

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting October 22, 2018 Lincoln

PRESENT: Conyers, Hagenow, Maio, Pattacini, Patterson, Scappaticci, Stefanovicz, 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: Meggers

A. OPENING

A.1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order

Chairperson Pattacini called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mr. Pattacini.

A.3. Secretary's Welcome

Mr. Thames stated that as Secretary of the Board of Education, he wished to extend a warm welcome to everyone present and to the television viewers. He, along with the Board and the Superintendent, were pleased to be joined in celebrating the achievement, reviewing information, and discussing areas for growth, along with making policy decisions related to the effective operation of the Manchester Public Schools. Mr. Thames explained that this is a regular meeting of the Board and all items that will be discussed or voted on this evening have been posted, as required by state law. Mr. Thames reviewed the mission of Manchester Public Schools, which is available for view on the website.

Mr. Thames explained that as the Manchester Board of Education, they are here to set goals, listen to reports of the Superintendent, approve budgets, contracts, and personnel appointments, and to create policy for the district. They are not

here to make management decisions or solve the problems of individuals. It was explained that meetings of the Board are open to the public, but are not meetings with individual members of the public. Therefore, comments from the audience will be confined to the time designated for the public to address the Board.

Last, Mr. Thames noted he is proud of this school system and thanked the public for their interest in this evening's meeting and the Manchester Public Schools.

Secretary Thames moved to add item C.15. to the agenda - Ratification of MEA Contract dated July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2023. Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor of amending the Consent Calendar.

A.4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

APPROVED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of October 9, 2018 as written in tonight's agenda. Secretary Thames moved and Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

8/0 – Voted in favor.

(This item was originally skipped over and addressed later in the meeting, but it was input in the proper place in the minutes according to the agenda.)

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

B.1. Curriculum & Instruction Committee

Ms. Stefanovicz reviewed the last meeting of the Committee was held October 9, 2018 with the following in attendance: Mr. Conyers, Mr. Scappaticci, Ms. Stefanovicz, Dr. Radikas, and Ms. Ghetia. The following items were discussed:

1. English Learners Update - Information was shared regarding the number of ELs per building and staff (teachers and tutors) assigned to support learning. Assignments based on numbers of ELs and levels of English

proficiency noted from Language Assessment Survey (LAS). The greatest number of Els is at Waddell and MHS (with 78 students at each school), and the lowest number is at Martin with only 5 students.

2. Proposed Curriculum Review Process - Current policy 6180 - Evaluation and Instructional Programs, was discussed. They are looking at a new process for reviewing curriculum. To date most content areas house curricular units electronically as part of unit planner, with quarterly reviews embedded through unit reflections. There are plans to utilize vertical teacher teams with a few admins to offer commendations and recommendations on an annual basis. They will develop an annual schedule for content areas to be reviewed and results will be shared with the C&I Subcommittee.
3. There was a Q&A period which revealed the top five languages in the MPS EL program are Spanish, Bengali, Telugu, Tamil and Twi. Another area questioned was how decimals are being addressed in Grade 6, as data presented in late 2016 noted this was an area in need of growth. The previously used assessment did not accurately represent grade level fluencies. The beginning of the year assessment addressed grade 5 fluencies, but the midyear and end of year addressed grade 6 fluencies. The assessment was revised to accurately address grade fluencies to support teachers in delivering instruction to grade level expectations. Last, the question was asked if NEASC had suggestions on what questions can be used when reviewing curriculum. They do and MHS administration, department heads and the Directors the Teaching & Learning meet regularly and use these questions to analyze units to determine areas in need of revision.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Geary presented fifteen items on the revised Consent Calendar for Board approval.

C.1. Personnel Action

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

C.2. Permission to apply for Title I, Part A - Improving Basic Programs Grant for FY 2018-2019, in the amount of \$1,625,608

C.3. Permission to apply for the ESSA: Title IV, Part A - SSAE Grant for FY 2018-2019 - in the amount of \$109,771

C.4. Permission to apply for the Bilingual Education Program Grant for FY 2018-2019, in the amount of \$4,927

C.5. Permission to apply for the Title III, Part A - Language Instruction for English Learners Grant for FY 2018-2019, in the amount of \$51,972

C.6. Permission to apply for Title I, Part A - Supporting Effective Instruction Grant for FY 2018-2019, in the amount of \$272,315

C.7. Permission to apply for United Way Planning Grant for FY 2018-2020, in the amount of \$114,600

C.8. Permission to apply for the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Continuation Grant for Family & Community Partnership for FY 2018-2020, in the amount of \$459,500

C.9. Establish an increase in appropriation for FY 2018-2020 for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) 611 Grant in the amount of \$59,194, for a total grant award of \$1,789,429

C.10. Establish an appropriation for FY 2018-2019 for the Alliance District Grant, in the amount of \$4,317,896

C.11. Establish an appropriation for FY 2018-2019 for the Priority School District Grant in the amount of \$823,588

C.12. Establish an appropriation for FY 2018-2019 for the Priority School District Summer School Grant in the amount of \$150,603

C.13. Establish an appropriation for FY 2018-2019 for the Extended School Hours Grant, in the amount of \$128,157

C.14. Establish an appropriation for FY 2018-2019 for the Connecticut State Department of Education Grant for Program Improvement Projects for Adult Education, in the amount of \$36,000

C.15. Ratification of MEA Contract dated July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2022

The Chairman called for a motion.

Secretary Thames moved and Ms. Hagenow seconded the recommendation to adopt the Consent Calendar as written in the agenda with the aforementioned addition of item C.15.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Patrick Doherty and Krista Myrie updated the board on the recent happenings at MHS.

The Homecoming Parade saw the class of 2019 win for a 4th year in a row for their float last Friday. There was an overwhelming amount of support from all of the classes, clubs, and teams who displayed their school spirit. Senior Dancer Abby Fisher says that "it was exciting to know that our class was a part of something as special as winning four years in a row. It will be interesting to see if it ever happens again." Seniors Alexa Oquendo and Michael Christy were named Homecoming Queen and King, and were honored at both the homecoming game and dance.

The MHS Roundtable Singers joined the Hartford Chorale and the Hartford Symphony Orchestra for a performance of the Brahms "Requiem" and Bernstein's "Almighty Father" last Thursday. In celebration of their 80th Anniversary, the Roundtable Singers included six alumni from the group itself.

On Monday, October 15, Interior Design Students at MHS hosted two Interior Designers from Ethan Allen Furniture to discuss various career paths in Interior Design. The discussion also included analyzing client's needs and creating plans based on customer input. In November, the same students will travel to Ethan Allen to walk through the

showroom and be presented with a "Design Challenge". Groups of students will need to solve the "Design Challenge" and present their solutions to a panel of interior designers. A winner will be selected by Ethan Allen Interior Designers in December. The prize for that winner has yet to be decided.

With Turkey Bowl right around the corner, students are asked to fill out permission slips along with \$10 in order to participate. The \$10 will go towards a class t-shirt. The game has been scheduled for November 16th on our home football field.

The Manchester High School, School Counseling Department is hosting its annual Financial Aid Night and College Funding event on Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in Bailey Auditorium. Valuable information on scholarships, completing the FAFSA and other types of financial aid will be discussed.

MHS hosted the Millenium Villages Project Bus Exhibit on October 11th and 12th. This exhibit focuses on fighting poverty and building sustainable communities in sub-Saharan Africa. Students were able to work with the educators from the program to think about similar challenges that we face in Manchester.

The first Freshmen team day of the school year happened last Friday (October 19th). Link leaders organized this day in which the teams compete with one another in activities such as kickball, flag football, lip sync, catchphrase, and spirit a squad.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, noted the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I is next month. It was a horrible war "to end all wars". Mr. Stringfellow recommended several magazine articles and books on many historical topics, including the war, Gandhi, and explorers and indigenous peoples.

Ms. Kate Dias, 22 Thayer Road, is both a teacher at MHS and the President of the Teacher's Union. She wanted to thank the [contract] negotiation team, which included members of the Board and teachers, for their collaboration and efforts for a smooth contract negotiation. A lot of hard work went into the process.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

F.1. Inside Look at Math

Mr. Geary introduced Pari Ghetia, Direction of Teaching & Learning - STEAM.

Ms. Ghetia gave a math number talk representing grade 2, grade 5 and grade 7, to give Board members an idea of what a teacher does to bring ideas from students to life. You can view this lesson on the website.

Mr. Conyers wondered if it is common to do these numbers talks across all grade levels. Ms. Ghetia noted it is routine in primary grades, K-4, but overall it is practiced in grades K-8.

Mr. Scappaticci noted this showed a very different way of teaching than he underwent as a child. He was taught there was only one correct way to get the answer. Mr. Scappaticci wondered why this is a better way. Ms. Ghetia noted that research shows that all kids think differently, so it is important to allow kids the flexibility to engage in different strategies. Mr. Scappaticci appreciated the demonstration. He appreciated that there are different ways to arrive at the correct answer and a student wouldn't be "marked down" for using a different strategy as would happen when he was a child. This is a different math classroom than we all had.

Mr. Pattacini felt it was helpful to see some of the things that get talked about at meetings, in a real way. It brings the topics home instead of them just being buzzwords.

Ms. Maio thinks it is wonderful that this type of lesson allows students to learn different ways of thinking from their peers, with the teacher acting as a facilitator.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

G.1. Policy Recommendations

New Policies:

- a. Policy 4309 - Family and Medical Leave
- b. Policy 3543 - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Fiscal Compliance
- c. Policy 3544 - School Activity Funds

- d. Policy 4310 - Educational Stability Procedures for Transportation
Coordination with the Department of Children and Families

Revised Policies:

- e. Policy 3240 - Tuition Fees
- f. Policy 3280 - Gifts, Grants and Bequests

Chairperson Pattacini asked if there were any questions previously presented to the administration on the above policy recommendations and revisions. Mr. Geary noted the only question was regarding the Family and Medical Leave in regards to spouses working for the district. The recommended policy followed federal law, in that the spouses would share the 12 weeks of allowed leave. However, in practice we do not follow that, and allow each employee 12 weeks of leave. The wording was revised to reflect the current practice.

Secretary Thames moved for the Board to adopt the new policies as recommended, with the change to the Family and Medical Leave policy, including Policy 4309 - Family and Medical Leave, Policy 3543 - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Fiscal Compliance, Policy 3544 - School Activity Funds, and Policy 4310 - Educational Stability Procedures for Transportation Coordination with the Department of Children and Families. Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

Secretary Thames moved for the Board to approve the revised policies: Policy 3240 - Tuition Fees and Policy 3280 - Gifts, Grants and Bequests. Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

Chairperson Pattacini thanked the administration and the Policy Committee for their work on reviewing and revising the policies.

H. NEW BUSINESS

None.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, enjoyed the presentation by Ms. Ghetia. He is glad to see new ways for students to learn, noting he wasn't good at math as a child. Mr. Stringfellow supports the Consent Calendar, noting bilingual education is important. He also supports the policy revisions and recommendations.

Mr. Stringfellow pointed out it is almost the 65th anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education. He noted that public schools have to take all students, but we are doing a good job. He hopes all students can get along. Last, Mr. Stringfellow recommended the book, *The Hate U Give*, which was also made into a movie.

J. COMMUNICATIONS

Secretary Thames noted it has become a tradition for the Board to honor the recording secretary on her birthday with a gift. The recording secretary thanked the Board and noted it is an honor to work with them.

K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

November 13, 2018 - Illing School Improvement

November 26, 2018 - Fall Data Update; Reaffirmation of Board of Education Bylaws

December 10, 2018 - Update on Equity Informed School Climate Assessment; Update on Capital Projects

January 7, 2019 - Budget Presentation

L. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pattacini called for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Scappaticci moved and Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

Adjournment 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryl Thames, Snr.
Board Secretary