

REGULAR MEETING, APRIL 11, 2017

The trustees of Manhattan School District No. 3, high school and elementary districts, met in regular session, April 11, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. in the High School Activities Room. Chairman Brownell called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Rob Brownell, Dennis Grue, Steve Heersink, Brand Robinson, Mike Swan, and Kelly Duncan.

Superintendent Scott Chauvet, Principals Scott Schumacher and Neil Harvey, and Clerk Ann Heisler 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

Trustee Steve Heersink led the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Chairman Brownell recognized the visitors in attendance. Manhattan Schools Rotary Student of the Month for March 2017, Jennifer Jones, was recognized and congratulated by the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Brownell read the public comment statement, and asked for public comment on any non-agenda items. No comments were made.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mike Swan made a motion to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: Board Minutes – Special March 7, 2017; Regular March 14, 2017; the current Substitute Teacher list for the 2016-2017 school year; Retirement of Vickie Westervelt – Custodial helper effective 4/30/17; Resignation of Pam Fanning – Elementary teacher effective at the end of the 16-17 school year. The motion was seconded by Steve Heersink and it carried unanimously.

AMSTERDAM 2017-2018 TUITION AGREEMENT DISCUSSION

Each year, the Manhattan and Amsterdam School Districts reviews the current Tuition Agreement between our schools in April for the upcoming school year. The Tuition Agreement allows the 7th and 8th grade students who currently reside in the Amsterdam School District attendance at the Manhattan School District. Manhattan School would like to set up a meeting with Amsterdam School to talk about the current funding formula in the agreement and open discussions to possibly make a change to this formula to make it fair and equitable to both schools. The funding formula was put in place 8 years ago and it is time to revisit how it is working. The Manhattan representatives will be Scott Chauvet, Rob Brownell, and Brand Robinson; the Amsterdam representatives will be Katherine Dawe and one of their Board members. A meeting will be scheduled sometime in April.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS:

FACILITIES BUILDING UPDATE

Karen Hedglin gave the Board an update on our building project. Construction schedules have been provided to administration and principals; upcoming meetings will be discussing the moving of the kitchen, K-1 grades, and the HS special education; the furniture committee will be looking at sample lunch tables and student desks. The Monthly Bond Project Report is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

MOU WITH THE TOWN OF MANHATTAN

After discussion, Steve Heersink made a motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding MOU between the Town of Manhattan and the Manhattan School District, which will essentially grant the Town a perpetual public utility easement across school property. The motion was seconded by Dennis Grue and it carried with no dissenting votes. The approved MOU is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

PERSONNEL

Dennis Grue moved to approve employment contracts for the 2017-2018 school year with Neil Harvey as High School Principal; Scott Schumacher as Elementary Principal; and Lori Brown-Chauvet as Special Ed/Curriculum Director. Steve Heersink seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

APPOINT TRUSTEE TO MANHATTAN SCHOOLS FOUNDATION BOARD

Due to the recent stepping down of Rob Brownell as the School Board representative on the Manhattan Schools Foundation Board, Dennis Grue was appointed as the new School Board representative.

BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS:

WRESTLING & SOFTBALL PROGRAMS

The Board continued their discussion on the possibility of starting a wrestling and softball program for the 2017-2018 school year. Community members have stepped up and have secured funding, along with some equipment to help get the programs started. Other details are being worked on and include practice rooms, wrestling mats, playing fields, corporate sponsorships, etc. MHSA has said that they are flexible and willing to extend the deadline to add these programs for the 2017-2018 school year. The Board requested a worst case scenario budget impact on the district and to bring that information back to the Board at their May meeting for further discussion and decision.

MUST INSURANCE RENEWAL RATES 2017-2018

The school district will receive a 14% rate increase from MUST for our BCBS health insurance plan for the 2017-2018 school year. Due to the uncertainty in the health insurance market, the school district will continue with MUST for the 2017-2018 school year, and will re-evaluate the situation next year to determine whether the school should seek additional proposals from other insurance companies.

Superintendent Chauvet and the School Board received a letter request from the Manhattan Education Association (MEA) to re-open negotiations on the 2016-2018 Collective Gaining Agreement in regards to employer health insurance contribution rates for the 2017-2018 school year. A meeting will be scheduled soon.

ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION – MAY 2, 2017

Due to the number of candidates filing a Declaration of Intent and Oath of Candidacy for the open trustee position on the Manhattan School Board of Trustees, District No. 3, Gallatin County, State of Montana, is equal to or less than the number of positions to be elected, the trustee election is not necessary. Therefore, the Manhattan School Trustee Election was cancelled on March 31, 2017.

Due to the number of candidates filing a Declaration of Intent and Oath of Candidacy for the open trustee position on the Manhattan High School Board of Trustees, District No. 3, Gallatin County, State of Montana, is equal to or less than the number of positions to be elected, the trustee election is not necessary. Therefore, the Manhattan High School Trustee Election was cancelled on March 31, 2017.

The two trustees will formally be elected by acclamation and sworn in at the Board meeting on May 9, 2017. The two trustees elected by acclamation are Mike Swan and Ethan Severson, who is our HS Trustee residing in the Amsterdam School District.

PRINCIPALS' REPORT

Principals Scott Schumacher and Neil Harvey updated the Board on recent and upcoming events in each of their schools, as well as the projects they have been working on.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Chauvet gave a report to the Board on the following topics:

1. The school district website has been updated recently for OCR Compliance.
2. The school district has recently purchased a Suburban to help transport small numbers of students to activities and athletic events.
3. We are currently looking at another mobile classroom to be used next school year for classroom space shortages until the new addition is ready.
4. Due to the unexpected 14% insurance premium increase in our MUST BCBS rates for the 2017-18 school year, the new Middle School Principal position hiring is on hold for now.

CLAIMS

Vouchered claims for the month of April, 2017, were examined and approved for payment.

No further business appearing before the Board, Chairman Brownell adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Robert Brownell, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Ann Heisler, District Clerk

Board Approved May 9, 2017