

DRAFT

**Mansfield Board of Education
June 11, 2015
Minutes**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm by Mr. Walikonis

Special Presentation: Mr. Walikonis honored MMs students, Paul Isaac and Julia Vampatella, with the CABE Student Leadership Award which is designed to honor Connecticut High School and Middle School students who exhibit exemplary leadership skills.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: Betty Wassmundt, Town Council /Personnel Committee member regarding ethics code and her opposition to gift giving of monetary value in the schools

COMMUNICATIONS: Letter from Covenant Soup Kitchen, Resignation letter from Carol Moran to be added to Consent Agenda. Letter from parents of students of Doug and Annie Perkins, MMS teachers.

ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA: Motion by Mr. Rueckl, seconded by Ms. Everett, to add Ms. Moran's resignation request to the Consent agenda. Vote: unanimous in favor

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Superintendent Search Committee: Mr. Walikonis reported that a finalist will be meeting with teachers, parents, and town representatives on June 16, 2015.
- Personnel Committee: Mrs. Lacombe reported there is a need for an executive session following the meeting.
- Teacher of the Year Committee: Mrs. Paulhus announced that Denise Proffer, Special Education Teacher at Southeast School has been chosen 2016 Mansfield Teacher of the Year.

REPORT OF THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT:

- Paraeducator of the Year: Dr. Kisiel announced that Andrea Lennon, Southeast School, has been chosen 2016 Paraeducator of the year.
- Class Size/Enrollment: Dr. Kisiel reported on class size for the 2015-16 school year at the middle and elementary schools.
- Professional Learning Schedule 2015-2016: Dr. Kisiel reviewed the completed 2015-2016 Professional Learning Plan that was developed by a committee consisting of teachers, building principals, and district staff.
- Minimum Budget Requirement: Dr. Kisiel reviewed the State Legislature's recently enacted changes in the Minimum Budget Requirements and the potential impact on the district.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Mrs. Paulhus, seconded by Ms. Ward, to adopt the minutes of the May 7, 2015 meeting. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion by Ms. Ward, seconded by Mr. Rueckl, to adopt the minutes of the May 18, 2015 special meeting. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Mrs. Paulhus, seconded by Mrs. Lacombe that the following item for the Board of Education June 11, 2015 meeting be approved or received for the record. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

That the Mansfield Board of Education accepts the retirement of Marc Kronisch, Physical Education teacher, Vinton School, effective the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

The Mansfield Board of Education accepts the resignation of John Murch, School Psychologist, Southeast School, effective the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

The Mansfield Board of Education accepts the resignation of Carol Moran, 5th grade teacher, Mansfield Middle School

OLD BUSINESS: Policy Committee's Proposed Changes to Board's Code of Ethics: Motion by Mr. Rueckl on behalf of the Policy Committee

a) to inform the Town Council of our intention to revise BOE policy to read:

Gift: Anything of value, including entertainment, food, beverage, travel and lodging given or paid to a Board of Education official and Board of Education employee, to the extent that a benefit of equal or greater value is not received. A gift does not include: 1) A political contribution otherwise reported as required by law or a donation or payment as described or defined in subdivision (9) or (11) of subsection (b) of Conn. General Statutes Section 9-601a; 2) Services provided by persons volunteering their time to the school district; 3) A commercially reasonable loan made on terms not more favorable than loans made in the ordinary course of business; 4) A gift received from a Board of Education official or Board of Education employee's spouse, fiancé or fiancée, the parent, brother or sister of such spouse or such individual, or the child of such individual or the spouse of such child; 5) Goods or services which are provided to the school district and facilitate school district action or functions; 6) A certificate, plaque or other ceremonial award costing less than one hundred dollars; 7) A rebate or discount on the price of anything of value made in the ordinary course of a business without regard to that person's status; 8) Printed or recorded informational material germane to school district action or functions; 9) Items of nominal value, not to exceed twenty dollars, containing or displaying promotional material; 10) An honorary degree bestowed upon a Board of Education official or Board of Education employee by a public or private university or college; 11) A meal provided at an event and/or the registration or entrance fee or travel costs to attend such an event, in which the Board of Education official and Board of Education employee participates in his/her official capacity; 12) A meal provided in the home by an individual who resides in Mansfield; **13) Incidental gifts to Board of Education employees from individual students and their parents or guardians, provided that such gifts are less than \$25.00 in value; 14) Gifts to Board of Education employees from groups of students, parents, or guardians, provided that the total value of such gifts in any school year from all donors does not combine to exceed \$150.00, and provided that such gifts are identified only as being from a group and the identity of the givers and amounts given are not identified to the recipient; 15) Gifts given in an employee's name to the classroom or school; or 16) Gifts in-kind of nominal value given to a Board of Education official not to exceed \$25.00 tendered on gift-giving occasions generally recognized by the public, provided the total value of such gifts in any calendar year from all donors do not combine to exceed one hundred dollars.**

b) **To direct the superintendent to establish administrative regulations that guide students, parents, or guardians in making decisions regarding group gifts.**

Vote: In favor: Ms. Everett, Ms. Silver-Bernstein, Mr. Rueckl, Ms. Lacombe, Ms. Ward, Mrs. Paulhus; Opposed: Mrs. Kelly. Motion passed

NEW BUSINESS:

- Food Service Lunch Prices: Kariann Gallegos, Food Service Director, reviewed proposed changes in Food Service Lunch Prices for the 2015-2016 school year. Motion by Mr. Rueckl, seconded by Ms. Everett, to approve the increase of \$0.15 for elementary and middle school lunch for the 2015-2016 school year. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- Healthy Food Certification:
Motion by Mr. Rueckl, seconded by Mrs. Lacombe that The Mansfield Board of Education hereby certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under our jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department meet said standards during the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Such certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises, whether or not school sponsored. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
Motion by Mr. Rueckl, seconded by Ms. Silver-Bernstein that The Board of Education of Mansfield Public Schools excludes from certification food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards if 1) the sale is in connection with an *event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend*, 2) the sale is at the *location* of the event, and 3) the food is *not sold from a vending machine or school store*. Further, the Board grants a general exclusion from the Connecticut Nutrition Guidelines to any after-school or weekend event, provided the event meets the three criteria as set forth above. Vote: Unanimous in favor
- Field Trip Request: Motion by Mrs. Paulhus, seconded by Mrs. Everett, to approve the Mansfield Middle School field trip request to National History Day, June 14 - June 16, 2015. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: Mr. Rueckl requested a discussion of the renovation project under consideration for Region 19 and its potential impact on the district's building plans. Mrs. Kelly requested a report on Student Activity Fund on its use and how the collected funds are monitored.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion by Mrs. Paulhus, seconded by Mr. Rueckl, to move into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations and non-union wages and salaries at 8:52pm. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Dr. Kisiel joined the Executive Session.

The Board returned to open session at 9:15pm.

Motion by Mrs. Lacombe on behalf of the Personnel Committee to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendation to ratify the agreement between the Mansfield Board of Education and the Mansfield School Nurses Association as dated July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Lacombe on behalf of the Personnel Committee to change the title Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent to the title Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and the Mansfield Board of Education, with the additional stipend to base salary in the amount of \$1500. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Lacombe on behalf of the Personnel Committee to change the percentage of insurance premiums paid by the Personnel Assistant to 17.5%, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education to 17.5%, IT Specialist to 17.5% and Food Service Director to 16.5%, and to increase the salaries of the Personnel Assistant, the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education, the IT Specialist, and the Food Service Director by 2%. Vote Unanimous in Favor.

Adjournment: Motion by Mrs. Paulhus, seconded by Mr. Rueckl, to adjourn at 9:17pm. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Celeste Griffin, Board Clerk