

**Mansfield Board of Education Meeting**  
**March 14, 2013**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Mark LaPlaca, Chair, Shamim Patwa, Vice-Chair, Martha Kelly (By Phone), Secretary, April Holinko, Katherine Paulhus, Jay Rueckl, Carrie Silver-Bernstein, Superintendent Fred Baruzzi, Board Clerk, Celeste Griffin

**Absent:** Randy Walikonis

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Mr. LaPlaca.

Mr. LaPlaca asked for a moment of silence in memory of Jim Dillman, retired MMS physical education teacher.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

Mr. Nguyen and Ms. Dona Stratton, MMS Social Studies teacher presented MMS students, Aden Abbatemarco and Heather Abdullah, discussed the students' trip to Hartford to testify at the Legislative Office Building in front of the Transportation Committee in favor of a bill that would make it illegal to smoke in a car containing a child seven years old or younger.

Mr. Baruzzi honored Susan Irvine, Southeast Enrichment Teacher, who with Steve Sokoloski, Elementary Computer Education teacher, received the 2013 Chris Rogers Award from the Neag School of Education. Mr. Baruzzi honored Mike DiCicco, fifth grade mathematics teacher at MMS, for his receipt of a scholarship from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics to provide financial support for improving teachers' understanding of mathematics by completing course work in mathematics.

Mr. Baruzzi reported that a group of teachers attended the Columbia University Teachers College Reading & Writing Project Workshop on Saturday, March 9, 2013. The district funded transportation for the teachers to participate in this voluntary workshop.

**HEARING FOR VISITORS:** Alan Marcus, Homestead Drive, asked the Board to revisit Board Policy on Religious Pluralism/Respect. Wayne Trembly, Fort Griswold Lane, asked the Board to review the World Religion unit in the grade six curriculum in respect to non-religious beliefs.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Email from Mr. LaPlaca responding to letter written to Mr. Baruzzi by Grade Eight teachers regarding 2013-2014 proposed budget.

Letter from Mayor Paterson recommending the Board of Education consider taping and broadcasting their meetings.

Letter from CAFE honoring Ms. Patwa's completion of the CAFE Leadership Institute.

**ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA:** MOTION by Mr. Rueckl, seconded by Mrs. Paulhus to add letters from two staff members requesting a retirement and resignation to the consent agenda. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Mr. LaPlaca reported he is the Board representative on the Mansfield Tomorrow Advisory Group. He also reported that he attended the CAFE Day on the Hill. Carrie Silver-Bernstein has been appointed Board representative on the Teacher of the Year Committee.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

- Board Policy on Religious Pluralism/Respect: MOTION By Ms. Patwa, seconded by Mrs. Paulhus, to refer this item to the Policy Committee to further consideration. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.
- Elementary School Redistricting: Mr. Baruzzi reported on enrollment at the elementary schools and history of redistricting in the district. He recommended that redistricting is not needed at this time.
- Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy: The board did not move to participate as a partner district in the magnet school.
- Common Core State Standards Implementation and Next Generation Assessments: Mr. Baruzzi shared a memo from the Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell, Chief Academic Officer of the State Department of Education regarding Common Core State Standards Implementation and Next Generation Assessments.

- Class Size/Enrollment: The principals noted no major changes in class size or enrollment in the past month. Mr. Baruzzi discussed the enrollment at Mansfield Middle School in relation to class size guidelines.
- Town Council: Capital Budget Update: Mr. Baruzzi reported that at its meeting on March 11, 2013 the Mansfield Town Council voted to endorse the Board of Education's plan for ongoing maintenance for the four school buildings for the next five years. The financing was referred to the Finance Committee for their recommendation.
- School Building Security Update: Mr. Baruzzi reported that he will meet with staff at all four schools and each school's parent organization before April vacation to update them on emergency procedures and the recommendation implementation timeline.
- 2013-2014 Proposed Budget: MOTION by Mr. Rueckl, seconded by Ms. Patwa to adopt the Superintendent's Proposed 2013-2014 Budget of \$20,941,020. Discussion followed with Mr. Baruzzi and Cherie Trahan, Director of Finance, answering questions by Board members. VOTE: Mrs. Holinko, Ms. Patwa, Mr. LaPlaca, Mr. Rueckl, Mrs. Paulhus, and Ms. Silver-Bernstein in favor and Mrs. Kelly opposed.

NEW BUSINESS: Mrs. Paulhus requested the minutes of the February 21, 2013 meeting be removed from the Consent Agenda. She requested the title of the Enhancing Student Achievement activity be added to the agenda. MOTION by Ms. Patwa, seconded by Mrs. Kelly to approve the minutes with the requested addition. VOTE: Unanimous in favor with Ms. Silver-Bernstein in abstention.

CONSENT AGENDA: MOTION by Ms. Silver-Bernstein, seconded by Mrs. Holinko, to approve the following items for the Board of Education March 14, 2013 meeting. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education accepts the retirement of Barbara Zirakzadeh, Literacy Coach at Southeast School effective the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education accept the resignation of Carol Sweet Patterson, mathematics teacher at Mansfield Middle School, effective the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

Mrs. Holinko: Start time of meetings

Mrs. Kelly: Schools realignment by grade level and safety discussions held as work sessions or separate meeting

Ms. Silver-Bernstein: Ways to supplement budget

Mrs. Paulhus: Movies played in schools and detail level in minutes

MOTION by Mrs. Paulhus, seconded by Mrs. Kelly to adjourn at 10:16pm. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Celeste Griffin, Board Clerk