

**Mansfield Board of Education**  
**December 12, 2013**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Mark LaPlaca, Chair, Randy Walikonis, Vice-Chair; Susannah Everett, John Fratiello, Sarah Lacombe, Jay Rueckl, Carrie Silver-Bernstein  
**Absent:** Martha Kelly, Katherine Paulhus

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:** Reid Cartier, second grade student at Southeast School, discussed his plans to raise funds to build a "buddy bench" for students to use during recess.

Mrs. Paulhus arrived at 7:36pm.  
Mrs. Kelly arrived at 7:40pm.

**HEARING FOR VISITORS:** Mr. Ed Wazer asked the Board to allow his home school child to participate in after school activity.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Email from Gary Bent regarding use if iPads in schools. Communications regarding MBOE Policy regarding resident students not attending public schools.

**ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA:** Motion by Mr. Fratiello, seconded by Mrs. Paulhus, to add to the agenda discussion of resident students not attending public school policy request. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

**Southeast School PTO:** Cyndi Wells and Erin Christopher, Co-Presidents, reported on activities the group participates in to support programs at Southeast School.

**Policy regarding resident students not attending public school:** Motion by Mr. Rueckl, seconded by Ms. Silver-Bernstein to refer review of the policy to the MBOE Policy Committee. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

**Committee Reports:**

**Goodwin Bequest Committee:** Mrs. Kelly reported the Committee met on December 2, 2013 and funded the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to the Capitol.

**Committee Assignments:** Mr. LaPlaca distributed Committee Assignments for 2014.

**Certified Staff Appreciation:** The Board discussed ways to show staff appreciation during this year of new initiatives.

**Volunteer Recognition Ceremony:** The Board discussed ways to show appreciation of school volunteers. The principals shared recognition that is held in the schools. Mr. LaPlaca will approach Mansfield Youth Service Bureau about their volunteer recognition program.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

- **MMS Greenhouse:** Nora Dickinson, 5th grade science teacher, provided an update on the new Mansfield Middle School Greenhouse and the ways it is enhancing education for students.
- **Common Core State Standards:** Judy Shay, Reading/Language Arts Consultant reviewed the Great Books professional development provided for certified staff and how it supports CCSS and English Language Arts in Mansfield.
- **Salad at MMS:** Mr. Baruzzi provided an update on the December Salad Bar Special Price at the middle school.
- **Student Guardian Update:** Mr. Baruzzi reported that the district has been unable to implement this program to date due to a legal interpretation by the Tolland County States Attorney.
- **Legislative Breakfast:** Mr. Baruzzi attended the EASTCONN University Region Superintendents' Association meeting with area legislators.
- **Security Grant:** The State of Connecticut has notified the district that the S Grant has been awarded for the amount of \$182,798.00 (State Funding: \$133,828.00 and Local Match: \$48,970.00).
- **School Performance Index:** Mr. Baruzzi reported the CSDE released school and district performance reports for all Connecticut Schools. The district's target was achieved.
- **Class Size/Enrollment:** There were no significant changes to class size or enrollment in November.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Motion by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Mrs. Lacombe, to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2013 Meeting with one typo edited. Vote: Unanimous in favor with Mr. Rueckl in abstention.

NEW BUSINESS: None

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: None

Motion by Mr. Rueckl, seconded by Mr. Fratiello, to adjourn at 9:55pm. Vote Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Celeste Griffin, Board Clerk