

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

March 11, 2019

Lincoln

PRESENT: Conyers, Hagenow, Hughes, Maio, Pattacini, 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

Acting Chairperson Pattacini called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mr. Pattacini. Mr. Pattacini explained that Mr. Thames, the Chairperson, is in attendance this evening but was unable to perform his duties as Chair, so Mr. Pattacini was stepping in.

A.3. Secretary's Welcome

Mr. Scappaticci stated that as Acting 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. Scappaticci 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. Scappaticci 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. 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. Scappaticci noted he is proud of this school system and appreciates the public for their interest in this evening's meeting and the Manchester Public Schools.

A.4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

APPROVED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of February 25, 2019. Acting Secretary Scappaticci moved and Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

8/0 – Voted in favor.

A.5. Presentation of Distinguished Friend of Education Award

Ms. Tiffany Caouette from Connecticut Association of Schools, along with Katelyn Miner, Principal of MHS, presented this award to Josh Beaulieu, Battalion Chief and EMS Officer.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

B.1. Curriculum & Instruction Committee

Mr. Scappaticci reported that last meeting was held February 25, 2019 with the following in attendance: Mr. Conyers, Mr. Scappaticci, Ms. Maio, Dr. Radikas, Ms. Burns and Ms. Ghetia.

District reading and math data information was shared regarding unit assessments. The Committee reviewed the text provided to students at various grade levels, corresponding questions/tasks for each reading assessment and rubrics used to score the unit assessments.

The math pacing guides were reviewed, the skills being addressed by each unit and questions, scoring process, feedback mechanism for unit assessments to support potential changes for the following school year and planning process for teachers after data is collected.

Winter data was reviewed by school and several questions were addressed regarding rubrics, benchmarks and fluency data.

There was a discussion about the use of school visits by the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent, District Improvement Teams and Directors of Teaching and Learning as vehicles for monitoring teaching and learning.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Geary presented one item on the Consent Calendar for Board approval.

C.1. Personnel Action

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

The Acting Chairman called for a motion.

Acting Secretary Scappaticci moved and Ms. Hagenow seconded the recommendation to adopt the Consent Calendar as outlined in Section C of tonight's agenda.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

None.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, recommended a documentary about the flag on the moon, Apollo 11, noting it got 4 stars by the critics.

Mr. Stringfellow discussed vaccinations and herd immunity as well as food allergies, noting some baseball stadiums no longer sell peanuts. He talked about MCC's Excursions in Learning and would like a presentation by them in the future.

Mr. Stringfellow note that next month is the 51st anniversary of the shooting of Robert Kennedy. He recommended a book on the Kennedy boys as well as a biography about RFK.

Last, Mr. Stringfellow recommended the book *The Black Count* about discrimination in the West Indies.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

F.1. District Assessments - Humanities

Mr. Geary noted that at the last Curriculum & Instruction Committee meeting, Ms. Ghetia and Ms. Burns gave a presentation. This evening, Ms. Burns will repeat her presentation to the full Board (which is about grade 3 reading) and at a later meeting Ms. Ghetia will present her information (STEM). Ms. Burns shared the unit 1 and unit 2 reading assessments for grade 3, so the Board could see the actual types of questions students are assessed on. Mr. Geary noted the district average rose from unit 1 to unit 2.

Mr. Conyers wondered about next steps, noting that for one section Bowers students scored 80% proficient while another school only hit 40% on that section. Ms. Burns stated that the instructional coaches try to find what works in different classrooms and different schools and share that knowledge with others. Mr. Conyers thought it was interesting how deeply data is looked at.

Mr. Geary wondered how long these assessments have been in place and why does grade 3 and 4 only have to answer 2 questions out of 4, while grade 5 students answer all 4 questions. Ms. Burns noted that last year the post reading benchmark assessments were introduced. This year they landed on 2 questions for grades 3 and 4 to see how the reading proficiency and stamina and volume go. These questions take about 45 minutes to answer the 2 questions and 90 minutes for all 4. It is possible next year they may move to 3 questions.

Mr. Pattacini thought it was amazing to see what is happening in the classrooms with the data. He notes the teacher can see what skills students are struggling with and adjust their instruction accordingly.

**F.2. Update on the State of Connecticut Next Generation
Accountability Report**

Mr. Geary presented the update on the State of Connecticut Next Generation Accountability Report. The report is available online.

Mr. Scappaticci wondered how the state intends to use this data. Mr. Geary noted it is possible Priority districts could be directed how to use the funding. We are opposed to being told how to use the money. We are not sure where that pending legislation will go.

Mr. Scappaticci wondered if each school gets their score. Mr. Geary stated they do, but we don't spend much time speaking about it. We already track some of these indicators, the critically important ones, and we may add a few more of these that to the data dashboard. Because of the need to weight the subjects, the scoring is overly complicated.

Mr. Pattacini appreciates the state's efforts, as directed by the federal government, to create something, but this does not achieve that goal. Mr. Geary applauds the state's efforts to pull out high needs students, but it is also challenging to districts with a high number of high needs students.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

G.1. Policy Recommendation

The Policy Committee submits to the full Board its recommended policy revisions for this second reading and adoption. There have been no questions as verified by the Acting Chair.

1a) Policy 9000 - Bylaws

Acting Secretary Scappaticci moved for the Board to adopt Policy 9000 - Bylaws. Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

7/0 - Voted in favor.

1b) Policy 6180 - Revised.

Acting Secretary Scappaticci moved for the Board to adopt Policy 6180 as revised. Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

7/0 - Voted in favor.

Mr. Pattacini thanked the Policy Committee and the administration for their work on these policies, especially the Bylaws. We have worked over the years to improve the Board's ability to conduct their work.

H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1. Approval of Educational Specifications for MRA roof replacement

Mr. Geary noted that this was previously approved but the language of the motion was not accepted by the state so we are re-voting with the proper language.

Acting Secretary Scappaticci moved that the Manchester Board of Education approve and adopt the attached Educational Specifications dated January 9, 2019 for a roof replacement at Manchester Regional Academy. Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

7/0 - Voted in favor.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, congratulated Mr. Josh Beaulieu on his award. He seems like a good person. Mr. Stringfellow would like to invite the new police chief and SRO offices to speak, possibly also to the Government Academy.

As for the presentation by Diane Burns, Mr. Stringfellow felt it was excellent and easy to understand. He recommended a series of children's books that start with *What is...* He had with him one entitled *What is the Women's Rights Movement?* Mr. Stringfellow feels that social studies is important and we need to understand about different cultures. He recommended the book *Rethinking Ethnic Studies*.

Mr. Stringfellow is satisfied that we are making progress in closing the achievement gap. He hopes there are good programs in the works and thinks the system has come a long way. We need to continue to make kids feel included and not just a number.

J. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Pattacini congratulated the MHS boys basketball team for their 81/65 win Friday night. They have moved on to the state semi-finals tomorrow in New Haven.

K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Mr. Geary noted we are working on a presentation on School Resource Officers as soon as Chief Darby is settled in.

Monday, March 25, 2019 - Closer Look at District Assessments - STEAM
MHS Update - RISE/Barr

Monday, April 8, 2019 - MRA School Improvement Plan

Monday, April 22, 2019 - Update on Equity Informed School Climate Assessment

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 - Budget Workshop #1 - Room 291 at MHS

L. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pattacini called for a motion to adjourn.

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

7/0 - Voted in favor. Adjournment 8:33p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Scappaticci
Acting Board Secretary