

**Mansfield Board of Education Meeting**  
**April 12, 2007**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:** William Simpson, Chair, Mary Feathers, Vice Chair, Dudley Hamlin, Christopher Kueffner, Min Lin, Shamim Patwa, Superintendent Gordon Schimmel, Board Clerk, Celeste Griffin,  
**Absent:** Gary Bent, Martha Kelly, John Thacher

**I.** Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Mr. Simpson, Chair.

**II.** Approval of Minutes - **MOTION** by Ms Feathers, seconded by Dr. Patwa to approve the minutes of the 3-8-07 and 3-19-07 meetings. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor with an abstention by Chris Kueffner.

**III.** Hearing for Visitors – Mr. Darren Dempsey outlined his requests for flexibility of the half-day kindergarten program. Ms Lisa Drzewiecki noted that she agreed the points made by Mr. Dempsey and requested a specific date as to when a decision would be made. Mr. Simpson said the decision would be forthcoming at the next Board meeting.

**IV.** Communications – A resignation letter from John Thacher and a letter nominating Katherine Paulhus to replace him were submitted by the Republican Town Committee. **MOTION** by Dudley Hamlin, seconded by Chris Kueffner to accept the resignation of John Thacher. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor. **MOTION** by Dr. Patwa, seconded by Ms Lin to accept the appointment recommended by the Republican Town Committee of Katherine Paulhus. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

A copy of the nomination of Lydia Myers, who received the Judith Nilan Award for Community Service to Youth and a copy of THE BOARD REPORT, February and March 2007 edition were distributed.

**V.** Addition to Present Agenda – None.

**VI.** Committee Reports – Mr. Simpson noted the Building Committee met with the architect and is compiling a schedule of work including public hearings and workshops. Mr. Hamlin reported he met with Dr. Schimmel and Mr. Baruzzi to discuss Shipman and Goodwin's model policy updates. The updates will be distributed at the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms Feathers acknowledged that there will be an Executive Session to discuss negotiations with the MEUI.

**VII.** Report of the Superintendent

- A. **Update on State Funding** – Because Representative Merrill was unable to attend, this item was tabled until a future date.
- B. **Utility Analysis** – Mr. Jeffrey Smith, Director of Finance, discussed recent utility savings and new programs to reduce utility costs.
- C. **Language Arts Update** – Ms Judy Shay, District Language Arts/Reading Consultant and Ms Sarah Kania and Ms Judy Quinn, Literacy Coaches reported on the successes they have had during this initial year of implementation.
- D. **2007-2008 Budget** – **Motion** by Mr. Kueffner, seconded by Ms Feathers to

authorized the Town Council's request for a reduction of \$181,740 for Fiscal Year 2008. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

- E. **Class Size/Enrollment Report** - The principals noted no significant change in enrollment during January.
- F. **Personnel - MOTION** by Mr. Kueffner, seconded by Mr. Hamlin to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the employment of Kristina Kyriacou, Grade 7/8 Guidance Counselor at Mansfield Middle School effective July 1, 2007; the requests for unpaid childrearing leave effective May 18, 2007 through the end of the 06-07 school year by Jocelyn Dunnack, Sixth Grade Mathematics teacher at Mansfield Middle School and for the 2007-2008 school year by Julie Hurlock, Special Education teacher at Goodwin School; and to accept the resignations effective the end of the 2006-2007 school year by Alisa Ruggiero, Speech Language Pathologist at Southeast School and Kathleen Siddons, Spanish teacher at Goodwin School. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

**VIII.** Hearing for Visitors – None.

**IX.** Suggestions for Future Agenda - None

**X.** Executive Session - Negotiations

**XI.** **MOTION** by Dr. Patwa, seconded by Mr. Kueffner to go into executive session at 9:12p.m. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

**MOTION** by Ms Lin, seconded by Dr. Patwa to return to open session at 9:30 p.m.

**VOTE:** Unanimous in favor

**XII.** Adjournment - **MOTION** by Dr. Patwa, seconded by Ms Feathers to adjourn at 9:31p.m. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

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Celeste N. Griffin, Board Clerk