

REGULAR MEETING, APRIL 11, 2023

The trustees of Manhattan School District No. 3, high school and elementary districts, met in regular session, April 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Activities Room. Chairman Brownell called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Rob Brownell, Mike Swan, Matt White, Bryan Petersen, Brand Robinson, and Ethan Severson.

Superintendent Brian Ayers, 5-8 Principal Eric Fisher, K-4 Principal Neil Harvey, Clerk Ann Heisler, and Executive Assistant Jamie Heaps were present throughout the entire proceedings. Guests attending the meeting are on the list attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Brownell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Chairman Brownell recognized the visitors in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Brownell read the public comment statement, and asked for public comment on any non-agenda items.

Melanie Duffin wrote and shared a letter with each Trustee expressing concerns regarding students that don't qualify for special education services but are also not high achieving students. She thinks that our schools can do a better job with these students and she shares her experiences about her own child in the letter. Her main purpose is to raise awareness about these students to try to help them with their struggles so they don't fall further behind. She encouraged Trustees to call her with any questions after reading her letter.

CONSENT AGENDA

Brand Robinson made a motion to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: Board Minutes – Regular March 14, 2023; March 2023 Payroll Warrants 3140620-3140657, \$571,036.27; March 2023 Claims Warrants 3081036-3081083, \$153,306.35; March 2023 Student Activities Checks 27321-27330, 27335-27340, 27343, 27346-27356, \$12,125.22; the current Substitute, Volunteer, Student Worker, and Athletic Worker Lists for the 2022-2023 school year; Employment of Missy Short as JH Art & Foundations substitute teacher; Resignation of Kim Wegner McCauley – School Psychologist effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year; Resignation of Sheryl Gunsch – K-4 Special Education Teacher effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year; Resignation of Noelle Muske – JH English Teacher effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. The motion was seconded by Mike Swan and it carried with no dissenting votes. The approved warrant and check listings, and the approved substitute, volunteer, student worker, and athletic worker lists are attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

EMPLOYMENT 2022-2023

Matt White moved to approve an employment contract with Torger Sikveland as JH Head Track Coach for the 2022-2023 school year. The motion was seconded by Mike Swan and it carried unanimously.

Brand Robinson moved to approve an employment contract with Mikal Jones as Assistant JH Track Coach for the 2022-2023 school year. The motion was seconded by Mike Swan and it carried unanimously.

2023-2024 AMSTERDAM TUITION AGREEMENT

Mike Swan made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 Tuition Agreement with Amsterdam School District as proposed. Brand Robinson seconded, and it carried unanimously. The 2023-2024 Amsterdam Tuition Agreement is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

RETIREMENT AGREEMENT

Mike Swan made a motion to approve the Retirement Agreement with K-4 Principal Neil Harvey effective 6-30-2023 as proposed. Bryan Petersen seconded the motion and it carried with no dissenting votes. The Retirement Agreement is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

SCHOOL STRUCTURE CHANGE

Matt White made a motion to approve the recommended school structure change from K-4, 5-8, 9-12 to K-5, 6-8, 9-12 beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. Mike Swan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

REDUCTION IN BUILDING PRINCIPALS

Ethan Severson made a motion to approve the recommendation to reduce the number of building principals from K-4 Principal, 5-8 Principal, and 9-12 Principal to K-5 Principal and 6-12 Principal beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. Brand Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN FORCE AREAS

Matt White made a motion to identify grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 as an area within the district budget to be reduced in the 2023-2024 school year and authorize the administration to prepare necessary notifications and documentation to complete possible reductions in force and report to the Board with findings at the May meeting. Mike Swan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ethan Severson made a motion to identify the district library program as area within the district budget to be reduced in the 2023-2024 school year and authorize the administration to prepare necessary notifications and documentation to complete possible reductions and report to the Board with finding at the May meeting. Matt White seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

NONRENEWAL WITHOUT CAUSE

This item was pulled from the agenda because Noelle Muske's resignation was previously approved in the consent agenda.

2023-2024 EMPLOYMENT

Bryan Petersen moved to approve teacher contracts for the 2023-2024 school year with the K-4 and 5-8 Tenured teachers as proposed. Matt White seconded the motion and it carried with no dissenting votes.

Ethan Severson moved to approve teacher contracts for the 2023-2024 school year with the High School Tenured teachers as proposed. Brand Robinson seconded the motion and it carried with no dissenting votes.

The approved K-4, 5-8, and High School Tenured teacher list is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

BOARD POLICY UPDATE

Mike Swan moved to approve the required update to BP 8210 Procurement Policy for School Food Purchases. Ethan Severson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The approved policy update is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION – MAY 2, 2023

The Annual School Election will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. Ballots will be mailed on Friday, April 14, 2023. The two Trustees up for re-election are Mike Swan and HS Trustee Ethan Severson. Incumbent Mike Swan filed for the one open elementary position and will be elected by acclamation. Incumbent Ethan Severson, and newcomer Melinda Yager, have filed for the one open HS Trustee position. Community outreach consisted of three informational direct mailers, yard signs, advisory council meetings, social media, Belgrade News, radio stations, district newsletter, community letters to the editor, one-to-one engagements via conversations, and door to door canvassing.

2022-2023 ACCREDITATION STATUS REPORT

Superintendent Ayers shared that all of our schools - Manhattan K-4, Manhattan 5-8, and Manhattan High School achieved Regular Accreditation Status for the 2022-2023 school year.

VAPE DETECTORS

Superintendent Ayers shared that we are looking into installing vape detectors in the restrooms in grades 6-12. These detectors will alert the building principal if there is potential vaping happening in the bathroom and will also detect raised voices that might indicate conflict and possible bullying.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) GRANT

Officer Harris and the Manhattan Police Department have been working on securing a grant to partially fund a full time School Resource Officer (SRO) at our school district. Officer Harris shared the functions of an SRO and what the grant would cover, if approved.

PRINCIPALS' REPORT

K-4 Principal Neil Harvey and 5-8 Principal Eric Fisher shared information regarding the general culture, past and upcoming activities & events, and student achievement in their buildings. Spring assessments will take place prior to the next Board meeting. 9-12 Principal Miranda Howells was unable to attend the meeting so Mr. Fisher shared her report and the athletic report from Athletic Director Brad Ballantyne.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Ayers gave an update on the previous month's facility use and provided the Trustees with more information on the upcoming work sessions to prepare for the four-day school week and the new building/grade-level structure.

CLAIMS

Vouchered claims for the month of April 2023, were examined and approved for payment.

No further business appearing before the Board, Chairman Brownell adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Robert Brownell, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Ann Heisler, District Clerk

Board Approved 5/9/2023