

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

June 10, 2019

Lincoln

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

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

ABSENT: Meggers,

A. OPENING

A.1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order

Chairperson Thames 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. Thames.

A.3. Secretary's Welcome

Mr. Pattacini 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. Pattacini 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. Pattacini 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. Pattacini 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 May 13, 2019. Secretary Pattacini moved and Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

8/0 – Voted in favor.

A.5. RECOGNITION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE AND TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Mr. Geary and Mr. Thames presented Patrick Doherty, the outgoing Student Representative, with a plaque honoring his service to the Board.

Mr. Geary announced all 15 Teachers of the Year and spoke a little about what makes each of them special. Cake and punch was enjoyed by all.

Bennet - Kelly Melesko	Bentley - Kristen Phoenix
Bowers - Tammy Sullivan	Buckley - Felicia Falkowski
Highland - Wendy Blume	Illing - Jennifer Adams
Keeney - Michelle Patrick	MHS - Cassie Wilson
Manchester Middle Academy - Matt Delaney	District Teacher of the Year
MPSC - Karen Van Heest	MRA - Leigh Anne Young
Martin - Amanda Ortiz	Verplanck - Carla Johnson
Waddell - Michelle Wlochowski	Washington - Danielle Nardone

Mr. Thames noted that teachers hold the most important job on the planet. They influence, mold and guide our children and give life to their dreams. Teachers help students navigate the course of their lives, learn to problem solve, and plant seeds for the future of our great nation. On behalf of the Board, Mr.

Thames expressed his thanks for the diligence, hard work and sacrifice of our teachers.

Recess was called to enjoy cake at 7:30 p.m. - Meeting called back to order at 7:58 p.m.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

B.1. Personnel & Finance Committee Minutes

Ms. Hagenow reported the last meeting was held May 13th with the following in attendance: Mr. Pattacini, Ms. Hagenow, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Geary, Ms. Clancy and Nick Aldi, Food Services Director.

Mr. Aldi provided the Committee with information relative to equity in paid lunch pricing. This information is reviewed and calculated annually based on State Department of Education guidance. School districts are required to adjust their lunch prices if they charge less than the target weighted average price for paid lunches. Therefore, it is recommended that the Board of Education approve an increase of \$0.10 (10 cents) in lunch prices for 2019-2020.

Mr. Aldi provided a breakfast price comparison between local school districts within our District Reference Group. Manchester charges \$1.00 for elementary and middle school breakfast and \$1.25 for high school breakfast. We rank very low on the list and have not had an increase in breakfast prices in year. It is recommended that the Board approve an increase in breakfast prices by \$0.25 (25 cents) at each level.

Mr. Aldi presented the Committee with the annual Health Foods Certification, which will be brought to the Board of Education for approval at the meeting this evening. This annual requirement certifies that all food sold to students separately from reimbursable meals with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards.

The Committee discussed the status of the Community Eligibility Provision that is currently operating at the Manchester Preschool Center, Martin, Verplanck, Waddell and Washington Elementary Schools. This provision provides for free lunch for all students at these school locations. It is recommended that we

recertify at the same locations for 2019-2020, with the exception of Washington Elementary School due to its closing. In the Spring of 2020, we will review for a possible expansion of the program for the following school year.

Mr. Geary and Ms. Clancy provided the Committee with a proposal from Dattco for a possible change in bell times for 2019-2020. This proposal was made to improve the timeliness of buses to the schools. More information will be forthcoming.

Ms. Clancy updated the Committee on the state of the open Facilities Director position. At this time we will not be posting for the open position and will continue to manage the workload and update the Board of Education.

The next Personnel & Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at Bowers.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Geary presented ten 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. Extended Field Trip Request

Manchester High School Boys Cross Country Meet - Manchester, New Hampshire (9/20 to 9/21/19), 8 students/2 coaches

C.3. Permission to apply for FY 19-20 Manchester Head Start Services Grant

C.4. Permission to apply for FY 19-20 Manchester Head Start Link Grant

C.5. Permission to apply for FY 19-20 Enfield Head Start Services Grant

C.6. Permission to apply for FY 19-20 Enfield Head Start Link Grant

C.7. Establish an appropriation for FY 19-20 Enfield Head Start Enhancement Grant

C.8. Increase appropriation for FY 18/19 in the amount of \$374,775 for the MRA out-of-town tuition, bringing the total appropriation to \$1,174,775

C.9. Permission to apply for FY 19-20 Carl D. Perkins Career & Technical Education Basic Grant

C.10. Establish an appropriation for FY 19-20 in the amount of \$220,000 for the Innovation Grant

The Acting Chairman called for a motion.

Secretary Pattacini moved and Ms. Hagenow seconded the recommendation to adopt the Consent Calendar as outlined in the agenda.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Geary introduced next year's student representative, Tiffany Henry. Tiffany is a member of the Class of 2021 in the Education and Public Services Academy, a member of track & field, chamber orchestra and the Activities Planning Board.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, noted that the 75th anniversary of D-Day was last week. He recommended the book *The Port Chicago 50* and another book by Ron Takaki. He spoke about the Greenwich Village Stonewall riots 50 years ago, which was the start of the gay rights movement. Last, Mr. Stringfield touched on the rights of immigrants.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

F.1. Manchester High School Mascot

Mr. Geary introduced Principal Miner and the MHS Student Activists. The students, all juniors, presented a Powerpoint about their work in surveying staff and students and their mission to change the school mascot from an Indian to something more unifying. Their presentation is available on the website. The desired new mascot, after voting, is the Red Hawks.

Mr. Scappaticci felt the group was impressive. He realizes it is intimidating to come speak before the board and the students gave an excellent presentation. He was impressed with their deliberate work done to get to this point. Mr. Scappaticci wondered if only juniors were on the committee. The students noted it was just a coincidence that the only speakers this evening were juniors, and there were a few students in other grades involved. Mr. Scappaticci thought it was brave of the students to go table to table during lunch waves, talking to other students. The team noted they kept calm and discussed the logic of changing the logo and within a few minutes most students understood the need for the change.

Mr. Scappaticci asked Mr. Geary if this change required Board approval. Mr. Geary noted there is not a policy about this, but that he would like to see Board action to approve the change. Mr. Scappaticci wondered, if the Board does endorse this change, would we need to appropriate money to change signage and other logo items. Mr. Geary agreed we would need to invest some money, but there was not yet an estimate of the anticipated costs. Mr. Scappaticci told the team he was proud of these students representing MHS.

Mr. Pattacini echoed Mr. Scappaticci's feelings that these are fine examples of MHS students. They are actively engaged products of our school system who are articulate, organized and courageous. Mr. Pattacini quoted Margaret Mean, stating, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world." He gave his support to this change.

Mr. Conyers thought it was a great presentation and thanked the students for being so active. He wondered if the MHS Student Activist Team was open to all and how long it had been in place. The students noted they have been working at this for about a year and there are 9 student leaders and a few other members and it is open to all. Many of the leaders are also members of the

Class Board, including the President, co-treasurer and Secretary. Mr. Conyers would like to see the list of the original ten mascot options.

Mr. Hughes thanked the students for their presentation. He admired their work and research and wondered how many people responded to the surveys. The students noted that 730 students and 138 staff member replied to the first survey and 941 students and 174 staff members voted in the final survey.

Ms. Stefanovicz felt this was a well thought out proposal and she wondered how many students signed the petition during lunch waves. The students gathered over 600 signatures in less than a week. Ms. Stefanovicz will support the change.

Mr. Thames felt this was a comprehensive presentation that was thoughtful and thought provoking. The students stepped to the plate to change what needed changing. He wondered if the chosen name had any copyright on it and wondered about the legal ramifications of such a change. The students noted that Mr. Boutillier will help with any legal issues and Mr. Geary noted the topic will be on the June 24th agenda.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1. Child Nutrition Program (ED-99)

Secretary Pattacini moved for the Board of Education to approve that pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Manchester Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times

and from all sources, including, but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups. Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Stefanovicz noted we usually vote on this every year and wondered if it was tied to funding. She also wondered if this effects the cafe at the high school. Mr. Aldi, the food services director, noted it is tied to funding from the government and that the cafe at the high school serves adults, so there is no impact on that program.

Mr. Conyers asked for an example of a food not allowed. Mr. Aldi mentioned high sugar or high fat foods, including doritos.

The vote was called.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

It was noted if the Manchester Board of Education voted "yes" for the healthy food option, Manchester Board of Education must also vote "yes" or "no" on whether to allow food exemptions.

Secretary Pattacini moved for the Manchester Board of Education to allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events, but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the

period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held. Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

Secretary Pattacini moved that the Manchester Board of Education approve a \$0.10 (ten cents) increase in 2019-2020 school lunch prices at all schools, increasing prices to: \$2.45 for elementary schools; \$2.70 for middle schools; and \$2.85 for the high school. Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Geary noted we have to increase lunch prices because we receive federal money and the "paid" lunches cannot be supplemented by that program.

Mr. Pattacini thanked Mr. Aldi for his exhaustive analysis on school lunch prices, noting that Manchester is still on the low end of pricing in the area.

The vote was called.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, felt that the presentation by the students was good, and noted Indians were the first settlers and were swindled and forced off their land. This month in 1924 Native Americans were given the right to vote. Mr. Stringfellow recommended the book *Opposite of Hate*. He also recommended an article on body language. He wished the new student representative good luck and congratulated the teachers of the year.

J. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Thames reviewed that the referendum passed on June 4th and Buckley, Bowers and Keeney will be renovated and Nathan Hale, Robertson, Martin and Washington will be repurposed in the coming years. He thanked the public for their support on the

initiative that started back in 1999. He was glad to see it pass so we can set up all students in Manchester with a 21st century learning environment. The feeling of success in newly renovated buildings is evident and the climate is improved with staff and students.

K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Monday - June 24, 2019 - Update on School Start and End Times
Update on School Resource Officers

Monday, July 8, 2019 - Spring Data Update

Monday, August 26, 2019 - Opening of School Update

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Secretary Pattacini moved for the Board of Education to go into Executive Session for the purpose of evaluating the Superintendent. Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor. 8:56 p.m.

M. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thames called for a motion to adjourn.

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

8/0 - Voted in favor. Adjournment 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Pattacini
Board Secretary