

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

April 22, 2019

Manchester High School - Room 293

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

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Geary, Deputy Superintendent Curriculum & Special Services Radikas

ABSENT: Thames

A. OPENING

A.1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order

Acting Chairperson Pattacini called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mr. Pattacini.

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.

A.4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

APPROVED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of April 8, 2019. Acting Secretary Scappaticci moved and Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

8/0 – Voted in favor.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

B.1. Personnel & Finance Committee

Ms. Hagenow reported the last meeting was held March 25, 2019 with the following attendees: Mr. Pattacini, Ms. Hagenow, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Geary, Ms. Clancy and Journal Inquirer reported Chris McDermott.

Ms. Clancy had provided an update on transportation, stating they have retained the services of a consultant to review the current systems and processes in order to improve services.

Ms. Clancy provided the Committee with an update on the current budget status, which has changed significantly since the September report. A hard budget freeze was implemented in early January to address overages in the tuition and transportation budget lines.

Ms. Clancy informed the Committee of Peter Staye's resignation, effective April 5th. He accepted a position with Middletown Public Schools. Mr. Geary and Ms. Clancy met with Mr. Staye and Chris Till to review the status of the school projects. We are in the process of searching for an interim director until we can determine the leadership structure of the department. Ms. Clancy will attend Building Committee meetings and will oversee the Buildings and Grounds department for now.

Last, Ms. Clancy informed the Committee that the town and Board have a new health benefits consultant.

The next Personnel & Finance Committee meeting will be held Monday, May 13, at 5:30 p.m. at Lincoln Center, Director's Room.

B.2. Building & Sites Committee

Ms. Maio reported the last meeting was held April 8th, as a tour of the Verplack building. The following were in attendance: Mr. Conyers, Ms. Maio, Mr. Pattacini, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Geary, Ms. Hagenow, Mr. Scappaticci, Mr. Staye, members of the Building Committee, Downes Construction, TSKP Studios, and Christopher McDermott from the Journal Inquirer. The tour included a walkthrough of classroom areas, the library, gymnasium, kitchen, cafeteria, main entrance and administrative offices, all in various stages of renovation. The project is moving along at a good pace and is scheduled for on-time completion for the start of school.

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, stated that he is a class of 74 MHS grad and his brother was class of 82. He feels MHS has changed for the better since he attended and that it is more diverse now. He hopes for good media coverage for the district. Mr. Stringfellow reviewed that last month was women's history month and recommended the book *Roses and Radicals*. Mr. Stringfellow spoke about teaching African American history and that there needs to be talk about reconstruction. He recommended the book *Dark Sky Rising*. Mr. Stringfellow noted the 100th anniversary of Junior Achievement is approaching and he suggested watching CPTV for good programming. Mr. Stringfellow noted violence can happen both in school districts as well as in homes. Last, Mr. Stringfellow recommended several articles on history topics he found interesting.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

F.1. Update on Equity Informed School Climate Assessment

Mr. Geary reviewed that the actual report is several hundred pages. He gave a quick overview of the commendations and recommendations as well as items that need to be addressed. Mr. Geary explained that this evening, after hearing from several people that worked on this team, we would break out into groups for more intimate discussions on the topic.

Some things that are going well include:

- Students, staff & families are eager to have conversations about racial identity and other identities they hold.
- MPS students embody multicultural diversity.
- Staff report a positive work environment.
- Students reported receiving encouragement and support from teachers and staff.
- There are individuals at MPS with a deep commitment to equity.
- Families feel respected and have a positive outlook of their child's experience.

Some areas to focus on for next steps include:

- Professional learning for all staff.
- Creation of School Equity Teams.
- Review and Revision of Curriculum.

- Empowerment of Student Voice.

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 enjoyed the forum tonight and felt heard. He hopes the information he passes along is being used. Mr. Stringfellow feels the Board needs to listen to community members, even single, non-parents such as himself. He feels we are at a turning point in education and we are taking steps in the right directions. Mr. Stringfellow would like to see us make Dr. King's dream a reality. Last, he hopes that maybe CPTV or PBS will do a special on our town. He comes to these meetings because he really cares and he implored other community members of color to join him.

J. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 - Budget Workshop #1 - Room 293 at MHS

Monday, May 13, 2019 - Adult Education Update

Tuesday, May 28, 2019 - Professional Learning - Board of Education Self Reflection - Central Office

Monday, June 10, 2019 - Teacher Evaluation Update

Monday, June 24, 2019 - Close of School Update

L. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pattacini called for a motion to adjourn.

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

8/0 - Voted in favor. Adjournment 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Scappaticci
Acting Board Secretary