

Mansfield Board of Education Meeting
May 9, 2013
Minutes

Attendees: Mark LaPlaca, Chair, Martha Kelly, Secretary, Susannah Everett, April Holinko, Carrie Silver-Bernstein, Randy Walikonis, Superintendent Fred Baruzzi, Board Clerk, Celeste Griffin

Absent: Katherine Paulhus, Jay Rueckl

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Linda Robinson (with Dante and Virgil), Evelyn Flaherty (with Trek), and Middle School students presented the different ways certified therapy dogs are used at the middle school to motivate students.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None

COMMUNICATIONS: Letter from Shamim Patwa resigning from the Board.

ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA: MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Mrs. Kelly to add a resignation to the consent agenda. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.
MOTION by Mrs. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Silver-Bernstein to add a discussion of taping Board meetings to the agenda. VOTE: Ms. Everett, Mrs. Holinko, Mrs. Kelly, and Ms. Silver-Bernstein in favor. Mr. Walikonis and Mr. LaPlaca opposed. MOTION passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Policy Committee: Ms. Silver-Bernstein reported the committee met to discuss the religious pluralism policy and will continue to meet.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

- Mansfield Youth Services Bureau: Patricia Michalak, Program Coordinator and Kathleen McNamara, Social Worker, along with student worker Genevieve Rigler, discussed the many programs they provide for the Town and Mansfield Public Schools.
- Mansfield Public Schools Professional Learning and Evaluation Plan: Mr. Baruzzi reported the district has not received notice of approval of the plan from the State Department of Education. The plan submitted to the state is posted at:
<http://www.mansfieldct.gov/content/11150/13915/11152/13583/default.aspx>
- Student Success Plans: Candace Morell, Mansfield Middle School Assistant Principal, with Thanh Nguyen, Mansfield Middle School Principal, reviewed the Student Success Plan, a collection of programs and services that address academic, personal/social, and career topics for students in grades 6-8.
- MMS Parent Portal: Mrs. Morell updated the Board on the success of the Parent Portal with students and parents.
- CAS Grant Application: Linda Robinson, Coordinator of Library/Media Services, reviewed the grant proposal to expand the Books on Buses program. MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Ms. Everett, to approve the grant application. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.
- National History Day Field Trip: Mr. Nguyen reviewed the field trip request to send 5 students to National History Day competition at the University of Maryland.
- Staff Appreciation: To honor all staff, the Board will make a donation to the Covenant Soup Kitchen and will host a Staff Appreciation Breakfast at each school on Tuesday, June, 25, 2013.
- 2013-2014 Budget Reductions: Mr. Baruzzi recommended reductions to address the Mansfield Town Council reduction of the Board adopted 2013-2014 budget in the amount of \$352,860. MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Mrs. Kelly to accept the Superintendent's budget reductions. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.
- Upcoming Retreat: Mr. Baruzzi discussed format of the retreat will be to discuss 2012-2013 Goals and Objectives and 2013-2014 Goals and Objectives. Due to scheduling conflicts, the retreat needs to be rescheduled. MOTION by Mrs. Holinko, seconded by Mr. Walikonis to reschedule the May 23rd retreat to June 6th. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

- Enhancing Student Achievement Funds: One new program were highlighted in the 2012-2013 summary chart; Family Literacy Book Club.
- Class Size/Enrollment: The principals noted no major changes in class size or enrollment in the past month.

NEW BUSINESS: Town Council's request to consider taping meetings. Discussion will continue at the June 13th meeting with additional information on recording methods and cost.

CONSENT AGENDA: MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Mrs. Holinko, to approve the following items for the Board of Education May 9, 2013 meeting. VOTE: Unanimous in favor with Ms. Silver-Bernstein abstaining.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the minutes of the April 11, 2013 Board meeting.

That the Mansfield Public Schools accept the resignations of Mary Mindek, Mansfield Middle School teacher, Julie Brennan, Southeast School teacher, and Madelyn Williams, Goodwin School teacher effective the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

That the Mansfield Public Schools accept the resignation of Yalibi D'Addario, Mansfield Middle School French teacher effective the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: Pat Suprenant, Gurleyville Road, encouraged taping of meetings.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: None

MOTION by Ms. Everett, seconded by Mr. Walikonis to move into Executive Session to discuss Superintendent's evaluation and non-union wages and salaries at 10:05. VOTE: Unanimous in favor

The Board returned to open session at 10:33pm

MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Ms. Everett to adjourn at 10:34pm. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Celeste Griffin, Board Clerk