

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

July 9, 2018

Lincoln

PRESENT: Conyers, Hagenow, Maio, Meggers, Pattacini, Patterson, Scappaticci, Stefanovicz, Thames

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools Geary, Deputy Superintendent Curriculum & Special Services Radikas, Director of Finance & Management Clancy

ABSENT:

A. OPENING

A.1. & 2. Meeting Called to Order

Chairperson Pattacini called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mr. Pattacini.

Mr. Pattacini asked for a moment of silence dedicated to student D.J. Lawhorn, from Martin Elementary, who passed away recently.

A.3. Secretary's Welcome

Mr. Thames stated that as Secretary of the Board of Education, he wished to extend a warm welcome to everyone present and to the television viewers. He was pleased to see so many people in the audience today. He, along with the Board and the Superintendent, were pleased to be joined in celebrating the achievement, reviewing information, and discussing areas for growth, along with making policy decisions related to the effective operation of the Manchester Public Schools. Mr. Thames explained that this is a regular meeting of the Board and all items that will be discussed or voted on this evening have been posted, as required by state law. Mr. Thames reviewed the mission of Manchester Public Schools, which is available for view on the website.

Mr. Thames explained that as the Manchester Board of Education, they are here to set goals, listen to reports of the Superintendent, approve budgets, contracts, and personnel appointments, and to create policy for the district. It was explained that meetings of the Board are open to the public, but are not meetings with individual members of the public. Therefore, comments from the audience will be confined to the time designated for the public to address the Board.

Last, Mr. Thames noted he is proud of this school system and thanked the public for their interest in this evening's meeting and the Manchester Public Schools.

A.4. Action to Fill Board Member Vacancy

Mr. Pattacini reviewed that after the last meeting, Mr. Leon resigned his position as a Board member. Per Town Charter and Board of Education Bylaws, after a resignation the Board of Education then nominates and seats an individual from the party of the person resigning. The Democrats are prepared to make a nomination.

Secretary Thames nominated Tracy Patterson to fill the seat vacated by Mr. Neal Leon. Mr. Meggers seconded the nomination.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

A.5. Swearing in of New Board Member

Mr. Joseph Camposeo swore in Ms. Tracy Patterson as a member of the Board of Education. Ms. Patterson took her seat with the Board.

A.6. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

APPROVED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of June 25, 2018. Secretary Thames moved and Ms. Hagenow seconded the motion.

9/0 – Voted in favor.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

B.1. Curriculum & Instruction Committee

Mr. Scappaticci reviewed the last meeting took place June 25th with the following in attendance: Peter Conyers, Peter Meggers, Jason Scappaticci, Melanie Stefanovicz, Amy Radikas, Diane Sheehan-Burns, Pari Ghetia, Katelyn Miner, Mark Ruede, Gina Carrese, Isabelle Jayawickrema, Sam Warner and Antonio Valdez.

The items reviewed were:

1. E-Sports, Extra-Curricular Gaming - Mr. Ruede, Assistant Principal, teacher Sam Warner, and student Antonio Valdez discussed the potential addition of the video game Overwatch to the E-Sport extra-curricular club. Overwatch is considered a first person shooter game rated Teen (T) by Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) - defined as "Generally suitable for ages 13 and up". Committee has asked for follow-up discussion regarding the process other districts and the state technical high school system have used when considering the inclusion of Overwatch in the E-Sports programming. C&I subcommittee will meet on August 27th to discuss the topic further.

2. French Textbook Adoption - Gina Carresse, World Language Department Chair, and Isabelle Jayawickrema, French teacher at MHS, discussed the introduction of a new text, *D'Accord*, for French I classes. Committee approved purchase of 50 textbooks/online licenses for the 2018-19 school year.
3. Humanities Update - Diane Sheehan-Burns, Director of Humanities, shared plans for adding a World Language Experience (Spanish) in Grade 5. Plans are to continue Spanish experience to Grade 6 for the 2019-2020 school year.
4. Transition of Grade 5 to Bennet - Movement of Grade 5 to Bennet for 2018-2019 has lead to curricular shifts in Humanities and STEAM as teachers move towards departments and teams. Curriculum development preparation is underway for Grade 5 to provide full year Social Studies for the 2018-2019 school year.
5. STEM Update - Pari Ghetia, Director of STEAM, discussed the addition of Grade 5 STEM teachers to Bennet. The teacher will work to provide all students exposure to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics and support vertical alignment in Grades 5 through 8.

The next meeting of the C&I Committee will be August 27th.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Pattacini asked for a motion to amend the Consent Calendar.

Secretary Thames moved to add Item C.8. to the Consent Calendar: "Authorize the Board Chair to enter into a new 3 year employment agreement with Superintendent Matt Geary". Mr. Scappaticci seconded the motion.

9/0 - Voted in favor.

Mr. Geary presented eight items on the amended Consent Calendar for Board approval.

C.1. Personnel Action

Details had already been provided to the Board members with their agenda.

C.2. Establish an appropriation for FY 18-19 for the Enfield Head Start, State Department of Education Link grant, in the amount of \$19,974

C.3. Establish an appropriation for FY 18-19 for the Manchester Head Start, State Department of Education Link grant, in the amount of \$16,514

C.4. Establish an appropriation for FY 18-19 for the Enfield Head Start, State Department of Education Services grant in the amount of \$2,833

C.5. Establish an appropriation for the FY 18-19 for the Enfield Head Start Department of Education Enhancement grant, in the amount of \$90,676

C.6. Establish an appropriation for the FY 18-19 for the Manchester Head Start State Department of Education Services grant in the amount of \$142,294

C.7. Extended Field Trip Request - Manchester High School - Boys Cross Country - Manchester, New Hampshire - Cross Country Meet - September 21, 2018 - September 22, 2018 - 8 students participating, 2 chaperones

C.8. Authorize the Board Chair to enter into a new 3 year employment agreement with Superintendent Matt Geary

The Chairman called for a motion.

Secretary Thames moved and Ms. Hagenow seconded the recommendation to adopt the amended Consent Calendar.

9/0 - Voted in favor.

Mr. Pattacini thanked the Superintendent for his hard work.

D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

None.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, congratulated the new Board member, Ms. Patterson. He was pleased to see the diversity on the Board. Mr. Stringfellow noted that July 3rd marked the end of the Battle of Gettysburg 150 years ago. He recommended an illustrated book on the topic for children. He also pointed out the 150th anniversary of the 14th amendment and a newspaper article on that. Mr. Stringfellow recommended books on the assassination of Dr. King and the Fair Housing Act. Last, Mr. Stringfellow suggested an article on World War II and Churchill.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

F.1. Update on Close of School

Mr. Geary reviewed that MHS Graduation went well as well as Adult Education Graduation and MRA Graduation.

Summer Programming started today for 150 students with IEPs, 140 students are participating in SAAM, 70 students are in SPARK, 60 students are in Illing Summer School, and 60 are in MHS Summer School. Due to the Illing parking lot renovation, their summer school is being held at the high school.

Classrooms at Illing are also being painted. Waddell is coming along and we will tour that building in August. It is an exciting time in town.

Mr. Conyers wondered where the extended school year for students with IEPs is taking place. Mr. Geary reviewed they were at Highland Park, Manchester Preschool Center, and some at MHS.

Mr. Pattacini wondered about the status of Waddell. Mr. Geary noted he was there last week with Mrs. Clancy. They are moving along. Some classes are being cleaned as they are ready and items are being moved around. Verplanck has been moved to Robertson. Fifth grade has been moved to the Cheney Building.

Mr. Scappaticci asked for confirmation that Verplanck is completely handed over to the construction company. Mr. Geary confirmed. Mr. Scappaticci liked that the staff and faculty were told they were welcome to take the daffodils from the property.

Ms. Stefanovicz wondered, for the opening of Waddell, when will teachers be able to go in and get their rooms ready and if we are having an open house for the public. Mr. Geary stated it depends on when we receive the certificate of occupancy. He anticipates teachers may be able to get into their rooms around Thursday, August 23rd. There will be a ribbon cutting a weekend in September and we are planning an open house for the public to tour the building. More information on that will be coming.

Mr. Thames took this opportunity to congratulate the graduates of MHS. He thanked the graduates and wishes them success as they represent Manchester Public Schools. He thanked their parents and the staff and administrators, as well as all the people who provided encouragement and guidance to those students along their journey.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

H. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to items on tonight's agenda)

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, approves the grants for Head Start. He thinks it is an important program from the Federal government. He is a proud government worker for the post office. He thinks it is good that things are coming along with the construction. He hopes the students are welcome at other schools and the teachers get along. He notes that teachers do make a difference in student's lives. He recommended two books *Real Talk for Real Teachers* and *Advice for Teachers by Teachers*. In education STEM and arts are a thing now. He pointed out an article in the *JJ* from Miss Connecticut promoting sciences. He also recommended an article on good cops in another magazine.

Mr. Joe Dickerson, 872 Vernon Street, wished Ms. Patterson congratulations. He is also a part of the Building Committee. He cannot speak officially, however he will take back some of the concerns he hears to the Committee and maybe someone will come make a presentation.

Mr. Pattacini thanked Mr. Dickerson and the Building Committee for helping to build our schools.

I. COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Hagenow wanted to thank Mr. Scappaticci for solving the mystery of the removal of flowers from the Verplanck property. She lives nearby and someone had called her pointing out someone digging up the flowers and she did not realize that it had been authorized.

Ms. Maio pointed out that there is a Board of Directors meeting tomorrow (7/10) at 7:00 p.m. and there is an item on the agenda that might affect students. Item I under new business is discussion of a youth curfew.

J. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Monday - August 27, 2018 - Opening of School

Ms. Hagenow would like an update from the athletic department regarding the advertising around the track. Mr. Pattacini recommended that Building & Sites address this.

K. NEW BUSINESS

None.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pattacini called for a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Hagenow moved and Mr. Scappaticci seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

9/0 - Voted in favor.

Adjournment 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryl Thames, Snr.
Board Secretary