

Mansfield Board of Education Meeting
April 12, 2012
Minutes

Attendees: Mark LaPlaca, Chair, Shamim Patwa, Vice-Chair, April Holinko, Katherine Paulhus, Jay Rueckl, Randy Walikonis, Superintendent Fred Baruzzi, Board Clerk, Celeste Griffin
Absent: Carrie Silver-Bernstein, Martha Kelly, Holly Matthews

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

Martha Kelly and Carrie Silver-Bernstein arrived at 7:36pm

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Lisa Eaton, Vinton School Nurse, and student volunteers presented the 95210 for Health program at Vinton.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: Sara Anderson, Chair of MAC's Mansfield Community Playground Committee informed the Board of the Committee's upcoming Design Day which will include visits to all three elementary schools on May 4, 2012.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA: None

REPRESENTATIVE HADDAD: Presented a legislative update to the Board, particularly on SB24 regarding education reform.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Personnel Committee: Ms. Patwa reported that the Personnel Committee has begun negotiations with UPSEU and the MMS Principal position will be reposted.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

- Quarterly Financial Update: Cherie Trahan, Director of Finance, offered to answer any questions on the Quarterly Financials which the Board accepted at the March meeting.
- CT Partnership Plan: Mrs. Trahan reported that the Town's Benefits Consultant will be reviewing the plan offered by the State and will advise the Town on how to proceed.
- 2012-2013 Budget: Mrs. Trahan reported that Council is conducting budget review meetings.
- Kindergarten Program: The prek-4 building principals discussed changes to the Kindergarten program description, which is in the Parent Handbook. MOTION by Ms. Silver-Bernstein, seconded by Ms. Patwa, with a friendly amendment by Mr. Rueckl, to endorse the revision but instruct principals to revise wording to the extent possible in an effort to be more specific. After some discussion, VOTE: Walikonis, Holinko, Patwa, Rueckl, Silver-Bernstein in favor. Paulhus opposed. Kelly – abstained. MOTION passed.
- China Trip-MMS Teacher: Mr. Cryan reported that Melissa Batulevitz, MMS Grade 6 teacher, is in China part of a CT delegation of teachers and administrators visiting China for the first time. He also reported that the middle school's fifth exchange of students will happen when 17 students, a teacher and an administrator arrive here on April 25th.
- Upcoming Retreat: Mr. Baruzzi discussed with the Board items for discussion at the May Board Retreat.
- Enhancing Student Achievement: Eight new projects were reviewed and will be implemented at the schools in support of this activity.
- Class Size/Enrollment: The principals reported no significant change in enrollment.

NEW BUSINESS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded Mrs. Kelly that the following items for the Board of Education meeting of April 12, 2012 be approved or received for the record: VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the minutes of the March 8, 2012 Board meeting.
That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education accepts the retirement of Tom Rameaka, Special Education Teacher, Southeast School effective June 30, 2012.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the request for a leave of absence for the 2012-2013 school year from Catherine Hain, Grade 4 teacher at Vinton School.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: None

Executive Session: MOTION by Ms. Patwa, seconded by Mrs. Holinko, to discuss non-renewal of teachers, contract negotiations, and discussion regarding attorney-client privileged written communication at 10:15pm VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

The Board returned to open session at 10:41pm.

MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Ms. Silver-Bernstein to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent regarding non-renewal of teachers. VOTE: Unanimous in favor with Mrs. Paulhus abstaining.

MOTION by Ms. Patwa, seconded by Mrs. Holinko to refer the proposed Code of Ethics to the Board of Education policy committee for consideration of a similar and/or parallel code for Board of Education employees and to permit the Board's attorney to respond to the Town's Attorney regarding the proposed ordinance. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

MOTION by Ms. Patwa, seconded by Mr. Rueckl to adjourn at 10:45pm. VOTE: Unanimous in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Griffin, Board Clerk