

Mansfield Board of Education
March 13, 2014
Minutes

Attendees: Mark LaPlaca, Chair, Randy Walikonis, Vice-Chair, Susannah Everett, John Fratiello, Katherine Paulhus, Jay Rueckl

Excused: Carrie Silver-Bernstein, Martha Kelly, Sarah Lacombe

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: Nora Dickinson, 5th grade teacher and Doug Perkins, Enrichment teacher at Mansfield Middle School and students presented an update on the Greenhouse.

Ms. Silver-Bernstein arrived at 7:49pm.

CABE Communications Award: Laura Bush, CABE Board of Directors, presented a Communications Award for the 2013-2014 Mansfield Board of Education Budget Book. Mr. LaPlaca acknowledged Mr. Baruzzi and Mrs. Trahan for their work on the budget.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: Shannon Rose regarding the Middle School homework policy.

COMMUNICATIONS: Email communication from Christopher and Amy Lapsis regarding class size at Vinton School. Letter from Thanh Nguyen announcing his resignation effective June 30, 2014.

ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA: Motion by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Ms. Silver-Bernstein, to add discussion of resignation letter following approval of minutes. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Policy Committee: Mr. Rueckl reported the committee recommends the draft Residents Students Not Attending Public School Policy. The Board will review, discuss, and take potential action on April 10, 2014.

Personnel Committee: Mr. Walikonis reported negotiations with the Secretaries Association and Instructional Assistants Union are scheduled.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

- Mansfield Tomorrow: Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Development, and Jennifer Kaufman, Project Manager, reviewed the process of adoption of Mansfield's Plan of Conservation and Development.
- Mansfield Food Service Program Update: Beth Gankofskie and Janice Mills, Co-Directors, provided an update to the Board on purchasing locally, lower salad bar pricing, and ways in which salads are offered.
- Healthy Food Certification: Motion by Mr. Walikonis, seconded Mrs. Paulhus to adopt the Connecticut Nutrition Standards Healthy Food Certification Statement and the Connecticut Nutrition Standards Exclusion for the 2014-2015 school year. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.
- Smarter Balanced Assessment Field Test Parent/Guardian Letter: Mr. Baruzzi reviewed letter sent home to parents/guardians on March 10, 2014 notifying them of the field test schedule.
- CABE Day on the Hill: Mr. Baruzzi reviewed information he received at the annual day organized by CABE.
- Enhancing Student Achievement: One new project will be implemented at the schools in support of this activity.
- Class Size/Enrollment: No significant change in class size or enrollment.
- 2014-2015 Proposed Budget: Motion by Ms. Silver-Bernstein, seconded by Mr. Walikonis to adopt the 2014-2015 Budget as proposed by the Superintendent. Discussion followed.
 - Motion by Mr. Rueckl, seconded by Ms. Everett, to amend the budget to restore the LA Coordinator position at \$104,021. Vote: Ms. Everett, Mr. Walikonis, Mr. LaPlaca, Mr. Rueckl, and Ms. Silver-Bernstein in favor. Mr. Fratiello and Mrs. Paulhus opposed. Motion passed.
 - Motion by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Mr. Fratiello, to amend the budget to restore the K-4 Field Trips at \$4,320 and 5-8 Field Trips at \$6,750. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
 - Motion by Mr. Fratiello, seconded by Mrs. Paulhus, to restore the .5 Physical Education teacher by hiring a first year FTE teacher at \$24,183. Vote: Ms. Everett, Mr. Fratiello, Ms. Paulhus in favor. Mr. Walikonis, Mr. Rueckl, and Ms. Silver-Bernstein opposed. Mr. LaPlaca voted in favor, breaking the tie. Motion passed.

Vote to adopt the 2014-2015 Budget at \$21,175,314 as proposed by the Superintendent with the adopted amendments. Unanimous in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Ms. Silver-Bernstein, to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2014 Meeting.
Vote: Unanimous in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion by Ms. Everett, seconded by Ms. Silver-Bernstein, to regretfully accept the resignation of Thanh Nguyen, Principal Mansfield Middle School, effective June 30, 1014.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: Follow-up on Mansfield Tomorrow with Ms. Painter and Mrs. Kaufman.
Discussion of district homework policy.

Motion by Ms. Paulhus, seconded by Mr. Fratiello, to adjourn at 10:10pm. Vote Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Celeste Griffin, Board Clerk