



*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.*

<b>Mansfield Board of Education Meeting</b> <b>March 10, 2022</b> <b>DRAFT Minutes</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	Kathy Ward, Chair, Susannah Everett, Vice-Chair, Martha Kelly, Secretary, Edith Allison, David Litrico, 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 7:00pm by Ms. Ward.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Ms. Everett, seconded by Mr. Litrico to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2022, Budget Workshop. Vote: Unanimous in favor and motion passed.

Motion by Ms. Allison, seconded by Ms. Everett to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2022, Mid-Year Review. Vote: Unanimous in favor and motion passed.

Motion by Ms. Allison, seconded by Mr. Litrico to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2022, Budget Workshop. Vote: Unanimous in favor and motion passed.

Motion by Ms. Allison, seconded by Ms. Picard to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2022, Regular Meeting. Vote: Unanimous in favor and motion passed.

Motion by Ms. Allison, seconded by Ms. Zimmermann to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2022, Special Meeting. Vote: Unanimous in favor and motion passed.

Motion by Ms. Everett, seconded by Ms. Allison to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2022, Special Meeting. Vote: Unanimous in favor and motion passed.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** The Board received a letter of resignation from Elizabeth Verge, a letter to request the appointment of April Morin, a thank you note from Shamim Patwa, two letters of thanks from the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry, and a Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc. Award of Excellence for Educational Communications Honorable Mention Letter and Certificate.

April Morin addressed the Board. Motion by Litrico, seconded by Mrs. Kelly to approve the appointment of Ms. Morin to the Board of Education. Vote: Unanimous in favor and motion passed. Ms. Chaine, Town Clerk, took Ms. Morin's oath.

Eleven members of the public addressed the Board during the opportunity for public comment:

Laura Medeiros, resident and parent – spoke against masking because we know more now and parents and children should have a choice

Elena Schreiber, resident and parent – shared her concern for potential variants and subsequent surging and the plan for communication as changes occur

Julia Schreiber, resident and MMS student – spoke in support of required masking because she would feel safer and more protected for now

Katelyn LeBreton, resident and MMS student – spoke in support of continued masking and read an email from a classmate also supporting the continuation of masking because she believes masks have been effective

Brian Coleman, resident – shared he is proud of Mansfield and how civil everyone is being and also endorsed April Morin as a Board of Education member

Erin Anderson, resident and parent – expressed her continued desire for the Board to lift the mandate due to her opinion of the negative effects masks are having on children's development

Julia Slesinski, resident and parent – voiced her opinion that masking has done damage and children should not be asked to sacrifice their health for the comfort of others

Peter McDevitt, resident and parent – spoke in support of lifting the mask mandate and complimented the Board on the job they're doing

Kyle Stearns, resident and parent – expressed his opinion that it's time to lift the mask mandate and move on

Rochelle Marcus, resident, parent, MMS teacher and co-president of Mansfield Education Association and Richard Weyel, Goodwin teacher and co-president of Mansfield Education Association – addressed the Board together to express their appreciation and support of the Board to do what's best for everyone

ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA: None

BOARD REPORTS: Mrs. Bradshaw-Hill reported that the Finance Committee met earlier today to review the shared medical insurance fund. She summarized the analysis and stabilization process that would require a surplus distribution previously approved for fiscal year 2020-21 and will transpire now. Ms. Zimmermann reported the Personnel Committee met with the Secretaries' Association and negotiated a secretarial contract to be presented during Executive Session.

INFORMATION, PRESENTATIONS AND ACTIONS:

Mrs. Lyman reiterated the Department of Public Health recommendations and rationale for the transition to a routine, preventive approach in order for the Board to determine if their decision to lift the mandate as of March 14 will remain. Ms. Ward stated masks will be optional as of Monday, March 14 and thanked the Board and community for their patience throughout all of this.

Mrs. Lyman reported the two MMS teams competing in the Science Quiz Bowl of Southern New England are semi-finalists and will continue to the next round. She also announced the Mansfield Elementary School mascot has been chosen – the *tiger*. The latest video created in partnership with Insight Education Group – illustrating how Mansfield is a place to grow professionally - was shared with the Board.

Mrs. Lyman discussed the school calendar status as it pertains to the construction plan and how weather could affect it. Mrs. Lyman congratulated and introduced Mike Seal who has been named Director of Teaching and Learning. Mr. Seal expressed his thanks for the honor of being selected for this position, acknowledged the strong team of administrators and his love of teaching and learning.

Mrs. Lyman indicated the recent change in insurance calculations impacted the previously approved budget and suggested the Board amend the 2022-2023 Adopted Budget and vote to approve the change. Mrs. Bradshaw-Hill explained the recalculation of estimated versus actual expenses resulted in a reduction in the costs of employee benefits. The new bottom line of the adjusted budget decreased to -0.2%. Motion by Ms. Everett, seconded by Mr. Litrico effective March 10, 2022, to approve the budgeted adjustment to the fiscal year 2022-2023 Budget as proposed and adopt the adjusted fiscal year 2022-2023 budget. Vote: Unanimous in favor and motion passed.

Dr. Patwa and Mr. Dart presented detailed overviews of the Student Support Services Program Review and the Equity Audit. These important projects were managed in partnership with CREC Expert Solutions and Insight Education Group respectively.

MMS Roof Project Update - Mrs. Lyman shared very recent photos of the MMS roof progress.

Update on School Building Project – Mrs. Lyman shared drone photos from today and the building is really taking shape and close to being “weather-tight”.

- Watch our school grow <https://mansfieldct.gov/2178>

Ms. Ward indicated a construction site visit of the Board is under consideration for the last week of March and she will provide more information when appropriate.

NEW BUSINESS (if needed): None

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Mr. Litrico, seconded by Ms. Allison the following items be approved. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the retirement of the following:

**Rebecca Robichaud**, Mansfield Middle School; effective June 30, 2022

**Mark Jones**, Mansfield Middle School; effective June 30, 2022

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the resignation of the following teacher:

**Pauline Hayes**, Vinton Elementary School; effective the last day of school for the 2021-2022 school year.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None

Motion by Ms. Everett, seconded by Ms. Picard to enter Executive Session at 9:26pm for the purpose of discussing the Secretary Contract negotiations and invite Superintendent Lyman.

Following Executive Session the Board returned to Regular Session at 9:30pm. Motion by Ms. Allison, seconded by Mr. Litrico to approve the proposed agreement between the Mansfield Board of Education and the Mansfield Public School’s Secretary Association effective 7/1/2022-6/30/2025. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Mr. Litrico, seconded by Ms. Picard to adjourn at 9:32pm. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jil Corso, Board Clerk