



*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**

**June 15, 2023**

**Council Chambers 6:30pm**

**Board Members:** Kathy Ward, Chair, Susannah Everett, Vice Chair, Martha Kelly, Secretary, Edith Allison, David Litrico, Katherine Paulhus, Jeannette Picard

In accordance with PA 22-3, this meeting will be a hybrid meeting. The public may view the meeting live at <https://mansfieldct.gov/video>. Additionally, a video recording of the meeting will be available on YouTube at "Mansfield Connecticut Streaming Channel" within seven (7) days after the meeting.

Residents who attend in person may speak during the "Public Comment" portion of the meeting. Public Comment from those viewing the meeting remotely will be accepted by email at [mboesupt@mansfieldct.org](mailto:mboesupt@mansfieldct.org) or by USPS mail to Mansfield Board of Education, 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT 06268, and must be received prior to the meeting (public comment received after the meeting will be shared at the next meeting). Please email [mboesupt@mansfieldct.org](mailto:mboesupt@mansfieldct.org) or call 860.429.3350 by 4:00PM on the day of the meeting to receive instructions for how to view, listen, or comment live.

### **Agenda**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **ROLL CALL**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- April 20, 2023 Regular Meeting (P. 1)
- June 1, 2023 Regular Meeting (P. 4)

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Letter of resignation from Kelly Zimmermann (P. 5)
- Letter to request appointment of Gregory Cecil (P. 6)

#### **APPOINTMENT OF NEW BOARD MEMBER (M)**

#### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

Student Recognition, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Award:

Margaret Owen  
Theodore Cormier

Recognition of Retirees:

Nora Dickinson	Teacher, Mansfield Middle School
Ruth Sangree	Teacher, Mansfield Elementary School
Sandy Hastillo	Paraeducator, Mansfield Elementary School
Marcy Rudge	Teacher, Mansfield Elementary School
John Burnham	Teacher, Mansfield Middle School
Chuck Warinsky	Teacher, Mansfield Elementary School
Elyse Poller	Teacher, Mansfield Middle School
Sondra Boyer	Suzuki/Strings, Mansfield Public Schools

Patrice Welch  
Patricia Miela  
Deborah Soucy

Teacher, Mansfield Middle School  
Paraeducator, Mansfield Elementary School  
Food Service, Mansfield Elementary School

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

## **ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Finance, Personnel, Policy/Curriculum and Transportation

## **INFORMATION, PRESENTATIONS, AND ACTIONS**

- Superintendent's Report
- Mansfield Elementary School Building Project Update
- Teacher Evaluation Waiver 2023-24
- The Board of Education recognizes *Larry Barlow, Principal*, Mansfield Middle School, who received the Connecticut Association of School's (CAS) 2023 Outstanding First-Year Principal Award
- The Board of Education recognizes the resignation of the following certified staff:  
*Lauren Rodriguez, Principal*, Mansfield Elementary School; effective the end of the 2022-2023 school year  
*Shannon Webster, Orchestra Teacher*, Mansfield Elementary School; effective the end of the 2022-2023 school year

## **NEW BUSINESS (if needed)**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**CONSENT AGENDA: (M)** The following items for the Board of Education June 15, 2023, meeting be approved or received for the record, unless removed by a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education accepts the March 31, 2023, Quarterly Financials.

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION (M)**

Discussion concerning Superintendent's contract, Singletons and collective bargaining.

## **POSSIBLE ACTION**

Superintendent's contract and non-union and collective bargaining wages and salaries (M)

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Mansfield Board of Education  
2021-2026**

**Mission:**

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.

**Core Beliefs:**

- **Lead with equity.** We believe that children must be supported to learn and develop in a safe, antiracist environment free from discrimination, bias, and prejudice against all people where conscious efforts and intentional actions ensure equitable opportunities.
- **Develop the whole child.** We believe schools have an obligation to teach academic and social skills while nurturing the emotional, physical, and behavioral development of all children.
- **Ensure active learning.** We believe students learn best when they engage in joy-filled, empowering, intellectually challenging, and personalized experiences that deepen understanding of the world while building academic and social-emotional skills.
- **Build partnerships.** We believe engaging families and the community as equal partners is necessary to fulfill the mission and vision of Mansfield Public Schools.
- **Prepare global citizens.** We believe schools must develop young people to be stewards of their community, nation, and the larger world around them by instilling the skills needed to contribute to a peaceful society and sustainable world.
- **Grow educators.** We believe that providing an environment that allows for inquiry, supports risk taking, provides for continuous learning, and attends to the whole person is as important for educators as it is for students.

**Robert's Rules of Order General Guidelines**

As outlined in the MBOE By-Laws, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the Board unless otherwise provided by the by-laws. Following are some general guidelines from Robert's Rules and the By-Laws that should be followed to ensure efficient meetings and the rights of all members, aid decision-making and allow all to be heard.

1. During any discussion, a member must be recognized by the Chair before speaking.
2. A member will not be allowed to speak a second time until all other members wishing to speak have been allowed to do so.
3. Members should refrain from speaking a second time unless they have a new point to make or need to respond to new information.
4. As a general rule during discussion, comments should be directed through the Chair to the whole Board, rather than to other or individual members. All discussion is with the Board as a whole. Questions of the Superintendent or other non-BOE members making presentations should be directed to that individual.
5. Private conversations can be distracting to those speaking and should be limited.
6. During discussion, the Chair should try to provide equal time to those in favor or against a given topic or motion.
7. A majority is more than half of the votes cast, not a majority of the Board. For example: if only 7 members choose to vote, and the result is 4-3 in favor, the motion is adopted. Members who abstain are "refraining from voting".
8. If discussion on a *motion* is lasting a long time, any member can "move the previous question" or "call the question". They must be recognized by the Chair in order to do so. This is not debatable, and a two-thirds vote is required to pass. If two-thirds vote in favor of ending debate, the Board ends all discussion on a motion and then moves to an immediate vote on that motion.
9. Committee reports that recommend action should be submitted in writing. This allows for clear understanding of recommendations.



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

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



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<b>Mansfield Board of Education Meeting</b> <b>June 1, 2023</b> <b>DRAFT Minutes</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	Kathy Ward, Chair, Susannah Everett, Vice-Chair, Martha Kelly, Secretary, Edith Allison, Katherine Paulhus, Jeannette Picard
<b>Absent:</b>	David Litrico

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm by Ms. Ward.

Ms. Allison read the mission statement.

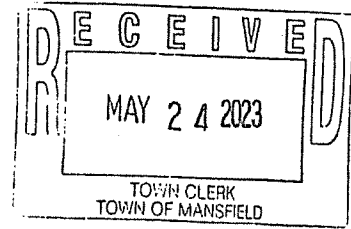
**INFORMATION, PRESENTATIONS AND ACTIONS:**

Superintendent Dart introduced the third and final 2022-23 Report of Progress – Ensure Deep Learning. Mathematics Consultant and Instructional Coach Mike DiCicco, teachers Merin Chiramel and Melissa Batulevitz and 6<sup>th</sup> grade student Daphne Christenson, all contributed to Director of Teaching and Learning Candace Morell's presentation.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Ms. Allison, seconded by Mrs. Picard to adjourn at 8:45pm. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jil Corso, Board Clerk

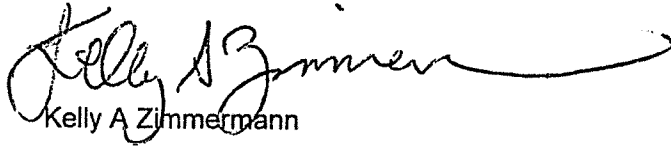
May 23, 2023



To whom it may concern,

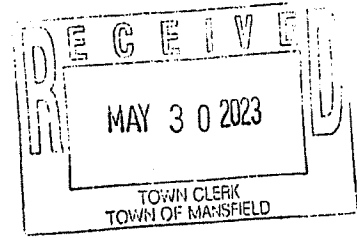
This letter is to serve as notice of the resignation of my Board of Education seat on the Mansfield Board of Education effective immediately.

Thank you,

  
Kelly A Zimmermann



Mansfield Republican Town Committee  
Storrs – Mansfield, CT  
May 18, 2023



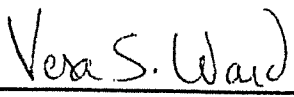
Sara-Ann Chaine  
Town Clerk  
Town of Mansfield  
4 South Eagleville Road  
Storrs-Mansfield, CT 06268


Dear Sara-Ann:

This letter is to inform you that the Mansfield Republican Town Committee endorsed Gregory Cecil as a full member of the Board of Education on May 18, 2023.

Mr. Cecil replaces April Morin and will fill out her current term.

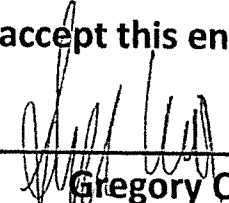
Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vera S. Ward  
Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles J. Ausburger  
Chair

cc: Cathy Ward, Chair, BOE

I accept this endorsement as a BOE member as of 5/18/2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory Cecil

Info: Address: 156 Coventry Road, Mansfield Center, CT 06250  
Cell: (860) 617- 8586 Email: blindwatchman0722@gmail.com