

**Mansfield Board of Education Meeting**  
**December 8, 2011**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Mark LaPlaca, Chair, Shamim Patwa, Vice-Chair, Martha Kelly, Secretary, April Holinko, Holly Matthews, Katherine Paulhus, Jay Rueckl, Carrie Silver-Bernstein, Randy Walikonis, Superintendent Fred Baruzzi, Board Clerk, Celeste Griffin

The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm by Mr. LaPlaca.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:** Roseann McManus, Goodwin School Psychologist, and two students discussed her use of peer tutors in groups and classes. Madelyn Williams, third grade teacher, discussed her article with Tutita Casa, *Connecting Class Talk with Individual Student Writing*, published in NCTM Magazine, *Teaching Children Mathematics*.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** MOTION by Ms. Matthews, seconded by Mr. Rueckl, to nominate Mr. LaPlaca as Board Chair. VOTE: Unanimous in favor. Mr. LaPlaca appointed Ms. Patwa as Vice-Chair. MOTION by Ms. Patwa, seconded by Mrs. Paulhus, to nominate Mrs. Kelly as Secretary. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

**HEARING FOR VISITORS:** None

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA:** None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Goodwin Bequest Committee: Mrs. Kelly reported the Goodwin Bequest Committee met on November 28, 2011 and the minutes are included in the packet. The next meeting is April 23, 2012.

Ms. Patwa offered accolades for the Middle School presentation of "Honk", with Mrs. Paulhus agreeing.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

- School Water Update: Allen Corson, Deputy Director of Facilities, reported on water tests required by the State Department of Public Health and issues in the school buildings from 2000-present.
- Special Education Burden of Proof: MOTION by Ms. Patwa, seconded by Mr. Walikonis, to adopt the resolution to request that the State Board of Education take immediate action to repeal or revise the regulation concerning burden of proof in special education due process hearings to place the burden of proof on the moving party. Discussion followed. VOTE: All in favor with the exception of Mrs. Paulhus who opposed.
- Town Council School Building Project Workshop Review: Cherie Trahan, Director of Finance, reviewed the workshop held by the Town Council and next steps in the School Building Project. The Council's next workshop is Monday, January 23, 2012 at 5:30pm.
- Enhancing Student Achievement: Four new projects were reviewed and will be implemented at the schools in support of this activity.
- Class Size/Enrollment: The administrators reported no significant changes this month.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:** MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded Ms. Patwa that the following items for the Board of Education meeting of November 17, 2011 be approved or received for the record: VOTE: Unanimous in favor with Mrs. Holinko and Ms. Silver-Bernstein abstaining.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the minutes of the November 17, 2011 Board meeting.

**HEARING FOR VISITORS:** None

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:** Ms. Patwa would like to discuss implementing required student volunteer activity at the Middle School. Mrs. Kelly inquired if the proposed school transformation would change the floor plans of a school building.

**MOTION** by Ms. Matthews, seconded by Ms. Silver-Bernstein to adjourn at 9:31pm. VOTE: Unanimous in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Griffin, Board Clerk