

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

May 23, 2016

Lincoln

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

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Geary, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Management Brooks, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Radikas

ABSENT: Pazda

A. OPENING

A.1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order

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. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

APPROVED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of May 9, 2016. Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Leon seconded the motion.

7/0 – Voted in favor.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

B.1. Policy Committee

Ms. Jacobsen reported the last meeting was held April 25, 2016. In attendance were Ms. Hagenow, Ms. Pazda, Mr. Stafford, Mr. Thames, Mr. Geary, Ms. Jacobsen and Iman Kahn.

The Committee reviewed the proposed revisions to the bullying policy and suggested additional changes. The Superintendent will review the changes with

legal counsel and bring the policy back to the committee. In addition, the Superintendent presented a draft document on the process of reporting to the committee for review. The committee will send their feedback prior to the next meeting and the Superintendent will also get feedback on the document from parents prior to the next meeting.

The Committee discussed the suggested role of parent liaisons and amended the description to allow Board members to serve as liaisons to schools where they are also parents. The role of the liaison will be worked into the revised Community Relations policy and a draft of that policy will be presented at the next policy committee meeting.

The Committee decided they will not adjust the requirement that students turn 5 years old prior to January 1 in order to enroll in kindergarten. The policy will not be revised.

The Committee reviewed the School Wellness policy and directed the Superintendent to review the current School Wellness policy with principals to ensure that the actual minutes scheduled for recess, lunch, and Physical Education are in line with the policy.

The Committee reviewed the Transfer and Non-resident Students policy and will not recommend any changes at this time.

The Committee reviewed the Religious Observances and School Prayer policy and will establish a process for adding additional holiday observances to the school calendar. This process will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Committee reviewed the Use of Therapy Dogs in Schools policy and will send it back to the full Board for a second reading at the next Board meeting.

The next meeting will be held on June 13, 2016.

B.2. Buildings & Sites Committee

Mr. Leon reviewed the last meeting was held on May 9th. In attendance were Ms. Hagenow, Ms. Jacobsen, Mr. Leon and Mr. Staye. Mr. Staye presented the 3 year Capital Plan, revised to reflect that the Alliance funding will not be available after FY 16/17 and the list of projects considered candidates for Bond funding. The removal of Alliance funding from future years extends the plan by more than a year and places even more importance on the Bond plan. The Bond plan will be presented to the Board of Education at its next regular meeting.

In addition, it was discussed that the Alliance Grant has only been partially funded. Of the \$1,710,000 awarded, only \$1,098,500 has been allocated. The \$611,500 balance was to be approved at the April meeting of the State Bond Commission, but that meeting was cancelled. The next meeting of the State Bond Commission has been scheduled for May 27, 2016. If the remaining funds are not made available, projects will need to be cancelled. PO's for those projects are being withheld pending final notice from the state.

The Committee reviewed for a second time the request of the MHS class of 2018 to locate 3 clothing bins on the site of MHS. The Committee elected to defer the decision to the administration.

The next meeting will be August 22, 2016 pending adoption of the meeting schedule by the full Board of Education.

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. Transfer of Funds

- Transfer from Illing School Admin Dues & Fees account to Illing School Admin Contracted Services account in the amount of \$668

- Transfer from Systemwide Medical Services Repair of Equipment account to Systemwide Medical Services Printing/Advertising account in the amount of \$1,012

C.3. Extended Field Trip Request for Manchester High School trip to Westfield State University - Cheerleading Camp with UCA Solid Ground Stunt - 10-15 Students - 2 Chaperones - July 29, 2016 to August 1, 2016

C.4. Acceptance of Robotics equipment for the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation Grant FY 15-17

C.5. Increase in the appropriation for FY 15-16 in the amount of \$1,815 for the Adult Education Grant, for the total appropriation of \$520,285

Secretary Scappaticci moved to amend the Consent Calendar, adding item 6. Approval of the Local 991-100 of Council 4, AFL-CIO (Custodial/Maintenance) Wage Reopener (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2018); and item 7. Approval of the Local 991 of Council 4, AFSME, AFL-CIO (Educational Secretaries and Information Technology Employees) Wage Reopener (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2018). Mr. Leon seconded the motion.

7/0 - Voted in favor.

The Chairman called for a motion.

Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Leon seconded the recommendation to approve the Consent Calendar as amended this evening.

7/0 - Voted in favor.

D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Shania Stanton reported that last Friday the APLS projects were due, which are personalized Capstone projects. She felt everyone worked hard on their projects. Tomorrow is the MCA Health Fair. On the 26th is the Dessert Party where MHS is trying to break a world record.

Ms. Jacobsen wondered how many people were needed to break the record. Ms. Stanton was unsure of the exact number, however students have been excused from period 7 to attend the event. Mr. Pattacini added that the event is open to the public and they should arrive at 12:30 to participate in the event, which will be held on the football field.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, reminded us Memorial Day is next Monday, which is also the 150th anniversary of the holiday, which began one year after the Civil War. We should remember all Veterans, deceased and living. He spoke about the first female air force general, Laurie J. Robinson, who was sworn in last week. Mr. Stringfellow recommended the book and movie *Free State of Jones*. He suggested an article in the May 30 edition of *TIME* about transgender bathrooms, along articles in the *Waterbury Republican*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Your Teen* magazine.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

F.1. PTO President's Report

Tabled.

F.2. MHS Counseling

Mr. Geary introduced David Stetson, Director of School Counseling. Mr. Stetson gave a Powerpoint presentation, supplemented by other members of the counseling team at MHS. The presentation is available to view on the website.

Mr. Leon didn't realize there was so much to offer and he wondered how this is communicated to students. Mr. Stetson noted staff push into classes in the fall to discuss the various offerings and hand out brochures.

Mr. Thames felt it was a great presentation and defined many of the activities and benefits available to students. Mr. Thames wondered, of the 23 seniors and 15 juniors involved in Career Beginnings, how many of them are anticipated to enroll in college in the fall. Ms. Lorenzo felt the majority, if not all of them, would enroll in college.

Ms. Jacobsen wondered what Alateen is. Ms. Hall reviewed that is a 12-step program for teens effected by other's addictions. Ms. Jacobsen loved hearing about students earning college credits and would love to see students getting at least a year of college credits under their belts before graduation. Mr. Stetson noted that is possible as 18 credits are available to be earned through MCC Pathways and additional credits are available through other programs. Ms. Jacobsen would like to see a goal of all students earning a year's college credits. Ms. Jacobson wondered about the statistics for the class of 2016, as the 2015 stats were presented. Mr. Stetson noted the scores do not come out for AP classes until July, so that was the reason only the 2015 information was available.

Mr. Pattacini noted that goal setting will be handled through the administration.

Ms. Hagenow felt the presentation was very informative. She wishes her children had been able to partake in such programs. She wondered if students are encouraged to take AP courses and earn college credits. Mr. Stetson stated they are encouraged to take AP and other high level courses. He noted he would like to see growth in the MCC Career Pathways program. Ms. Hagenow wondered how students are referred for counseling and it was noted by Ms. Hall that many times friends refer peers, and all information is kept confidential. Students can also refer themselves.

Ms. Stefanowicz felt we have a comprehensive, well-rounded support system. She noted that parents want to know this information and it should be presented to parents repeatedly.

Mr. Thames noted substance abuse is an epidemic and he is glad we are being proactive on the issue.

Mr. Pattacini thanked the staff for presented a clearly comprehensive program that is in place in Guidance. He felt there are many ways to enable connections with students that go even beyond high school.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

G.1. Policy Recommendation - Bullying Policy 5131.1

Mr. Pattacini reviewed that this was the second reading of the Bullying Policy. There were no questions.

Secretary Scappaticci moved for the Board to adopt the Bullying Policy 5131.1. Mr. Leon seconded the motion.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1. 2016-2017 Board of Education Meeting Dates

Mr. Scappaticci noted that there were two incorrect dates in the list. Mr. Geary corrected two dates, noting February 3rd should read February 6, 2017 and March 29th should be March 27, 2017. It was also noted by Mr. Geary that the topics listed are draft topics and are subject to change.

Mr. Scappaticci moved for the Board to adopt the Regular Board of Education meeting and Budget Workshop meeting dates for 2016-2017 as amended. Mr. Leon seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Pattacini felt it would be valuable to put "draft" above the topics listed so the public is aware the topics are not set.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, felt the MHS Counseling presentation was good. He supports the Consent Calendar, noting Adult Education is important. For students headed to college he recommends the book *Secrets of Top Students*. He suggested the MCC new enrollment guide and their entrepreneurial center on Main Street and they often have speakers there.

Mr. Stringfellow would like to see a presentation for non-college bound students. He noted this is his third request for a presentation of this nature.

Mr. Stringfellow spoke about bullying, accommodating diabetics and those with allergies, as well as issues with hazing. He would like to see those topics included in the policy. He was impressed with the MHS presenters. He notes we have a good relationship with Goodwin, MCC and Capital Community College.

J. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Thames would like to make the community aware of the HOPFE (Helping Ourselves Prepare For Employment) series of job readiness workshops being held on June 9, June 16, June 24 and June 30th from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Faith Tabernacle at 110 Utopia Road. Their phone number is 860-649-9848 for more information.

Ms. Stefanowicz noted Mr. Harris runs the HOPFE events and although there is a concentration on previously incarcerated individuals, it is open to the public.

Mr. Leon reminded the community about Relay for Life coming up Friday, June 3rd and Saturday, June 4th. He hopes the community will attend and/or donate.

Mr. Pattacini noted the high school is looking for more witnesses for the Guinness Book attempt. Please contact the principal for more information.

K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pattacini called for a motion to adjourn.

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

8/0 - Voted in favor.

Adjournment 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Scappaticci
Board Secretary