

**Mansfield Board of Education
Special Meeting, April 30, 2014
Minutes**

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

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

HEARING FOR VISITORS: The following residents spoke regarding the superintendent: Robin Blomstrann (MBOE Employee), Leslie Turner, David Garvey, Betsy Paterson (Mayor), Lauren Rodriguez (MBOE Employee), Shamim Patwa (MBOE Employee) Anne Wiant-Rudd (MBOE Employee), Linda Robinson (MBOE Employee), Peggy Beckett-Pinker, Jeannette Picard, Laura Scruggs (MBOE Employee), Rochelle Marcus (MBOE Employee) and Heather Tamsin (MBOE Employee). The following MBOE Employees spoke regarding the superintendent: Jim Griffith, Candace Morell, Jaime Russell, Rachel Leclerc, Debra Adamczyk, Thanh Nguyen

COMMUNICATIONS: Letter from Ben Shaiken, town resident, regarding the superintendent. Letter from MMS 7th grade team regarding the superintendent.

2014-2015 BUDGET:

Motion by Mr. Rueckl, seconded by Mr. Fratiello, to direct the Finance Committee to:

- (a) Review and evaluate the procedures by which mileage reimbursement claims are filed and approved or disapproved, as well as the oversight of these procedures, and to provide the full Board with a summary of these procedures as well as recommendations for change, if any.
- (b) Examine ways to reduce district expenditures for mileage reimbursement, including (but not limited to) possible changes in the amount of travel that can be reimbursed, the reimbursement rate, alternative approaches such as the use of a district-owned or –leased car, and taking into account the educational value of out-of-district travel by district staff.

Discussion followed. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

The Mansfield Board of Education Budget was reduced by the Mansfield Town Council to \$21,048,884 (1.74%) which is a reduction of \$126,403. Motion by Mr. LaPlaca, seconded by Mr. Fratiello, to eliminate the Reading Language Arts Consultant salary and benefits (\$104,021), reduce the mileage reimbursement account in Employee Benefits (\$17,000), and reduce the Board of Education Contingency-Teacher Instruction K-8 (\$5,409). Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Next Steps: Finance Committee will meet before the May 8, 2014 meeting and will report to the Board.

Motion by Mr. Rueckl, seconded by Mrs. Paulhus to adjourn at 9:35pm. Vote: Unanimous in favor.