

Mansfield Board of Education Meeting
January 31, 2013
Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Mr. LaPlaca.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Mansfield Middle School students discussed their trip to Germany.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None.

COMMUNICATIONS: Emails from the following residents expressing support of letter from Board to support The President's Plan to Reduce Gun Violence: Ken Rawn, Alicia Welch, Lee Terry, Sam Tracy, Robert Kremer, Toni Moran.

Ms. Patwa arrived at 7:55pm.

ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA: MOTION by Mrs. Paulhus, seconded by Mrs. Holinko to add discussion of Race To Nowhere film to the agenda. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

MMSA: Diane Briody, President, reported on activities the group participates in to support the middle school programs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE: The Board reviewed letter drafted by Mr. LaPlaca to Senators Blumenthal and Murphy and Congressman Courtney. MOTION by Ms. Patwa, seconded by Mrs. Kelly, to submit letter upon removal of last bullet. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

Ms. Silver-Bernstein arrived at 8:07pm.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

- Mansfield Middle School Power School Parent Portal: Candace Morell, Assistant Principal, and Jaime Russell, Director of Information Technology, reviewed the components of the Parent Portal recently made available to MMS parents.
- Board of Education Meeting Materials: Mr. Baruzzi reported that the Board packets are available on the website for those who do not wish to receive printed copy.
- Library Grants: Dr. Robinson reviewed three grant applications. MOTION by Mrs. Paulhus, seconded by Ms. Patwa to approve the grant applications: AASL Research Grant (\$2,500), AASL Innovative Reading Grant (\$2,500), and IMLS SPARKS! Grant (\$11,850). VOTE: Unanimous in favor.
- School Maintenance, Repair, and/or Replacements Priorities: Mr. Baruzzi reviewed the five and ten year list of repairs/replacements prepared for the Town Council during the School Building Project review.
- Meeting with Town Council: Mr. Baruzzi reported a date had not been determined for the meeting requested by the Town Council. The Board requested the meeting be held after the budget process either in late February or early March.
- Southeast Principal Search: Mr. Baruzzi reported that, with the Board's approval, the search would be conducted in the same manner as the Middle School Principal search last year.
- Healthy Workplace Platinum Award: Mr. Baruzzi announced the Town of Mansfield, Mansfield Board of Education, and Region 19 Board of Education were a Platinum winner for successful efforts in promoting a healthy workplace.
- Enhancing Student Achievement: One new project was reviewed and will be implemented at the schools in support of this activity.
- 2013-2014 Proposed Budget – Regular Instructional Program: Mr. Baruzzi and the principals answered questions related to the Elementary and Middle School Instructional Program proposed budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of Race to Nowhere Film: The Board discussed soliciting Region 19 or other groups to co-sponsor a showing of the film in Mansfield.

CONSENT AGENDA: MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Ms. Silver-Bernstein, to approve the following items for the Board of Education January 31, 2013 meeting. VOTE: Unanimous in favor with Mr. Rueckl abstaining.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the minutes of the January 24, 2013 Board meeting.
That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the request for leave of absence for the 2013-2014 school year from Elyse Poller, Mansfield Middle School teacher.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: John Fratiello, 12 Daleville Road, expressed his support for the budget process and the district's approach to Common Core State Standards.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: Ms. Patwa would like an update on the MMS Writing Center.

MOTION by Mrs. Paulhus, seconded by Mrs. Holinko, to adjourn at 9:57pm. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Celeste Griffin, Board Clerk