewed that the district is currently fully remote until January 8th, returning to buildings on January 11th. He is monitoring community spread. Mr.

Geary noted that he will continue to notify us about quarantines this week as testing has started to take longer to come back, so they are working on last known contacts as quickly as possible.

Mr. Geary stated that we will no longer have snow days unless there are widespread power outages. Any inclement weather will mean remote learning so we are not making up days in June.

Mr. Geary feels the Board should be proud of the mitigation strategies in place in schools, including shields, masks, tents, etc. The need to go remote was not about transmission in schools, but about staffing issues due to quarantining and the turn around for testing.

A survey of students shows that students of color are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

Mr. Gundersen wondered if some of these responsibilities were pre-Covid or if they were additional obligations. Mr. Geary did not ask what had increased in the survey, only what is. He speculates that even though some duties may have existed before (such as caring for younger siblings) that the responsibilities are increased at this time.

Mr. Hughes read an article recently that talked about New Jersey holding night classes for K and 1st grade, as it was better for parents to be able to help their children. Mr. Geary also read that article and agreed it is hard for little ones in grades K-1-2 to participate in remote learning without parental attention.

Ms. Patterson noted that there is less structure and it is harder to manage time during remote learning. She mentioned the ability to catch up on work over the weekend, when parents may be able to support learning better. This is balanced by the need for a break. Flexibility is the key.

Mr. Thames encourages his grandson to continue to rise at the same time and get ready for school as normal, even though we are home.

Mr. Geary expressed his appreciation of the Board. This has been an extremely challenging situation, especially going fully remote.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

H. NEW BUSINESS

The Superintendent submits to the Board of Education a Waiver of Competitive Bidding for the installation of reflective vinyl characters on the outside surfaces of Manchester High School.

Mr. Geary explained that this bid waiver requires the signature of five Board members, not a vote. He reviewed this bid waiver is about the vinyl characters on the outside of windows in school buildings for first responders. We want the numbers on all buildings to look the same, so we want to use the same company that has already outfitted several buildings in the district. Five members will sign, either at Central Office or a courier will bring the document to their homes.

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

None.

J. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

January 11, 2020 - Budget Presentation

January 25, 2020 - Budget Update

February 8, 2021 - Adoption of Budget

It was noted that the dates of the Budget Workshops are being reviewed as we need to be able to broadcast from Lincoln Center and those meetings were originally scheduled to be held at MHS. New dates will be sent out soon.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thames called for a motion to adjourn.

Secretary Pattacini moved and Ms. Patterson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

Adjournment 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Pattacini
Board Secretary