

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

May 13, 2019

Lincoln

PRESENT: Conyers, Hagenow, Hughes, Maio, Meggers, 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: Thames

A. OPENING

A.1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order

Acting 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. 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 April 8, 2019. Acting Secretary Scappaticci moved and Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

8/0 – Voted in favor.

A.5. Approval of Minutes of Budget Workshop

APPROVED - Minutes of Budget Workshop of the Board of Education of May 8, 2019. Acting Secretary Scappaticci moved and Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

7/0/1 - Voted in favor.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

B.1. Curriculum & Instruction Committee Minutes

Mr. Conyers reviewed the last meeting was held on April 22nd with the following attendees: Mr. Conyers, Ms. Maio, Mr. Scappaticci, Dr. Radikas, Ms. Sheehan-Burns, Ms. Ghetia, Mr. Steffenson and Stefanie Sebastio-Kirby.

The 2019 Science Fair took place March 30th at MHS and was successful. Opportunities for MHS STEM students to become more involved in this event in the future were discussed. The CT Invention Convention is scheduled for May 4th at UCONN and Manchester is sending 20 students to the State finals.

With the implementation of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), textbooks for Biology and Earth Science were discussed. New books will be

purchased for the Fall 2019, which will include a 6 year license to updates and an interactive digital student version.

In January 2020, Manchester, with support from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, was to implement the EDI (Early Development Inventory) to kindergarten students. The school readiness tool captures data within five areas: social competence, physical health and well-being, emotional maturity, language and cognitive, and communication skills. Assessment data would be available in July 2020, which could be used to support Manchester's work with its newly formed PK/K Transition Team being guided by Diane Sheehan-Burns. On Wednesday, April 24th, Ms. Burns received word from the CT State Department of Education stating that the EDI must be given in addition to the state's Kindergarten Entrance Inventory (KEI). The District is currently in discussions regarding next steps as we do not want to over-evaluate students or take additional learning time away from them.

Last, enVision mathematics materials will now be used through grades 7 & 8. The extension of the materials will build consistency for general math classes in grades K-8.

Mr. Pattacini made note that Board Chair Thames was not feeling well and was unable to attend the meeting, so he was stepping in to Chair the meeting and Mr. Scappaticci was taking over the duties of Secretary this evening. He also noted that Mr. Geary was attending a PTA meeting at Martin to discuss the upcoming referendum and until he returned, Dr. Radikas was stepping in for him.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Geary presented eight 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 Waddell School Administration General Supplies and Materials account to Waddell School Administration Repair of Equipment account in the amount of \$138

C.3. Permission to apply for the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) 611 grant for FY 19-21

C.4. Permission to apply for the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) 619 grant for FY 19-21

C.5. Permission to apply for the ED-244 Grant for SY 19-20 for Manchester Adult Education

C.6. Permission to apply for the State Department of Education's Program Enhancement Project - Continuation Application for Adult Education (PEP), fo FY 19-20

C.7. Establish an appropriation for FY 18-20 for the Immigrant & Youth Education Program in the amount of \$22,225

C.8. Approval to donate \$1,000 to Manchester High School "Project Graduation" for the 2018-2019 school year

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, supports the Consent Calendar, especially numbers 7 and 8. He feels all students deserve a chance to learn. Mr. Stringfellow noted that June 6th will mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day and he recommended an article in a Naval magazine about the topic. He noted that not all heroes are white. Regarding equity in schools, Mr. Stringfellow recommended two books, *Opposite of Hate* and *White Fragility*.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

F.1. Adult Education Update

Dr. Radikas introduced Dr. Diane Clare-Kearney to discuss the program. Dr. Clare-Kearney was joined by both staff and students to talk about the Adult & Continuing Education Program. Her powerpoint is available on the website.

Mr. Scappaticci wondered how the Board can help support this wonderful program. Dr. Clare-Kearney noted they need more space. She said many classes are filled to capacity when they would prefer to keep the number of students under 10, some are at 30 with a tutor to assist.

Mr. Scappaticci noted that Ms. Blakeslee attended MCC. She said that MCC helped teach her how to be a student and she moved on to Eastern after that. Mr. Scappaticci was impressed that the staff helps students move on to higher education at MCC.

Mr. Conyers was familiar with the GED program but asked for an explanation of the NDEP and CDP programs. Dr. Clare-Kearney explained the GED program is generally for those over age 24. The NDEP - National External Diploma Program is a competency based experience for a more mature student (usually over age 40) and is a one to one program with an advisor and assessor. The CDP program - Credit Diploma Program - is similar to high school in that students earn credits and is held from 4:15 -9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Typical students are ages 18-22.

Mr. Conyers was pleased to hear about partnership with the town in job shadow programs.

Mr. Hughes wondered about the space issue, asking if current schools were used at night. Dr. Clare-Kearney stated they do use the high school at night, but the space problem is during the day. Currently classes are held during the day at the Pavilions, Squire Village, Main Street and in a couple elementary schools that host ESL programs. She noted we really need to create another level of ESL classes and she would like to have 5-8 more classrooms.

Mr. Pattacini thanked Dr. Clare-Kearney for the work they do and he enjoyed hearing the life stories of the students who spoke this evening. They have overcome much in their lives and the program embodies them to be lifelong learners.

Dr. Clare-Kearney thanked the Board for their support, noting this program has evolved since 2010 into a model program for the state. Other districts ask us how we are implementing career readiness into the curriculum and come to us for guidance.

Mr. Scappaticci moved for a short recess. Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor. Session in recess at 7:45 p.m.

Back in session at 7:53 p.m.

F.2. Manchester Public School 2025 Plan - Phase 2

Mr. Geary showed the Board the flyer and presentation being shown to the community in advance of the referendum scheduled for June 4th. He has already presented at several PTA meetings, the Senior Center and several community events and has several more on the schedule for the coming weeks.

Mr. Geary noted that Phase I is coming in ahead of schedule and under budget. Phase II goes to referendum June 4th and the recommended plan is the "three school plan" to renovate Buckley, Bowers and Keeney to accommodate a larger student body. Funds will be earmarked for repurposing Martin, Nathan Hale, and Washington Schools. This plan will cost the taxpayers about \$34 million after the

55% state reimbursement. Mr. Geary's presentation is available for viewing on the website.

Ms. Hagenow wondered what would happen to the excess \$5million left from Phase I if Phase II does not get approved. Mr. Geary explained that we simply would not bond that money so taxes would not go up quite as much, that we did not already have that money.

Mr. Geary responded to a few questions sent in from the public:

- What if the referendum fails? Mr. Geary stated there is no backup plan, we would go back to the drawing board. The purpose of this plan is to take a holistic approach and not just attempt to renovate one school at a time. It is critical for community members to get out and vote on June 4th.
- Do we expect a large voter turnout on the 4th? Mr. Geary is concerned about this and asks that everyone do their part in reminding their friends and family to get out to vote.
- In what order will the buildings be renovated? Mr. Geary explained the order is Buckley, Bowers, Keeney. Buckley is first in line due to the security issue of having the main office on the second floor, with Bowers having a similar situation.
- What special features will each school have? Mr. Geary noted each renovated school will have something unique about them, noting Waddell has the slide and Verplanck has an indoor/outdoor amphitheater.

Mr. Geary wants to hear a loud voice from the community June 4th.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

G.1. 2019-2020 Budget Approval

Mr. Pattacini noted the Board of Directors substantially approved our budget request, which is good news.

Mr. Geary noted we had one budget workshop in which he reviewed Manchester is set to receive about \$1.2 million more in ECS cost money (though

the final amount may vary and will not be known until August). He suggested cutting \$20,000 from certified salaries due to a late retirement notice and \$45,000 from instructional supplies in order to make up the budget reductions needed.

Acting Secretary Scappaticci moved to approve the 2019-2020 Manchester Board of Education Budget in the amount of \$116,531,237. Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

Mr. Pattacini thanked the Superintendent and Mrs. Clancy for their work on preparing the budget. The early budget workshops were difficult. Mr. Pattacini also thanked the Board of Directors for substantially supporting our request and recognizing the importance of fully funding public education in Manchester.

H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1. Board of Education and Budget Workshop Meeting Dates

Mr. Geary presented the dates for the next school year, noting the agendas would be structured similar to this year with suggested draft topics for each meeting.

Acting Secretary Scappaticci moved for the Board of Education to approve the 2019-2020 Board of Education and Budget Workshop meeting dates. Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, supports the Consent Calendar, especially items 3 and 4. He noted people with disabilities have unique talents and recommended two TV shows that feature disabled actors, *Speechless* and *Special*. Mr. Stringfellow enjoyed the presentation by Dr. Clare-Kearney, whom he has known for a long time. He pointed out Dr. Clare-Kearney was recently honored by SERC for her equity work. He feels this town is all about equity and he really enjoyed hearing the student's stories

this evening. He was impressed by their hard work and wished them all well. Mr. Stringfellow would like to see Manchester present to the State Board of Education about our model program for Adult Education. Last, Mr. Stringfellow suggested an article about immigration in Europe in *TIME* magazine.

J. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Pattacini reviewed the graduation dates:

- MRA graduation is June 17 at MRA at 6:30 p.m.
- MHS graduation is June 18 at the Convention Center in Hartford at 6:30 p.m.
- Adult Ed graduation is June 20 at MHS at 5:00 p.m.

K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

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 8:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Scappaticci
Acting Board Secretary