



It is the mission of the Mansfield Public Schools, in partnership with the Mansfield community, to ensure that each and every child develops the knowledge, skills, and dispositions essential for civic engagement and personal excellence in learning, life, and work within our local and global community.

Mansfield Board of Education Meeting April 20, 2023 APPROVED Minutes	
Attendees:	Kathy Ward, Chair, Susannah Everett, Vice-Chair, Martha Kelly, Secretary, Edith Allison, David Litrico (electronically), Katherine Paulhus (electronically), Jeannette Picard, Kelly Zimmermann
Absent:	

The public may view the meeting live at <https://mansfieldct.gov/video>.

The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm by Ms. Ward.

Ms. Allison read the mission statement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There were no corrections and no objections to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2023, Regular Meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS: The Board received emails from several families, some of which are included in the packet and those that were submitted after the packet was posted are provided at each member's seat.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Eleven members of the public addressed the Board during the opportunity for public comment:

Ravit Stein, resident and parent – spoke and read a letter in favor of the German Exchange Program

Amy Lapsis, resident and parent – spoke in favor of the German Exchange Program

Margaret Owen, resident and student – spoke and read a letter in favor of the German Exchange Program

Bryan Connolly, resident and parent – spoke and read a letter in favor of the German Exchange Program

William Connolly, resident and student – spoke and read a letter in favor of the German Exchange Program

Kristen Ricci, resident and parent – spoke in favor of the German Exchange Program

Shondra Craig, resident and parent – spoke in favor of the German Exchange Program

Rochelle Marcus, MMS teacher and co-president of Mansfield Education Association and Jennifer Zugarazo, MES teacher and co-president of Mansfield Education Association – addressed the Board together to thank the Board for their support during the MES move. Ms. Zugarazo spoke in favor of the German Exchange Program.

Elliot Soares and McKenzie Ricci, residents and students – addressed the Board together and spoke in favor of the German Exchange Program

ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA: None.

INFORMATION, PRESENTATIONS AND ACTIONS:

Ms. Ward indicated the Board will adjust the agenda order out of consideration for guests.

Superintendent Dart introduced the German Exchange Program and MMS Principal Larry Barlow. Principal Barlow underscored the commitment the program involves and thanked teachers Laura Hunter and Louis Goffinet who shared stories, videos and photos from the trip to Germany last month.

Superintendent Dart explained the reasoning to change to a two-year permission. Two school trip request forms were shared with the Board. Ms. Hunter and Mr. Goffinet provided a program overview and details as well as a sample itinerary of the 2023-24 program.

Motion by Ms. Everett, seconded by Ms. Picard to approve the German Exchange Program for two years (2023-24 and 2024-25) to include both domestic and international travel:

- A two-night field trip from Mansfield Middle School to Nature's Classroom in Freedom, New Hampshire, fall 2023, (date to be determined)
- A three-week trip to Sarstedt, Germany, fall, 2024 (September 14 – October 5, 2024)

Vote: Motion passed with six members in favor, Mrs. Kelly opposed and Mrs. Paulhus in abstention.

Superintendent Dart commenced his report with the MES preparation, move and opening of which Principal Rodriguez provided details and statistics of the opening progress and recognition of the efforts of many.

Superintendent Dart shared many updates and plans including talent management, engagement activities and the budget presentation to the Town Council.

Chef Maraiah Popeleski-Tilley, Director of Food Services, provided the Board with a detailed update of food services events, progress and accomplishments including a focus on customer service, scratch cooking and waste reduction.

Superintendent Dart reminded the Board there is an annual state requirement regarding public school food services. Motion by Ms. Everett, seconded by Ms. Allison that pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Mansfield Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. This 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, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. Vote: Unanimous in favor and motion passed.

Motion by Ms. Everett, seconded by Ms. Allison that the Mansfield Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 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 items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play

rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales. Vote: Unanimous in favor and motion passed.

Superintendent Dart apprised the Board on the MMS roof project - which is near completion – and gave a shout out to Mr. Litrico for his service on the MMS building committee. Superintendent Dart also shared a summary of final procurement items and projects that will continue through the summer as well as an update on the water at MES.

Superintendent Dart recognized the contributions of Mansfield Middle School teachers Nora Dickinson and Elyse Poller, who will be retiring at the end of the school year and celebrated at the June Board meeting, as well as Kelly Villar, Mansfield Elementary School Teacher, who has resigned as of the end of the school year.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Ms. Allison, seconded by Mrs. Picard to adjourn at 9:23pm. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Jil Corso, Board Clerk