

Mansfield Board of Education
February 12, 2015
Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm by Mr. Walikonis.

HEARING FOR VISITORS:

Lisa Corriveau, resident and MPS teacher, regarding budget, class size.

Jason Courtmanche, resident, regarding class size.

Mike DiCicco, MPS teacher, reading letter from Tutita Casa, resident, regarding Math Consultant position.

Erika LaBella, and Sally Clark, MPS teachers representing Mansfield Kindergarten teachers, regarding class size, math consultant position

Deb St. Jean, MPS teacher, reading for Elyse Poller, resident and MPS teacher, regarding class size, Paraeducators.

Jenny EIShakhs, resident and MPS teacher, regarding math consultant and class size.

Carole Norrish, resident and MPS teacher, regarding class size and support of budget

Mrs. Paulhus arrived at 8:05.

Laura Scruggs, resident and MPS teacher, on behalf of 6th grade team regarding class size and curriculum consultants.

Rich Weyel, resident and MPS teacher on behalf 2nd grade teachers regarding class size and curriculum consultants

Janet Pagoni, MPS teacher, on behalf of 1st grade teachers regarding class size and curriculum consultants.

Rochelle Marcus resident and MPS teacher, on behalf of Donna Koropatkin, MPS teacher regarding class size.

Carrie Holman, President MEA, regarding class size, professional development.

Veronica Barcelona, resident, regarding supporting the budget.

Robin Blomstrann, resident and MPS teacher, regarding class size.

Jon Hand, resident and MPS teacher, regarding class size.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee: Mr. Walikonis reported the Committee reviewed the 2nd quarter financials with Mrs. Trahan, Director of Finance and voted to accept the report.

Policy Committee: Mr. Rueckl reported the Town Personnel Committee sent an email with suggested language changes regarding Board Ethics Policy. The Policy Meeting will meet to review the suggested changes.

Personnel Committee: Mrs. Lacombe reported there will be an Executive Session following the meeting.

REPORT OF THE ACTING SUPERINTENDENT:

- Mansfield Tomorrow: Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Development, reported on Mansfield Tomorrow and the Plan of Conservation and Development.
- Capital Improvement Funds: Allen Corson, Director of Facilities Management and Jaime Russell, Director of Information Technology, reviewed expenditures (completed and projected) for capital improvements in the four school buildings.
- District Technology Upgrades to Support Transition to the New Standards Grant Application: Mr. Russell reviewed the grant application which includes increasing bandwidth at Mansfield Middle School and purchasing Chromebooks. Motion by Mr. Rueckl, seconded by Ms. Everett to authorize the Superintendent to apply for the State Department of Education grant for District Technology Upgrades to Support Transition to the New Standards. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- 2015-2016 School Calendar: Motion by Mrs. Paulhus, seconded by Ms. Ward, to adopt the proposed 2015-2016 School Calendar. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- 2015-2016 Budget Review and Adoption: Dr. Leclerc and the administrators answered additional questions by Board members. Motion by Mr. Rueckl, seconded by Mr. Fratiello to adopt the budget as presented. Motion by Ms. Ward, seconded by Mrs. Lacombe, to amend the budget to add 2 regular education classroom teachers at \$120,000. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Motion by Ms. Silver-Bernstein, seconded by Ms. Ward, to amend the budget to reduce MERS by \$28,000. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Motion by Mrs. Lacombe, seconded by Ms. Everett, to amend the budget to reduce unemployment compensation by \$30,000. Vote Unanimous in favor. Motion by Mr. Rueckl, seconded by Mrs. Lacombe to amend the budget to reduce the MBOE food line by \$1,000. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion by Mr. Fratiello, seconded by Mr. Rueckl, to amend the budget to reduce K-4 Instructional Supplies by \$9,620. Vote: Mrs. Kelly and Mr. Fratiello in favor. Ms. Silver-Bernstein, Mrs. Paulhus, Ms. Ward, Mr. Walikonis, Mr. Rueckl, Mrs. Lacombe, and Ms. Everett opposed. Motion failed.

Motion by Mrs. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Fratiello, to amend the budget to reduce the substitute – certified teachers line by \$10,000. Vote: Mr. Fratiello, Mrs. Lacombe, Mrs. Kelly, Mr. Rueckl, Ms. Silver-Bernstein in favor. Mrs. Paulhus, Ms. Ward, and Ms. Everett opposed. Motion passed.

Vote to adopt the 2015-2016 Budget at \$22,048,750 (4.0%) as proposed by the Acting Superintendent with the adopted amendments. Vote: Ms. Everett, Mrs. Lacombe, Mr. Rueckl, Mr. Walikonis, Ms. Ward, Mrs. Paulhus, and Ms. Silver-Bernstein in favor. Mr. Fratiello and Mrs. Kelly opposed. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. Rueckl, seconded by Ms. Everett to adopt the minutes of the January 21, 2015 Special Meeting with one suggested change and the notation that Mr. Walikonis recused himself from the regular meeting: Vote: Unanimous in favor

Motion by Ms. Everett, seconded by Ms. Ward, to adopt the minutes of the January 22, 2015 Meeting. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion by Ms. Silver-Bernstein, seconded by Ms. Everett, to adopt the minutes of the January 29, 2015 Budget Workshop. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion by Ms. Everett, seconded by Mrs. Paulhus, to adopt the minutes of the February 5, 2015 Budget Workshop. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Mrs. Paulhus, seconded by Ms. Ward that the following items for the Board of Education February 12, 2015 meeting be approved or received for the record, Vote: Unanimous in favor.

That the Mansfield Board of Education accepts the retirement of Steve Sokoloski, K-4 Computer Education teacher effective the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

That the Mansfield Board of Education accepts the 2014-2015 2nd Quarter Financial Report.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: Carrie Holman, President MEA, regarding professional development and teaching positions.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: Preschool and reduction of support from UCONN to local private preschools.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion by Mrs. Lacombe, seconded by Mrs. Everett, to move into Executive Session for the purpose of Interim Superintendent Search. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Ms. Silver-Bernstein joined by phone.

The Board returned to regular session at 12:02am

Motion by Mrs. Lacombe, seconded by Mr. Fratiello, that the Board of Education appoint Dr. Richard Kisiel as Interim Superintendent of Schools, effective February 19, 2015 and until such time as a new Superintendent of Schools begins work in Mansfield, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education in accordance with Section 10-57 of the Connecticut General Statutes and further subject to the finalization and execution of a contract of employment between Dr. Richard Kisiel and the Board. Moved further, that the Board Chair be authorized to finalize and execute a contract of employment with Dr. Richard Kisiel on behalf of the Board. Vote: Unanimous in favor

Motion by Ms. Everett, seconded by Mr. Fratiello to adjourn at 12:04am. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Celeste Griffin, Board Clerk