

REGULAR MEETING, OCTOBER 13th, 2026

The trustees of Manhattan School District No. 3, High School and Elementary districts, met in regular session, October 13th, 2026, at 7:03 p.m. in the High School Activities Room. Chairman Brownell called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Rob Brownell, Bryan Petersen, Jamie Heaps, and Skylar Dykema. Mike Swan Attended via phone.

Members Absent: Brand Robinson

Superintendent Brian Ayers, High School Principal Miranda Howells, Middle School Principal Valli Ganser, Elementary School Principal Wes Kragt, Athletic Director Makenzy Kelch, Special Education Director Kristie Pierce, Clerk Courtney Overbaugh, and Administrative Assistant Beth Coate were present throughout the entire proceedings.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Brownell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Johanna Marx gave a brief Food Service Program update with fresh/local meat donations.

Mr. Ayers recognized Darwin Stoner, Head of Maintenance, for his hard work and dedication so far this year. He also thanked the Principals as it is National Principals Month.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Brownell read the public comment statement, and asked for public comment on any non-agenda items. Nadine Zikmund spoke about a flag created in honor of Pat Lynch.

CONSENT AGENDA

Bryan Petersen made a motion to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: Board Minutes – Regular September 8th, 2026, September 2026 Payroll Warrants 3142320-3142343 \$577,632.58; September 2026 Claims Warrants 3083483-3083547 \$187,474.16; September 2026 Student Activities Checks 28557-28572, \$32,521.49 Substitutes: Beverly MacMillian-Kitchen, Carolyn Nealen, Jesse Lassandro, Jennifer Kelly, Ron Marx, Madylan Osler; The motion was seconded by Jamie Heaps and it was carried unanimously. The approved warrant and check listings are attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

EMPLOYMENT 2026-2027

Bryan Petersen made a motion to approve an employment contract with Michelle Haag as Elementary Special Education Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year. Jamie Heaps seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Jamie Heaps made a motion to approve an employment contract with Carolyn Nealen as District Substitute and Student Support Coordinator for the 2026-2027 school year. Skylar Dykema seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Jamie Heaps made a motion to approve an employment contract with Carole Stickley as Part Time Elementary Paraprofessional for the 2026-2027 school year. Bryan Petersen seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Bryan Petersen made a motion to approve an employment contract with Julie Brown as the Adult Education Coordinator for the 2026-2027 school year. Jamie Heaps seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Bryan Petersen made a motion to approve a coaching contract with Kenny Chapman as HS Assistant Boys Basketball Coach for the 2026-2027 school year. Jamie Heaps seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Bryan Petersen made a motion to approve a coaching contract with Shannon DeJong as the MS Head Girls Basketball Coach for the 2026-2027 school year. Skylar Dykema seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Jamie Heaps made a motion to approve a coaching contract with Sydney Potter as the MS Assistant Girls Basketball Coach for the 2026-2027 school year. Skylar Dykema seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Bryan Petersen made a motion to approve a coaching contract with Elizabeth Hickey as the HS Assistant Girls Basketball Coach for the 2026-2027 school year. Jamie Heaps seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Jamie Heaps made a motion to approve a coaching contract with Mady Osler as the HS Assistant Girls Basketball Coach for the 2026-2027 school year. Skylar Dykema seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Bryan Petersen made a motion to approve a coaching contract renewal with Spring HS Coaches: Head Track, Head/Ast Golf, Head/Ast Softball. Jamie Heaps seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Jamie Heaps made a motion to approve a coaching contract renewal with Spring MS Coaches: Head Track, Head Golf for the 2026-2027 school year. Bryan Petersen seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

DISCRETIONARY LEAVE REQUEST

Bryan Petersen made a motion to approve the Discretionary Leave request from Maddie Visser for December 14th-17th, 2026 (4 days). Jamie Heaps seconded the motion and it carried with no dissenting votes.

INDIVIDUAL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT

Jamie Heaps made a motion to approve the proposed individual transportation contract for the 2026-2027 school year. Bryan Petersen seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

BOARD POLICY UPDATE

Bryan Petersen made a motion to approve the proposed update to Policy 7510- Capitalization Policy for Fixed Assets. This updates the value from \$5,000 to \$10,000 as the threshold for capital assets. Jamie Heaps seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

TRAINING ROOM UPDATES

Jamie Heaps made a motion to approve the proposed updates to the training room. Bryan Petersen seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

CONTRACT WITH TEACHER FOR THE DEAF

Bryan Petersen made a motion to approve the proposed contract with Brittany Graham, Teacher for the Deaf and Hard of hearing for the 2026-2027 school year Jamie Heaps seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The contract is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

CLASSIFIED POSITION MATRIX ADDITION

Bryan Petersen made a motion to approve adding the Substitute/Student Support Coordinator position to the 2026-27 Classified Position Matrix. Jamie Heaps seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The matrix is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

FIXED ASSET SCHEDULE ADDITION

Jamie Heaps made a motion to approve adding the Basketball court project near Commons to the fixed asset schedule. Bryan Petersen seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

FLAG FOOTBALL ADOPTION

Bryan Petersen made a motion to consider adding Flag Football beginning in the 2027-2028 school year. Jamie Heaps seconded the motion. After discussion, Bryan Petersen rescinded his motion to consider, Jamie Heaps also rescinded. Jamie Heaps made a motion to table this topic until there is more clarification from MHSA and the Atlanta Falcons regarding the sanctioning of flag football and how potential funding will be affected. Bryan Petersen seconded the motion to table, which was carried unanimously.

BOARD INFORMATION

Superintendent Ayers reported to the Board that he received and accepted a resignation from Jason Bennett as Facilities & Events Coordinator effective September 4, 2026.

Superintendent Ayers reported to the Board that he received and accepted a resignation from Jason Schmidt as 5/6 intramural coach effective June 30, 2026.

Superintendent Ayers reported to the Board that he received and accepted a resignation from Case Kruse as HS Assistant Football Coach effective September 4, 2026.

OPI UNOFFICIAL FALL ENROLLMENT COUNT DATE

On the OPI Fall Enrollment Count date of October 5, 2026, total enrollment was 726 students (overall down 1 from October 25-26) which includes 264 in grades K-5 (down 18 from October 25-26), 190 in grades 6-8 (down 1 from October 25-26), and 272 in grades 9-12 (up 18 from

October 25-26). These are unofficial results. OPI will confirm once their system is back to operational.

FORMER MANHATTAN SUPERINTENDENT DALE MOORE

Memorial set for October 17th at 2pm.

PRINCIPALS' REPORT

Elementary Principal Wes Kragt gave a report on the following:

The Elementary has been busy. The fun run was a huge success. Fire prevention week was very fun for the kids. Hearing and vision testing was completed, and brain safety training was brought in for the 4-5th graders. Upcoming events: Parent Teacher conferences, MAST testing, bookfair, Veterans Day assembly. Mr. Kragt also shared how well the student council has been going for the elementary school.

Middle School Principal Valli Ganser's report is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

High School Principal Miranda Howells report is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

Athletic Director Makenzy Kelch's report is attached to these Minutes and made a part hereof.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Ayers gave a report on the following:

Mr. Ayers gave brief updates from the curriculum, safety, strategic planning, facility planning, and transportation committees. No update from OCR complaint. He also spoke briefly on some potential changes the town of Manhattan is planning that may affect drop off for the Elementary school.

CLAIMS

Vouchered claims for the month of October 2026 were examined and approved for payment.

With no further business appearing before the Board, Chairman Brownell adjourned the meeting at 9:36 p.m.

Robert Brownell, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Courtney Overbaugh, District Clerk