

**MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 27, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Reyes opened the February 27, 2014, Regular Meeting of the Mansfield Township Board of Education at 7:32 p.m. with the following statement:

In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the time, date, and location of this meeting was sent to the Star-Gazette and Express-Times, January 7, 2014, was posted in the municipal building and the school lobby, and is on file with the Township Clerk.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Ms. Karri Reyes
Mr. Tim Barlow
Ms. Desiree Mora-Dillon
Mr. John Falco
Ms. Tracey Janowski
Mr. Jim Momary
Ms. Sharon McAlpin

Absent: Mr. Michael Coombs
Mr. Jason Winch

Also Present: Mr. Kemp, Mr. Melitsky, and Mrs. Roszkowski

Community: There were eight community and/or staff members present.

REFERENDUM PRESENTATION

The audience was given a video tour of the failing systems previous to the start of the meeting.

Mr. Momary began the Referendum Presentation by going over Mansfield's history and continued to explain why Mansfield School is such a great place for children emphasizing that when people make a decision to move to a certain area, the school district is a main consideration.

Background information was shared as to school district spending: Mansfield's per pupil spending is rated by the State of NJ as 3 out of 59 similar school districts. That is, we are rated the **third lowest** in spending. Yet, Mansfield students are provided an excellent education which shows at Warren Hills. It was noted that Mansfield's per pupil spending is half that of spending

at Saddle Brook. In addition, property tax history was reviewed as well as the list of top ten taxpayers in town.

Mr. Momary went on to explain that the building is 50 years old and most of the original equipment is at the end of life. The projects being proposed for the referendum are the guts of the building – the liver, the kidneys.

The district will be making the last mortgage payment on March 15, 2015. We are asking the voters to allow us to take out a new twenty-year mortgage once the old one is paid off so that we can replace outdated fifty-year old systems such as boilers and univents.

It was explained that the State is very generous when it comes to renovations – we were given a commitment by the State to pay for 44.16% of the project cost over the life of the twenty-year mortgage.

Mr. Kemp explained how the district can get \$6,685,350 worth of projects at **no increase in debt service tax levy with the State paying 44.16% of the entire estimated cost, or \$2.95 million.** The State's commitment of \$2.95 million would only be available to the school if the taxpayers approve the March 11 referendum. The State's commitment expires at the end of 18 months.

The climate is perfect for consideration of these projects because of the current low bond interest rates, the current bond/mortgage is going to be paid off, and the State's generous contribution toward the much-needed building improvements and security.

A list of proposed projects was reviewed as well as the voting information. The presentation continued with a question and answer period.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the audience asked where a breakdown of the projects could be found. Mrs. Roszkowski advised that a list would be posted on the school's website after the meeting.

Ms. Griggs asked whether the commitment was guaranteed. The audience was advised that the district has in hand a signed commitment letter in the form of a PEC (Preliminary Estimated Costs) letter which was accepted by the Board.

Ms. Griggs pressed further as to what the costs would be if the State reneged on its commitment. Mrs. Roszkowski stated that the estimates for the additional costs were not calculated. Pressing even further, Ms. Griggs wanted to know how solid the State guarantee was. Mrs. Roszkowski responded that in the 25 years she had been in the business, she had always known the State to make good on those types of payments.

Another member of the audience stated that she was under the impression that security was tight. Mr. Kemp answered that security is constantly evolving and being added to make the building even more secure, but cautioned that nothing we do can make the building totally secure.

Ms. Griggs wanted to know what the tax savings would be if the Referendum does not pass. Mrs. Roszkowski responded that given the very conservative figures used by our Financial Consultant, cautioning that she is not the Tax Assessor, and based on the best guestimate: A house valued at \$234,000 would pay \$115 per year vs. \$120 per year (under old debt). The savings, if the Referendum failed, would be \$115 per year or approximately \$9.58 per month.

Mr. Minter questioned how much the Board budgets for maintenance per year. Mrs. Roszkowski responded that we can only budget approximately \$37,000 per year because the total budget is capped at 2% and much of the 2% supports increases in contractual salaries and health insurance. We do have other mechanisms to pay for a limited amount of maintenance; however, there are limitations on how much the Board can keep in those accounts as well.

Mr. Minter suggested that a certain amount should be set aside in an account on a yearly basis to take care of building needs. Mrs. Roszkowski again stated that we have such a system, but the amount in the accounts is not enough to cover extensive projects such as an entire roof replacement or a boiler replacement.

Mr. Valente enthusiastically suggested that this was a no-brainer. He wanted to know what was done to date to promote the Referendum and offered to set up a table at Wal-Mart to educate the public. Mrs. Roszkowski reviewed all that was done to date, including inviting the press to cover tonight's meeting, an appearance on WRNJ, posting relevant informational items on the School's website, flyers left in various places around the school, speaking at the PTA meeting on March 5. Videos of tonight's meeting will be posted on the website as well.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following letter was read:

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| 1. Mrs. Louise Kolb's letter to the Board advising that she was submitting her resignation/retirement effective May 1, 2014. | L. Kolb
Resignation/
Retirement |
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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Kemp reported the following:

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| 1. There were five incidents that were investigated (that makes 14 for the school year). None were found to be HIB. | HIB |
| 2. Enrollment currently stands at 712. | Enrollment |

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| 3. | Kindergarten Registrations are at 59 – we had 53 registered last year at this time. | Kindergarten
Registration |
| 4. | State aid is up about \$14,000 over last year. The budget must be submitted to the County Office by March 20 and adopted by April 20. We can hold a Public Hearing from April 24 to May 7. | Budget |
| 5. | The Nursing Plan was approved by the County Office. | Nursing Plan |
| 6. | Other districts in the cluster are talking about not giving back the Monday after Easter; however, it is a holiday for our custodians. It was suggested that we re-visit the calendar after the weather settles down. | School Calendar |
| 7. | The PTA Variety Show will be held tomorrow night. | PTA Variety Show |
| 8. | All Star Band will be held at North Warren High School on March 5. | All Star Band |
| 9. | Parent/Teacher Conferences, as needed, will be held on March 7, at 7:30 p.m. | Parent/Teacher
Conferences |

CONSENT AGENDA

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| 1. | MOTION by Ms. McAlpin, second by Ms. Janowski and carried by unanimous vote that the Board approve the minutes of the following meeting: | Minutes |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 17, 2014, Work Session Meeting. | |

APPROVAL AGENDA PERSONNEL

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| 1. | MOTION by Mr. Barlow, second by Ms. Janowski and carried by unanimous vote that the Board approve Courtney Dougherty as a substitute teacher (Criminal History check completed), as recommended by the Superintendent. | C. Dougherty
Sub Roster |
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- 2. **MOTION by Mr. Barlow, second by Ms. Janowski** and carried by unanimous vote that the Board approve Michele Stecky to provide additional support *daily* to our morning preschool disabled program effective *March 3, 2014*, to June 30, 2014, at a daily rate of \$35 for each day worked (Criminal History check completed), as recommended by the Superintendent. M. Stecky
Additional Support

- 3. **MOTION by Mr. Barlow, second by Ms. Janowski** and carried by unanimous vote that the Board accept Louise C. Kolb’s resignation/retirement effective May 1, 2014, with regret. L. Kolb Retirement

**APPROVAL AGENDA
FINANCE**

- 1. **MOTION by Ms. Janowski, second by Ms. McAlpin** and carried by unanimous vote that the Board approve the following bills lists: Bills List
 - February 1, 2014, to February 27, 2014, in the amount of \$974,211.14.

- 2. **MOTION by Ms. Janowski, second by Ms. McAlpin** and carried by unanimous vote that the Board approve transfers in the following amounts as listed on the February 27, 2014, report: Transfers
 - Fund 10: \$4,400.00
 - Fund 20: \$6,100.00

- 3. **MOTION by Ms. Janowski, second by Ms. McAlpin** and carried by unanimous vote that the Board approve the February 27, 2014, Travel/Workshop Request. Travel/Workshops

- 4. **MOTION by Ms. Janowski, second by Ms. McAlpin** and carried by unanimous vote that the Board approve NCLB 2012/2013 Carryover as follows: NCLB Carryover

Title II A	\$2,484
Title III	\$5,144

Note: These are 2012/2013 funds which we are going to carry over into the 2013/2014 grant year for use.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

DISCUSSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Janowski, second by Ms. Dillon, and carried by unanimous vote that the Board adjourn the February 27, 2014, meeting. 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Roszkowski
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Tim Barlow
Vice President