

MANCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting September 25, 2017 Lincoln

PRESENT: Caldwell, Conyers, Hagenow, Hughes, Leon, Pattacini, 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 7:01 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mr. Pattacini.

A.3. **Oath of Office**

Mr. Pattacini reviewed that Ms. Jacobsen had left her position and the vacancy needed to be filled until the election in November. He called for a nomination.

Ms. Hagenow moved to nominate Scott Hughes to fill the vacant position on the Board.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Hagenow noted that Mr. Hughes is an active Manchester parent that lives in the Spruce Street neighborhood. He has two children in Martin Elementary and is very involved in both school and neighborhood events. Mr. Hughes is PTA President at Martin as well as holding offices in both the Town-wide and Statewide PTAs. He will be a valuable addition to the Board of Education.

Mr. Scappaticci seconded the nomination of Scott Hughes.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Scappaticci noted that Mr. Hughes had reached out to him previously and he feels this nomination is in the best interest of Manchester's students.

Mr. Leon asked when the term being filled ends. Mr. Pattacini noted that this vacancy will end at the election, at which time whoever is voted in will fill the post. Mr. Leon thought it was odd to fill a vacancy for such a short amount of time, but he will support the nomination.

8/0 - Voted in favor.

Judge Darby congratulated Mr. Hughes and thanked him for his willingness to serve. Scott Hughes was sworn in by Judge Darby and took his seat as a member of the Board of Education ready to discharge his duties to Manchester residents.

Mr. Hughes thanked the Board members for their support and noted it is an honor to serve.

A.4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

APPROVED – Minutes Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of September 11, 2017. Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Leon seconded the motion.

9/0 – Voted in favor.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

B.1. Personnel & Finance Committee

Mr. Thames reported the last meeting took place on September 11th with the following in attendance: Mr. Caldwell, Ms. Hagenow, Mr. Leon, Mr. Thames, Mr. Geary and Ms. Clancy.

Ms. Clancy had reviewed the 2016-2017 End of Year Financial Report and Budget Transfers. The Board of Education ended the year with a balance of \$96,873,96, which will remain in the Town's General Fund. Administration also shifted salaries from the Board budget to year 2 of the IDEA grant in order to provide an additional \$219,228.89 to the Town. This represents a total of \$316,102,85 and was done in response to the commitment by Mr. Geary and the Board of Education to return money to the Town of Manchester to offset State budget reductions.

Mr. Thames had inquired about what vehicles were purchased in 16-17 and Ms. Clancy noted two were purchased and she will provide specifics to the Board.

It was noted the current budget is still in an unknown status due to the State budget not being passed as of this date. Alliance funding is still uncertain. Funds were encumbered to cover salaries for the first quarter for those positions funded through Alliance. In response to Mr. Leon's inquiry, Ms. Clancy noted that there are approximately 30-40 employees paid from the Grant.

A draft of the 2018-2019 Budget Development Calendar was shared with the Committee. The timeline mirrors previous years. Mr. Geary had noted that due to the upcoming school consolidation and building closings we may need to look at an early retirement incentive and this will be discussed at the next Personnel Finance Committee meeting in November.

Ms. Clancy then provided an update on transportation. Dattco, which was awarded the contract in June, approximately 10 weeks prior to the start of school, is being very responsive to needed changes and has been very customer-service oriented. There have been less issues than in previous years.

Ms. Clancy explained to the Committee that the Administration has received several requests from staff that they be allowed to set up GoFundMe or Donors Choose options to raise funds for their school-related purchases. Ms. Clancy had surveyed other districts to see whether they allowed this or not. Of the 11 districts that responded, 7 do not allow this, 2 allow with Superintendent approval, 1 allowed without district involvement, and 1 is working on it. Ms. Clancy stated that legal counsel had a concern about these situations. Also, it

was noted that school districts are required by law to provide basic instructional materials for students and that employees do not have the right to solicit funds on behalf of the school district without approval. Ms. Clancy also noted there are concerns with the administration of these funds. There was a suggestion that an outside organization handle these types of donation opportunities. Mr. Geary will bring this to the Policy Committee.

The next Personnel & Finance Committee meeting will be held November 13, 2017 at Highland Park School at 5:30 p.m.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

C.1. Personnel Action

There were no personnel actions.

C.2. Transfer of Funds

- **Transfer from:**
 - **Employee Benefits \$594,576.08**
 - **Professional Fees \$1141,771.29**
 - **Supplies \$518,839.18**
 - **Property/Other Equipment \$190,180,35**
 - **Other \$30,581.30**

- **Transfer to:**
 - **Salaries \$646,553.15**
 - **Contracted Services \$56,521.60**
 - **Other Purchased Services \$772,873.20**

Total transfer of \$1,475,948.20

C.3. The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Manchester Board of Education grant MEA President, Kathryn Diaz, 0.50 release time for FY 17/18 school year, and that the Board of Education request that the Board of Directors establish an appropriation in the amount of \$28,979 to be funded by the Manchester Education Association (MEA)

C.4. Establish an appropriation for FY 17-18 in the amount of \$664,142 funded by the Connecticut State Department of Education Grant for Manchester Adult Education

The Chairman called for a motion.

Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Leon seconded the recommendation to adopt the Consent Calendar as outlined in Section C of tonight's agenda.

9/0 - Voted in favor.

D. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Patrick Doherty reported the Involvement Fair was held September 13th and approximately 650 students attended and about 440 signed up for activities. The Barry Mitchell Athletic Complex ceremony was well attended and a plaque will be hung near the concession stand. Homecoming plans are underway with 9 groups participating. The Homecoming Parade will be November 2nd, the game versus Simsbury on November 3rd and on November 4th the Homecoming Dance will take place. There is a Welcome Back Dance being held September 30th in the MHS Cafe. Post-secondary Planning Night is September 28th. Last, Mr. Doherty noted the first week using the Flex schedule went well, students are adapting and they have practices setting up their schedules.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Tracy Maio, 57 Horton Road, congratulated Mr. Hughes on his nomination. Regarding the GoFundMe issue, Ms. Maio noted that due to the sad state of affairs with the budget, Waddell PTA has added a line item for teachers to be able to request items for their class on a first come, first served basis.

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, noted that Columbus Day is in two weeks and he recommended the book *1491 New Revelations*. Mr. Stringfellow noted that Roberto Clemente died 45 years ago and was a Puerto Rican baseball player. He suggested a book on Alexander Hamilton, who is on the \$10 bill. Last, Mr. Stringfellow suggested a documentary on Vietnam by Ken Burns.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART I

F.1. Recycling Program

Mr. Geary introduced Peter Staye, who gave a short presentation on the recycling program in town. He noted that the Town and Schools are picked up together, and that last year approximately 140 tons of materials were recycled between the two.

Mr. Leon wondered about the percentage of regular waste versus the percentage of recycling. Mr. Staye estimated 373 tons of solid waste to 140 tons of recycling. Mr. Leon would like to see that closer to 50/50. Mr. Leon also was curious as to why the bags used in regular garbage bags and recycling containers are the same. He feels that once those bags are removed from their receptacles they could be mixed up. Mr. Staye noted that clear bags in the past have not been as strong. Mr. Leon would like him to look again and try to find a stronger clear bag to ensure fidelity with the recycling. Mr. Leon would also like to see students and teachers educated on recycling.

Mr. Conyers wondered why there was a drop in recycling weight from 15/16 to 16/17. Mr. Staye noted there was also a drop in solid waste that year. Mr. Conyers asked Mr. Geary if there were any student-led efforts on recycling. Mr. Geary was unaware of any but noted we can build awareness.

Ms. Hagenow noted recycling education is important and maybe adding pictures and listing items eligible would be helpful to students and staff.

Mr. Leon also wondered about the 5c returnables. Mr. Staye noted there are no separate containers for those, so they are recycled with the rest of the items. Mr. Leon noted there should be another bin for those as there could be significant money found there.

Mr. Pattacini wondered what the price per ton is for solid waste and recycling. Mr. Staye will get those figures.

F.2. Purposeful Play

Mr. Geary noted that some funds have been provided by the Hartford Foundation for purposeful play. Dr. Radikas introduced Karen Gray and Latasha Turnquest, who gave a presentation on the subject, which is available on the website.

Mr. Caldwell thinks the work looks incredible and it is great to incorporate play and use real life scenarios for the children, allowing them to learn social aspects.

Mr. Pattacini thought the thorough presentation provided a perspective on play that he previously didn't have. It is not just about having fun, but through these experiences students learn and develop skills.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

H. NEW BUSINESS

None.

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

Mr. Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, supports the Consent Calendar, especially #4 on Adult Education. He thought the presentation by Mr. Staye on recycling was interesting and he hopes it works out. Mr. Stringfellow thought the presentation on play was good and he likes to see students learning and getting along and see them brainstorming. Mr. Stringfellow congratulated Mr. Hughes on his appointment and thinks it is good to be involved with the PTA. Last, Mr. Stringfellow suggested that Barnes & Noble is a great place to get books on all different topics.

J. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

K. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pattacini called for a motion to adjourn.

Secretary Scappaticci moved and Mr. Leon seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

9/0 - Voted in favor.

Adjournment 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Scappaticci
Board Secretary