

Mansfield Township Board of Education

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Extract from the Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting and Public Budget Hearing
of the
**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF MANSFIELD, WARREN COUNTY, N.J.**
as recorded in the

The Board of Education of the Township of Mansfield in the County of Warren, N.J. convened the Regular Meeting on April 27, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in the Township of Mansfield New Jersey.

The following Members of the Board of Education were present:

Present:

Ms. Annamaria Lalevee

Ms. Alison Lorentson

Ms. Constance Quinn - President

Mr. Joseph Rodriguez

Mr. Jonathan Rood

Mr. James J. Winand

Ms. Linda Wattters - Vice President

Absent:

Ms. Diane Margolin

Ms. Krysti Mastrolacasa

Also Present:

Administration:

Dr. Anthony Giordano, Superintendent

Mr. Paul DeAngelo, Business Administrator and Board Secretary

Mr. John Melitsky, Principal

Ms. Caryn Coscia, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Mr. Joseph Roselle, School Attorney

Others in Attendance: several members of the staff were present, namely, Patti Jo Raeillo, Kate Mattison and several members of the public.

Executive Session - On a motion by Ms. Watters and seconded by Mr. Winand the BOE went into a brief executive session at 7:03 p.m. for legal attorney client privilege and probably for ten minutes.

The BOE on a motion by Ms. Quinn and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez the BOE came out of executive session at 7:19 p.m.

Board President Report - None

Superintendent Report

Dr Giordano introduced Mr. Melitsky, who discussed the safe school meetings with the Office of Emergency Management, Mansfield Police, Office of Public Safety and a future tabletop exercise.

Dr. Giordano and Mr. DeAngelo conducted the 2023/2024 Public Budget Hearing.

Communications and Petitions - No Communications

Ms. Quinn mentioned while in executive session we received your letter, so thank you and we will address at a later date.

Public Comments - Ms. Desiree Mora discussed the bill lists and spend, an email to all BOE members on this matter, and cited Mansfield Township policy found on the MTSD website regarding BOE spend. Ms. Mora mentioned that she previously asked the BOE to take a poll vote on this matter and implied this was never done. Ms. Mora asked the BOE to serve for the right reason. Ms. Mora implied that she knew the first request was never done. Ms. Moran asked for a BOE for a vote and mentioned the response provided at the March 16, 2023 BOE meeting which she did not attend. Ms. Mora asked that you vote "No" to items on the bills list.

Mr. Chuck Haytaian introduced himself and stated he was a BOE member from 1971-1973. Mr. Haytaian mentioned that whatever amount was spent is wrong and should be paid back. Mr. Haytaian mentioned the flags on the doors at Mansfield. He asked if anyone knows why they are there.

Mr. Roselle and Ms. Quinn mentioned this is not a back and forth.

Ms. Quinn mentioned that the item being discussed was not on the BOE agenda and if you would like to comment it should be discussed during the second part of our public comment.

Mr. Haytaian discussed his heritage and asked why you wouldn't put up a flag about that. What happened and why and what's the meaning of the flags. Mr. Haytaian mentioned that he is on the board of trustees and our executive sessions at the end of the meeting versus the beginning of the meeting. Please consider this for the future.

Ms. Watters commented on the first public comment and asked for a BOE roll call vote on the BOE spend.

Ms. Quinn mentioned that she did poll the board. Mr. Roselle mentioned there is no need for a resolution. Mr. Roselle again mentioned that it is not a back and forth and the BOE did have a discussion.

Ms. Quinn did have a vote and it was split in half, four to four. We decided, I as Board President, decided that because we are making cuts with our budget that we understand your concern. It is allowable and legal.

Ms. Alison Lorentson asked if we would stop discussing pizza. She mentioned she joined the BOE for the students.

Ms. Quinn mentioned that we are done and there is no more taxpayer pizza. No resolution required.

Ms. Quinn discussed the flags and the community it represents. Ms. Quinn turned the process over to Dr. Giordano because she was not a member of the BOE at that time. Dr. Giordano mentioned the stickers were added approximately two years ago. It was a voluntary item for staff and currently there are (45) doors that do not have the stickers and (30) doors that have the stickers.

**Approval of Minutes and Reports - Ms. Annamaria Lalavee
Consent Agenda**

1. On a Motion by Ms. Lalavee and, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote the open and closed session minutes of the March 16, 2023 regular meeting on meeting.
2. On an amended motion by Ms. Lalavee and, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to

**Education/Policy Agenda - Ms. Alison Lorentson
Consent Agenda**

1. On a motion by Ms. Lorentson, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the Second Reading of:

A. COVID-10 Policy Updates

- P 1648.11 The Road Forward COVID-19 - Health and Safety (M) (Abolished)
- P 1648.13 School Employee Vaccination Requirements (M) (Abolished)

B. Bylaw, Policy, and Regulation Updates

- P 0152 Board Officers (Revised)
- P 0161 Call, Adjournment, and Cancellation (Revised)
- P 0162 Notice of Board Meetings (Revised)
- P & R 2423 Bilingual and ESL Education (M) (Revised)
- P 2425 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program (M) (Revised)
- P 2425 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instructions Program (M) (New)
- P & R 5200 Attendance (M) (Revised)
- P 5512 Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (M) (Revised)
- P 8140 Student Enrollments (M) (Revised)
- P 8140 Enrollment Accounting (M) (Revised)
- P & R 8330 Student Records (M) (Revised)
- R 8420.2 Bomb Threats (M) (Revised)
- R 8420.7 Lockdown Procedures (M) (Revised)
- P 8420.10 Active Shooter (M) (Revised)

Amend Policy P0152 Board Officers include Verbal and Majority and P&R 5200 to included Language Excused Absence.

2. On a motion by Ms. Lorentson, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the 2022/2023 School Calendar change for the last student day from June 13, 2023 to June 14, 2023 due to snow day. June 9th is now a full day and the 12th, 13th, and 14th are half days and Promotion is on June 13, 2023.

3. On a motion by Ms. Lorentson, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the Quote #10515957 from JourneyEd.com in the amount of \$11,505.00 for Microsoft 365 (100) Users @ \$115.05 each for a total of \$11,505.00.
4. On a motion by Ms. Lorentson, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the Quote # NGSK874 from CDW-G in the amount of \$2,564.10 for (15) AVerVision U50 USB Flexarm Document cameras @ \$170.94 each for a total of \$2,564.10.
5. On a motion by Ms. Lorentson, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve Proposal # 008629524 from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for Go Math 2023 Gr-K-6: 3 Year Print & Digital Subscription not to exceed \$108,069.20 to be paid by ESSERS II & ESSERS III.

Items 1 and 5 were approved on separate roll call votes.

**Personnel Committee - Ms. Watters
Consent Agenda**

Ms. Watters presented the following Personnel Committee motions:

1. On a motion by Ms. Watters, and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the revised FMLA request for SMID#72699390, as recommended by the Superintendent.
2. On a motion by Ms. Watters, and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve Grace Weiner, School Counselor intern, through Seton Hall University affiliation agreement, as recommended by the Superintendent under the supervision of the school counselors.
3. On a motion by Ms. Watters, and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to ratify Angela Bridygham, Preschool Teacher, \$65,000.00, as recommended by the Superintendent paid by IDEA funding for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024.
4. On a motion by Ms. Watters, and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez to approve the retirement of SMID#90501768 effective August 31, 2023 last day worked, September 1, 2023 day of retirement.
5. On a motion by Ms. Watters, and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the hiring of the HR Company, Keyser Agency, for the 2023/2024 School year paid by ESSERS III.
6. On a motion by Ms. Watters, and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve Danielle Stymacks as a substitute teacher (Criminal History check completed, pending Chapter 5), as recommended by the Superintendent.

7. On a motion by Ms. Watters, and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the hiring of Jennifer Coombs, paraprofessional substitute, at \$40.00 hour for the remainder of the 2022/2023 School Year, as recommended by the Superintendent.
8. On a motion by Ms. Watters, and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the contract with J and B Therapy, LLC for SID#9174383129, as recommended by the Superintendent.
9. On a motion by Ms. Watters, and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the prorated contract (34) days with Great Meadows for SID#9174383129 as recommended by the Superintendent.

Items 1 to 8 were approved with one roll call vote.

Township Agenda - Ms. Watters/Mr. Rood - No discussion

**Facilities/Finance Committee Agenda - Mr. Winand
Consent Agenda**

Mr. Winand, Facilities/Finance Chair, mentioned there was a Facilities and Finance meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. with some great questions and discussions regarding the agenda items and the 2023/2024 budget which was presented with a 2% cap and bank cap use for 2023/2024. The committee recommendation was not to use the banked cap because S2 was being returned to MTSD. We can save for future emergencies, but the banked cap is use it next year or it is lost.

1. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the Toilet Room Renovations at Mansfield Elementary School Project Base Bid. Approved Contractor, Venus Tile & Marble in the amount of \$143,700.00. Project to Begin July 1, 2023 and paid by the Capital Reserve Account:

Venus Tile & Marble \$143,700.00

Other Bidders

DeSapio \$249,800.00

Lanyi & Tevald \$178,000.00

BGD Contracting \$167,000.00

Charles Mann General Contracting \$196,972.00

2. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve Invoice dated March 17, 2023 from Gianforcaro Architects - Engineers - Planners in the amount of \$8,622.00 for architectural services for the toilet room project total amount is \$11,496.00.
3. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the ROD Grant applications for:

HVAC - Priority One \$749,000.00
Roof - Priority Two \$193,200.00
Generator - Priority Three \$509,600.00

Once the Rod Grants are approved by the State, we can approve or decline the ROD grants.

4. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call to approve of Monthly Payroll:

March 31, 2023 regular payroll in the amount of \$372,438.36
April 6, 2023 regular payroll in the amount of \$372,806.07

5. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the March 17, 2023 to March 31, 2023 Bill Lists in the amount of \$853,220.85. April 1, 2023 to April 27, 2023 in the amount of \$761,234.55. Cafeteria check March 17, 2023 to March 31, 2023 in the amount of \$36,680.77 and April 1, 2023 to April 27, 2023 in the amount of \$31,700.51.
6. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the March, 2023 Budget Transfer Report:

Fund 10 - \$96,774.30
Fund 20 - \$ 9,807.60
Fund 60 - \$ 0.00

7. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the reclassifications for the month of March 31, 2023 in the amount of \$0.00.
8. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the Professional Workshops and Travel.
9. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the prorate tuition for Before and Aftercare for the month of June 2023. Two weeks versus four weeks. $\$400 \times 50\%$ (two weeks) = \$200.00.

Ms. Quinn mentioned that we are prorating the Before and Aftercare again for parents.

10. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the new billing cycle for Before and Aftercare and Preschool due to the new aligned 2023/2024 calendar. Billing cycle changes from September to June to August through May.
11. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the 2023/2024 transportation consultant agreement in the amount of \$12,860.00 with Logic 54.

12. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 9-0-0 roll call vote to approve the 2022/2023 Safety Grant for security in the amount of \$2,000.00. The safety grant is a part of the NJSIG insurance consortium.
13. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the 2023/2024 NJ ARP Stabilization Grant Application for the Before and Aftercare Program in the amount of \$75,000.00. This is in addition to the retention bonuses and the \$120,000.00 grant previously awarded.

\$37,500.00 Staffing
\$37,500.00 Other

14. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve Brown and Brown NJSIG as the Broker of Record for General Liability, Workers Compensation, Errors and Omissions for 2023/2024 with Bob Gemmell serving as Broker of Record.
15. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve Gallagher Insurance, Inc. as the Broker of Record for Student Accident Insurance Basic & Voluntary for 2023/2024 with Maria Huber serving as Broker of Record.
16. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve BKC as the Auditors for the 2023/2024 school year with Jonathan Weiss serving as Auditor of Record.
17. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the Contract for Professional Accounting and Auditing Services for the Year 2023-2024 \$22,500.00 plus an additional fee for performance of Federal Single Audit (if applicable) will be \$3,000.00.
18. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve Phoenix Advisory serving as debt service advisor for the 2023/2024 school year with Bryan Morris serving as advisor.
19. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the transfer of the Capital Reserve account to the General Fund which includes encumbrances.
20. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Quinn carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the Outsourced Technology Bidder from the April 16, 2023 bid opening results as follows:

	<u>Bidders</u>			
	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
The JDM Group	\$117,000.00	\$119,340.00	\$121,726.00	\$358,066.00

	<u>Other Bidders:</u>			
	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fortec	\$127,800.00	\$134,184.00	\$140,892.00	\$402,876.00
Eastern Datacomm - No Bid				
Warren Hills - On going				

Johnson Controls - No Bid

21. On an amended motion by Mr. Winand and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez and carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the Budget changes to be sent to the County for School Year 2023/2024 to allow for the following changes:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the budget be approved for the 2023/2024 school year

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Special Revenues</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Total</u>	
2023-24 Total Expenditures		\$10,853,155	\$735,700	\$463,126	\$ 12,051,981
Less: Anticipated Revenues		\$ 4,635,181	\$735,700	\$173,827	\$ 5,544,708
Taxes to be Raised		\$6,217,974	\$0	\$289,299	\$ 6,507,273

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education includes in the budget a capital withdrawal in the amount of \$250,000.00 for the 2023/2024 budget:

Doors	\$ 25,000.00
Toilet Room	\$150,000.00
Security	\$ 25,000.00
Gym Floor	\$ 25,000.00
Track, Fence, Trees	<u>\$ 25,000.00</u>
Total Estimate	\$ 250,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education includes in the budget a maintenance reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$225,000 for the purpose of building repairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education includes the appropriation of surplus in the amount of \$151,518.00.

~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget the adjustment for banked cap in the amount of \$70,032. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3(b), the district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority. The adjustment will be used to offset equalization aid adjustment. The Board of Education will complete this by June 30, 2024 and acknowledges that it cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.~~

Ms. Quinn clarified the amendments to Item 21 regarding the 2023/2024 Budget, the recommended changes from the Facilities/Finance Committee and the BOE, and the changes to be sent to the County for review.

22. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Ms. Rodriguez carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to table that the amount of district taxes needed to meet the obligations of the Board of Education beginning July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, is \$6,288,006 for General Current Expense and \$289,299 for debt service to be received as follows: Current Expense: Twelve payments of \$524,000.50 on the fifteenth (15th) of every month for a total of \$6,288,006.00.

23. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the Monthly Certification of Funds Roll Call Motion to certify that no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b) for the months of March 31, 2023 that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

24. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to ratify the application for School Aid for the return of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the 2023/2024 S2 funding. Mansfield aid was reduced by (\$188,298.00) and the application allows for \$124,277.00 to be returned in the 2022/2023 school year.

Mr. DeAngelo commented on Item 24 and the impact on the 2023/2024 budget.

25. On a Motion by Mr. Winand, and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to approve the acceptance and proof of loss for Policy 971AN for the gymnasium floor in the amount of \$20,000.00.

26. On a Motion by Ms. Quinn, and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez carried by 7-0-0 roll call vote to release an RFP for Legal counsel.

Items 1 through 20 were approved with one roll call motion, Item 21 was approved with modifications, Item 22 was tabled, Item 23 to 25 were approved with one roll call vote, Item 26 was approved by a roll call vote after the second executive session.

Public Comment:

Ms. Desiree Mora mentioned the flags were brought up by another BOE member at the last meeting. Ms. Mora asked who approved it and when. Ms. Mora went into the flags on other locations like buses and then discussed obesity, learning disabilities, studders, etc... Ms. Moran discussed another school district's use of the school mascot for these matters.

Ms. Quinn thanked and referred back to Dr. Giordano who commented on the matter. This was not approved by the board, but we will be addressing it at a future date.

Mr. Haytaian apologized for discussing items not on the agenda. Concerned with what is being Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic. Mr. Haytaian was concerned with what was being taught. Mr. Haytaian asked why the teachers are deciding on education. Reading, Writing, and Math and hope you take it to heart.

Ms. Quinn once again thanked Mr. Haytaian and we want the best for our children.

Ms. Kate Mattison, Mansfield Teacher, mentioned that she has taught for twenty-six years and that the students are safe at Mansfield. We not only teach students English, Math, and Reading, but also Social Studies and Science. All students at Mansfield also receive SEL and extra support that is required by law. We made sure the children felt safe and we had the Children's Hospital from Philadelphia here to make sure that what we were doing was proper protocol. We understand that many may disagree and I hear that you do, but we want to reassure the BOE and the community that our children are safe. Ms. Mattison thanked the BOE and appreciated their time.

An unknown member of the public, Maybe Ms. Farrell, who did not sign the book, discussed the matter and stated that if there is an issue they should be going to the guidance

counselors and not the teachers.

Ms. Jennifer Rosenblum read the following communication into the record. The communication was not given to the BOE prior to the meeting. It was left on the Board Secretary's desk during the first executive session:

April 27, 2023

Subject: LBTGQ stickers

To the Mansfield Township BOE:

It has come to my attention that the school has made it an accepted practice to have LBTGQflag stickers on select doors throughout the school. Since now these stickers are an appendage on our school, I would like to know if this was presented to the committee for a vote? Is there any data regarding the percentage of students this effects? Was this voted on and if so, is it reflected in the minutes? What was the decision based on?

While I am sensitive, supportive and sympathetic to there being "safe" spaces for the LBTGQ community, I am equally supportive of the need for "safe" spaces for the plethora of other communities that need to feel "safe". For example, here is just a small sample: obesity, ADHD, dyslexia, birth defects, alopecia, depression, stutterers, body dysmorphia, and the fist goes on. Through the schools overt actions, and the Boards complacency, I would argue that the school administration and the Board are discriminating against the 8 communities listed above and to the plethora of communities not listed. The Boards blatant omission and lack of sensitivity to these equally important communities is disturbing. In conclusion, while I am not an attorney, I do believe the precedent set by the Mansfield Township Elementary School and its Board, has opened itself up to future discrimination and other claims through its inequitable actions.

Respectfully yours,

Jennifer Rosenblum
105 Rockport Road
Jrxthree@yahoo.com

At the end of the letter, Ms. Rosenblum stated that she too is a taxpayer and does not appreciate paying for anyone's dinner.

Ms. Quinn closed the second public comment..

New Business: None

Future BOE Meeting Dates:

May 11, 2023 - Regular Meeting and Final Approval of Budget
June 8, 2023 - Regular Meeting

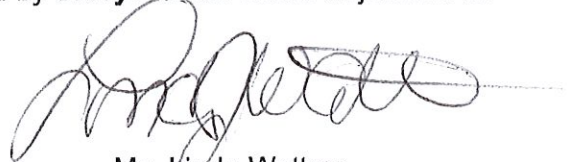
Executive Session - A motion was made to adjourn into executive session at on a motion made by Ms. Watters and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez for Legal/Personnel On a motion by Mr. Rodriguez and seconded by Ms. Quinn the Board adjourned from executive session at 8:46 p.m.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Joseph Rodriguez and seconded by **everyone** the Board adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Paul DeAngelo
SBA/Board Secretary



Ms. Linda Watters
Vice President