

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

March 25, 2019

Lincoln

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

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, Thames

A. OPENING

A.1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order

Acting Chairperson Pattacini called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 unable to join us tonight.

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 stated he appreciates the public's 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 March 11, 2019. Acting Secretary Scappaticci moved and Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

7/0 – Voted in favor.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Geary presented five 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 19/20, for the Manchester Head Start in the amount of \$1,233,302

C.3. Establish an appropriation for FY 19/20, for the Manchester Head Start Training and Technical Assistance, in the amount of \$5,312

C.4. Establish an appropriation for FY 19/20, for the Enfield Head Start, in the amount of \$857,746

C.5. Establish an appropriation for FY 19/20, for the Enfield Head Start Training and Technical Assistance, in the amount of \$11,137

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Scappaticci asked Mr. Geary to explain why we have Enfield's Head Start on the Consent Calendar. Mr. Geary explained that we are their fiscal agent and their money flows through us and has for many years.

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.

7/0 - Voted in favor.

D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

None.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, spoke about the 1839 Amistad trial in New Haven and recommended a book on the topic. He spoke about the Transcontinental Railroad of 1869, as well as Women's History Month, suggesting several books and articles on the topics. Last, Mr. Stringfellow recommended a book *Why Gender Matters* and magazine articles about racism.

Ms. Susan Stepanski, 83 East Eldridge Street, noted she is a teacher at Illing Middle School. She was speaking tonight on the topic of the proposed reduction of Instructional Supplies of \$15 per pupil. Ms. Stepanski was speaking on behalf of the Family Consumer Science and Unified Arts Departments, where they spend much of their Instructional Supply money on consumables, such as thread, material, food, etc. These classes are all "hands-on" and to reduce more money from those programs impacts them more severely than it does an academic area. They have already reduced their budgets to the bare minimum. Ms. Stepanski wanted the board members to be aware, as they write the budget, what the impact of their decisions are on all the areas that make Manchester great, and these types of classes are something we are proud of that will suffer if the Instructional Supply line is cut.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

F.1. District Assessments - STEAM

Mr. Geary noted that at the last Curriculum & Instruction Committee meeting, Ms. Ghetia and Ms. Burns gave a presentation. At the last Board meeting Ms. Burns repeated her presentation and this evening Ms. Ghetia will present her information. Ms. Ghetia shared grade 1 and 3 unit assessments and scoring with the Board. She also reminded everyone that the district Science Fair is being held this Saturday, March 30th, at MHS at 9:00 am and invited all to attend.

After her presentation, Dr. Radikas noticed that in unit 1 one of the questions asked the student to "circle all that apply" indicating the possibility of more than one answer, and in unit 2 the question listed "equations" (plural) and if a student is not paying attention they may stop at the first correct answer and lose credit for not listing all the answers that work.

Mr. Pattacini noted that as adults we all know how to read, how to do math, etc. and we forget how hard it is to learn these concepts. He felt it was powerful to unpack and learn about what each student may struggle with in these concepts.

F.2. Manchester High School Update on RISE and Barr

Mr. Geary asked Principal Miner to update us on these private partnerships. Ms. Miner noted we pursue private partnerships that align with the work of the Board and are connected to our school improvement plan.

Ms. Miner gave us an overview of RISE, which was first looked at in East Hartford. The five strategies they focus on include:

- Summer Transition Programs - to engage middle school in data review; to have 20% of rising 9th graders involved by 2020; and a summer bridge program. These are things we currently do but it would provide a way to increase the number of students that are able to access this program from the approximately 35 we now serve.
- On-Track Data Teams - weekly time in team meetings; PD related to on-track strategies; access to the RISE data tool which allows the user to see attendance, grades and discipline in one screen.

- On-Track Coordinators/On-Track Conferences - work with RISE to secure two on-track coordinators to support a caseload of 60 freshman each; engage all 9th graders in on-track conferences at least twice in the 19-20 school year.
- College & Career Support - collaborative review of college and career strategies with rise staff.
- Educator-inspired Innovations - support educators in pursuing small (\$500-1000) RISE Innovation Fund grants.

Mr. Scappaticci thought this was all very exciting. He noted we will be the second cohort to RISE and wondered about the success with the first cohort. Ms. Miner noted the data is impressive with the first cohort, definitely a growth pattern. Ms. Miner informed us that RISE is funded by the Dalio Foundation, a philanthropic foundation.

Mr. Scappaticci wondered if the students get to see their profile and the effect of their daily actions on their achievement. Ms. Miner noted they would be able to access that, at first with adult support. Mr. Scappaticci inquired about the summer bridge program. Ms. Miner stated there is a three and a half week program that offers academic support, leadership, building orientation, and key adult interaction. Those 35 students that were served this year as at-risk 8th graders already knew the building and felt confident on their first day of 9th grade. To be able to double that number of students will be great.

Ms. Maio wondered if all data points on the dashboard are currently in different programs. Ms. Miner noted many of the items can be accessed in Eschool, but in different areas of that program, while some are in different programs, such as SWIPE, Naviance, and Google. RISE will pull all behavior, attendance and grades and color code it and make it trackable. Ms. Maio was impressed and also mentioned that she attended the recent 8th grade open house with her child and thought it was a great, informative evening.

Mr. Conyers asked about the mentor aspect and wondered if it was similar to Power Hour or Flex. Ms. Miner noted Mentor Monday, which is an hour, has focused on resume writing.

Ms. Miner reviewed the Barr Grant, which has been a planning grant the last 18 months.

- Revise external credit policy;
- Expand community and business partnerships;
- Integrate community projects into the curriculum;
- Revise freshman seminar;
- Develop student resource profiles and provide feedback;
- Explore alternate scheduling;
- Improve Academy selection process
- Plus, expand extended learning.

Ms. Miner noted the proposal for the implementation grant that would expand all the above.

Mr. Geary noted the RISE grant is \$200-250,000 per year and the Barr Grant is \$500,000 over three years.

Mr. Pattacini noted that every year we look at the work being done at the high school and it is amazing. If we keep at it we will have great success. These innovative ideas are allowing students to see their strengths and see how their daily decisions impact their lives. It is powerful. Mr. Pattacini is excited about this work.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

H. NEW BUSINESS

None.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, supports the Consent Calendar. He also enjoyed the two presentations. He hopes to see a report on the arts in the future. Mr. Stringfellow would like all students to come out well rounded. He recommended the books *How School Works* and *Who You Know*. He feels we need to look at the bigger picture. Mr. Stringfellow also mentioned an article in *TIME* about putting the phone down and talking with teens.

J. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Pattacini reminded everyone that tomorrow night, at Lincoln Center, the Board of Directors has their last budget workshop at 6:00 p.m. and all are invited.

K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

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

Monday, May 13, 2019 - Adult Education Update

Wednesday, May 15, 2019 - Budget Workshop #2 - Room 293 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 8:20p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Scappaticci
Acting Board Secretary