

Mansfield Board of Education Meeting
February 21, 2013
Minutes

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

Absent: Katherine Paulhus, Carrie Silver-Bernstein

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. LaPlaca honored Ms. Matthews for her service as a Board of Education Member.

Southeast kindergarten student, Bronwyn Mott, discussed the successful Kids for Kids Day fundraiser she planned at Southeast to raise money for Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None.

COMMUNICATIONS: Press Release from Mansfield Advocates for Children encouraging support of HB 6359-An Act Concerning an Early Childhood System.

ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA: MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Mrs. Kelly to add a request for leave to the consent agenda. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

Mrs. Paulhus arrived at 7:44pm.

Southeast PTO: Cyndi Wells, President, reported on activities the group participates in to support Southeast School programs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

- School Building Security Update: Mr. Baruzzi, Fran Raiola, Director of Emergency Procedures, and Sergeant Rich Cournoyer, Resident Troopers' Office, discussed the chronological list of events and actions taken to date by the Mansfield Public Schools and the Town of Mansfield as a result of the December 14th incident in Newtown. They reviewed security items under consideration. The Board came to a consensus to bring the items to the Town Council.
- Technology Update: Jaime Russell, Director of Information Technology, reviewed the current status of Mansfield Public Schools Computer Education and Media Services.
- Meeting with Town Council Regarding Four Schools Project: Mr. Baruzzi, Mr. Russell, and William Hammon, Director of Facilities Management, reviewed five year plan for capital expenses for maintenance and computer technology. The Board will present this plan at the upcoming meeting with the Town Council to discuss school needs.
- 2013-2014 School Calendar: MOTION by Ms. Patwa, seconded by Ms. Matthews, to adopt the draft 2013-2014 school calendar recommended by the Policy Committee. Discussion followed regarding the addition of five built-in weather days and continuation of shortened February vacation. VOTE: Unanimous in favor
- Charles H. Barrow STEM Magnet School Update: Mr. Baruzzi reviewed answers by Ana Ortiz, Superintendent Windham Public Schools, to Board Member questions regarding opportunities for Mansfield to participate.
- Common Core Aligned Practice Assessment: Mr. Baruzzi shared a letter from the Commissioner of Education announcing the State Department of Education will be providing a Common Core-aligned practice assessment.
- Enhancing Student Achievement: One new project at Southeast School entitled Study Island was reviewed and will be implemented at the school in support of this activity.
- Quarterly Financial Statements: Cherie Trahan, Director of Finance, reported that revenues and expenditures are on track and all other funds are proceeding according to budget. MOTION by Ms.

Patwa, seconded by Mr. Walikonis, to accept the Quarterly Financial Statements for the Quarter ending December 31, 2012. VOTE: Unanimous in Favor.

- 2013-2014 Proposed Budget: Mr. Baruzzi and Mrs. Trahan reviewed answers to questions by Board Members. MOTION by Mrs. Kelly, seconded by Mrs. Paulhus, to request the Superintendent prepare list of items to get proposed budget to the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR). VOTE: Mrs. Kelly and Mrs. Holinko in favor. Mr. Walikonis, Ms. Matthews, Ms. Patwa, Mr. LaPlaca, Mr. Rueckl, and Mrs. Paulhus opposed. Motion failed. Mr. LaPlaca requested the Board not approve the budget until after the Town Council meeting to discuss the school building project. The Board was in agreement.

NEW BUSINESS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Mrs. Paulhus, to approve the following items for the Board of Education February 21, 2013 meeting. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the minutes of the February 7, 2013 Board meeting.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the request for maternity and unpaid childrearing leave effective October 14, 2013 – December 2013.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: Ms. Patwa would like to discuss holiday observances/celebrations within schools. She also requested a discussion on redistricting. Mr. Rueckl requested discussion on universal preschool.

MOTION by Ms. Matthews, seconded by Mr. Rueckl, to adjourn at 12:02am. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Celeste Griffin, Board Clerk