

## **MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **Regular Meeting January 25, 2016 Martin Elementary School**

**PRESENT:** Hagenow, Jacobsen, Leon, Pattacini, Scappaticci, Stafford, Stefanovicz, Thames

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent of Schools Geary, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Management Brooks, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services Matfess, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Radikas

**ABSENT:** Pazda

#### **A. OPENING**

##### **A.1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order**

**Chairperson Pattacini** called the meeting back to order at 7:04 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mr. Pattacini.

##### **A.3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**APPROVED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of January 11, 2016. Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Leon seconded the motion.**

**8/0 – Voted in favor.**

**APPROVED - Minutes of Budget Workshop of the Board of Education of January 13, 2016. Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Leon seconded the motion.**

**8/0 - Voted in favor.**

#### **B. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Mr. Geary** presented seven items on the Consent Calendar for Board approval.

**B.1. Personnel Action**

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

**B.2. Transfer of Funds**

- Transfer from Verplanck Admin Printing & Advertising account to Verplanck Admin General Supplies & Materials account in the amount of \$1,000
- Transfer from Systemwide Language Arts Field & Athletic Trips account to Systemwide Language Arts Professional Development account in the amount of \$608

**B.3. Adopting Resolution to the Manchester Board of Education 401(a) Plan: "Resolved, that the form of amended Plan and Trust effective May 1, 2015, presented to this meeting is hereby approved and adopted and that an authorized representative of the Employer is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver to the Administrator of the Plan one or more counterparts of the Plan."**

**B.4. Amendment to previous actions: Establish an appropriation for FY15-16 in the amount of \$1,619.52 to be placed in the Community Use of Schools account and made available to cover repair and maintenance costs to Bailey Auditorium.**

**B.5. Educational Specifications - Manchester High School Underground Oil Storage Tank Replacement**

**B.6. Establish an appropriation for FY 15-17 in the amount of \$57,979 for Title III, Part A, English Language Acquisition and Language Enhancement Grant, to be funded by the Connecticut State Department of Education**

**B.7. Permission to reapply for the FY 16-17 General Improvements to Alliance Districts' School Building Grant Program in the amount of \$611,500**

**The Chairman called for a motion.**

**Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Leon seconded the recommendation to adopt the Consent Calendar as outlined in Section B of tonight's agenda.**

**8/0 - Voted in favor.**

**C. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

**D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Ms. Shania Stanton noted this is the second meeting she has attended in an elementary school and she loves seeing the big turnout and thinks it is inspirational.

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I**

**F.1. Martin Elementary School Improvement Plan**

**Mr. Pattacini** reviewed that the Board, over the last year and a half, has been conducting meetings at each school on a rotating basis to meet the families and learn about the great things happening in each school.

**Mr. Geary** thanked the parents, staff and students for coming this evening and is looking forward to hearing about the good work going on at Martin. He introduced principal Sophia Krisch, along with Brienne Whidden, who will be acting as interim principal when Ms. Krisch leaves on maternity leave shortly. The ladies presented a vision of Martin utilizing both a written presentation,

videos, and live interaction with the Board members. Students and staff participated in the presentation, which is available online for viewing.

**Mr. Pattacini** felt it was a great, interactive presentation. He thought the students were well-spoken. Mr. Pattacini asked about the STEM program in the classroom. Ms. Krisch noted they have phenomenal STEM teachers who use part of the library as a science lab. When they are not teaching, the STEM teachers provide intervention in the classrooms. Students receive STEM lessons once every three days.

**Mr. Thames** enjoyed the presentation. He asked about the restorative discipline used. Ms. Krisch explained the community building tribes they utilize and how if two students are in a disagreement an adult will confer with both and help restore the peace. Martin has also hired a behavior technician with a social work degree to help train teachers.

**Mr. Pattacini** thought it was great to see students exhibiting high order thinking. His children attended Martin and they are much more comfortable speaking in public than he was as a teenager. Mr. Pattacini commended the Martin PTA for helping to fund an all-school field trip. He pointed out that the Board is working to expand funding of field trips to ensure all students can participate.

## **F.2. SAAM Program Evaluation Update**

**Dr. Radikas** presented the results of the recent evaluation of the SAAM program. Her presentation is available on the website. Her proposal for the 2016 SAAM program includes:

- Focus on reading only, eliminating math from the program.
- Grades K, 1 and 2 only (going into grades 1, 2 and 3).
- Hiring quality educators.
- A 2 day teacher training.
- Maintaining a 15:2 student/teacher ratio.
- Creating consistent Tier II and III intervention programming.

- Tagging and monitoring students that participate to follow them during the school year.
- Monitoring students from summer to summer.
- Utilizing Fountas & Pinnell assessments K-5.
- Maintaining two guidance counselors.
- Maintaining the collaboration with Parks & Rec
- Maintaining journals and phone calls home.
- Implementing an opportunity for parents to assist.
- Providing a schedule of field trips, which will be tied to the academics.

**Ms. Jacobsen** wondered how many students will be invited to participate in SAAM this year. Dr. Radikas estimated 900 are usually be invited and about 460 usually accept. With invitations dropping to only three grades this year the number invited may drop to about 800.

Ms. Jacobsen asked about Tier II and II intervention. Dr. Radikas explained Tier I is what happens in a regular classroom and Tier II and III are additional interventions provided beyond that to work on a particular skill at another time. The dose and duration of that work depends on the student's needs.

Ms. Jacobsen noted the desire for a 15:2 ratio and wondered if we are prepared for all different levels of need, including special education students. Dr. Radikas stated that as in any classroom, we want to mix the levels of students.

Ms. Jacobsen reviewed a grade will be dropped this year. Dr. Radikas stated 3rd graders going into 4th grade will not be invited to SAAM. However, a \$75,000 grant with the local library may help to support students that are no longer invited to SAAM. She will be meeting with library staff this week to discuss this.

Ms. Jacobsen asked about how field trips play into the academic piece. Dr. Radikas reviewed the benefits of field trips, including expanding vocabulary, questioning skills, building confidence, and the strengthening of the skills used to

work together with peers. The students may also journal the next day regarding their field trip.

Ms. Jacobsen wondered when the program planning would be done and if the Board would see the plan prior to implementation. Dr. Radikas noted that planning starts the 26th (tomorrow) but she has never presented the curriculum to the Board prior to the program.

Ms. Jacobsen noted there are 3 hours of academics, plus lunch and enrichment. She wondered if we could up that to 4 hours of academics. Dr. Radikas noted she does not want to bus students much later without having fed them lunch. This year we are concentrating on reading. Ms. Jacobsen wondered if students could be fed at the program prior to being bussed to the Parks & Rec locations. Dr. Radikas was not sure the buildings could accommodate that, but did note the students receive a grab n' go breakfast.

**Ms. Hagenow** wondered, of those invited that may not attend, how do we target them. She wonders if there is some packet of work that could be sent home for them to complete over the summer. Dr. Radikas noted that numeracy packets are already sent home over the summer, and very few are completed and returned in the fall. Dr. Radikas mentioned the possibility of the library or a traveling bookmobile helping to check in with students over the summer.

**Mr. Thames** participated in Upward Bound as a youngster and noted how powerful field trips can be, so he understands their value.

Mr. Thames took note that during the course of SAAM, different tools have been used to measure academic outcome. He wondered if last summer and the coming summer will utilize the same tools. Dr. Radikas explained that currently DRAs are used for grades K-2 and Fountas & Pinnell for grades 3-5. Next year all grades K-5 will use Fountas & Pinnell, so it will take another full year to have the same data across the board.

Mr. Thames wondered if the data dashboard could have some data tied in with SAAM. Dr. Radikas stated it does not currently, but it may be something to look at. Mr. Geary agreed. Though, Mr. Thames wondered if a 5 week program would provide enough data to tie into the dashboard.

**Mr. Scappaticci** stated that with this being the 4th year for SAAM, this is the most thoughtful evaluation he has seen. He does not need to see a future presentation about the curriculum or planning as he is completely comfortable with the program.

**Mr. Pattacini** wondered if, with the staffing change from 20:2 down to 15:2, we will have enough capacity. Dr. Radikas noted with the removal of one grade there will not be a problem.

Mr. Pattacini thought there was a great suggestion to integrate the FRCs to help connecting with parents. Dr. Radikas noted the Collaboration for Educational Services can help develop pre and post surveys for parents.

#### **G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

#### **H. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **H.1. Recommended Board of Education 2016-2017 Budget**

**Mr. Pattacini** felt that with Ms. Pazda unable to attend this evening due to weather delaying her return from vacation, we should postpone the vote on the budget until February 8th. He noted we need to turn the budget into the town by February 14th.

**Mr. Leon** was not in favor of waiting, noting there is no guarantee someone else may not be able to make the February 8th meeting.

**Secretary Scappaticci moved to table this item until the next agenda. Ms. Jacobsen seconded the motion.**

**6/2 - Voted in favor. The item will be tabled.**

**H.2. Approval of the Board of Education School Calendars 2016-2017 and 2017-2018**

**Mr. Geary** noted that at the end of the 16-17 school year we will be packing up Waddell and that the 17-18 school year will start after Labor Day to accommodate any construction issues, so he is giving us both calendars to allow for planning.

**Mr. Leon** wondered if there is a date we need to adopt these calendars by. Mr. Geary stated typically it would be about this time of year, but there is no specific date. Mr. Leon recommended waiting until there is a full board to adopt the calendars. Mr. Pattacini and Mr. Geary saw no reason not to table this item.

**Secretary Scappaticci moved to table this item until the next meeting. Mr. Leon seconded the motion.**

**8/0 - Voted in favor.**

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

None.

**J. COMMUNICATIONS**

**Mr. Pattacini** expected the next budget workshop scheduled for January 27th will be cancelled. Everyone agreed.

Mr. Pattacini attended a session conference with Nellie Mae last Friday in Boston, along with Mr. Geary. The topic was school governance and potential grant opportunities were discussed.



**K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

None.

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Pattacini called for a motion to adjourn.**

**Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Thames seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**8/0 - Voted in favor.**

**Adjournment 8:52 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Scappaticci  
Board Secretary