



It is the mission of the Mansfield Board of Education, in partnership with the Mansfield community, to ensure that all children acquire the knowledge, skills and attributes essential for personal excellence in learning, life, and work within our global community.

FALL 20
newsletter 18

www.mansfieldct.gov

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION



We welcome Mansfield's families to another wonderful year of learning and growing in the Mansfield public schools. As our schools build upon effective practices that place children in the center of their own learning, we will continue to provide the supports necessary for an exemplary school system. We were most appreciative of the engagement and feedback received from the community last year as we planned for the future of our school facilities. We are committed to providing detailed information to the public about this work as it moves forward.

Last spring, the Board of Education reviewed the findings of a facility planning study that solicited information from hundreds of community members. The Board also received

feedback from two community engagement events with hundreds of participants. Based on the study and input from the community, the Board of Education asked the Town Council to form a committee to explore building one new elementary school in the center of town. The school building committee was formed in June and the planning work has begun. More information is available at Mansfieldct.gov/schoolbuildingproject. Starting October 1, Mansfield Public Library, Community Center and Transportation Center Hub Library Express will have an interactive display about the school project. Please visit these locations often as information will be regularly updated.

This newsletter is one effort to share with you the exciting activities within our schools as well as the progress of our school building committee. We value our continued partnership with the community in planning the future of Mansfield's schools.

One initiative underway is the implementation of five learning and life skills defined by the Mansfield Portrait of the Graduate. These include: collaboration, communication, creativity, critical thinking, and becoming a citizen of the world. The last skill focuses on building the kindness and empathy crucial to the development of the whole child as a global citizen.

The current climate in our country reinforces in us the truth that acceptance of others and kindness are more important now than ever before. It is truly heartwarming to see how our schools focus on social and emotional development as a mainstay of our philosophy.

Over the past few years, the Board has had many opportunities to hear about the wonderful things going on in our schools including the modeling and coaching of kindness that is evident in every building. The hurricane helpers, Mansfield volunteer program, Goodwin ambassadors, Vinton leadership program, WAIM heating assistance program, and the butterfly display at MMS are just a few examples of the beautiful guidance provided our children with social awareness.



Q & A: Planning for Future School Facilities

The Mansfield Board of Education has developed a vision and plan for our facilities and learning spaces.

Declining enrollment, aging buildings that were designed to meet the needs of schools more than an half century ago, and challenging state financial times led the community to examine its current school facilities and develop a plan for the future.

Following a planning study completed in September 2017, the Board of Education took several actions during the 2017-18 school year and concluded that consolidation of our three elementary schools into one new building would meet the future of the Mansfield community.

Why was one elementary school selected?

In February and March 2018 a community engagement event was held to provide the public with information regarding our schools' future needs. Participants gave their feedback in small discussion groups. The Board of Education used this feedback as well as data and other information shared at Board of Education meetings to conclude that one new centrally-located elementary school was the most favorable option. A single elementary school would achieve the following:

1. Consolidating and improving resources: cafeteria, gymnasium, auditorium and media center in one school
2. Considerable savings in administrative, special services, custodial, and support staff
3. Energy savings: heating and cooling one school instead of three individual schools
4. Reduction of per pupil costs
5. Flexibility to accommodate increasing or decreasing enrollment
6. A single united elementary school community
7. A more efficient transportation plan
8. One school that is shared by students across the community will result in a diverse student body and enhanced social experiences.

Building Committee members:

Madison Day | Mary deVecchis | Steve Ferrigno | Chris Kueffner (*Vice Chair*) | Chris McNaboe | Paul Shapiro
Kathy Ward | Rich Weyel | Randy Walikonis (*Chair*)

Ex-officio members:

Derrick Kennedy (*Town Manager*) | Kelly Lyman (*Superintendent of Schools*)

What is the charge of the school building committee?

School buildings belong to the town of Mansfield and as such, construction and use of the building is under the jurisdiction of the Town Council. The Town Council established and charged the School Building Committee to explore sites for construction of an elementary school and, should a suitable site be identified, oversee all tasks required for design and construction of the new school. The School Building Committee directs and oversees the process of building a new school from start to finish. (*Continued on page 3*)



Q & A: Planning for Future School Facilities

The Mansfield Board of Education has developed a vision and plan for our facilities and learning spaces.

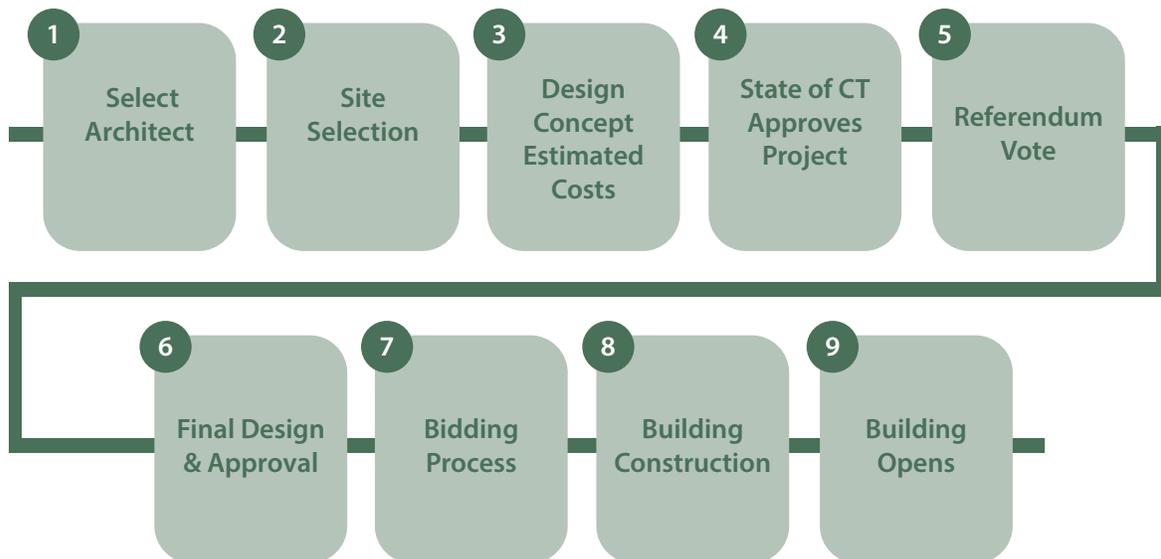
This work includes identifying a site for the school, working with architects and other professionals on building design, and overseeing the construction of the school should funding be secured through a referendum. As of August 31, 2018, the building committee has:

- Accepted the charge of managing the process of the new elementary school project
- Received information from Town Engineer and Town Planner on available town owned property for siting a school in the center of town
- Submitted RFQ and RFP for Owner’s Project Management Services
- Submitted RFP for Architect;
- Selected Owner’s Agent (Project Management Services)
- Reviewed details of Facility Planning Study and resulting goals

Completed Tasks as of August 31, 2018



Tasks to be Addressed as of September 1, 2018



Will the community be involved in this work moving forward?

Yes, we will seek input and feedback from the community through much of the process, especially once the design work begins. Funds to build a new school must be appropriated by the community at a referendum. To provide direction for their work, the School Building Committee is currently drawing from input gathered from the community for the Fall 2017 School Facilities Planning Study, community survey, and from community engagement events held in early spring 2018.



TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



Teacher of the Year - Ryley Zawaodniak

Ryley Zawaodniak, grade 5 language arts and social studies teacher at Mansfield Middle School, has been named Mansfield's Teacher of the Year and State Semi-Finalist. Ryley has taught in the Mansfield Schools for 13 years and previously taught in California. She believes deeply in finding talents within each child and supporting each individual to the fullest. She is also known for her commitment to the school drama program, having directed increasingly challenging plays and musicals for the last 10 years.

Ryley's success in the classroom is certainly due in part to her commitment to continuous learning. She has spent many summer weeks in advanced training programs and stretches herself regularly by taking on new assignments, accepting leadership responsibilities, and joining various school committees. She exemplifies the qualities of an exceptional teacher.



Paraeducator of the Year – Linda Knight

Linda Knight, a paraeducator at Goodwin School, has been recognized as Mansfield's Paraeducator of the Year. After receiving her degree in early childhood education, Linda began substituting in the Mansfield Schools. This led to her being hired as a paraeducator. She deeply believes that schools have the responsibility to meet the needs of every child and understands that teachers do not do this alone. Linda's peers describe her as skillful, dedicated, patient, loving, nurturing, and kind. She has made it her life's work to give to both students and teachers to ensure that all students find success. Linda is a valued member of the Mansfield Public Schools and deserving of the recognition as Mansfield's Para-educator of the Year.

Farm to School Program



A Successful Effort That Supports Healthy Eating for Students and Community



Photo: Diane Dorfer, Cobblestone Farm CSA & Stephanie Richard, Director of Food Services

Mansfield Public School's "farm to school" program helps students get fresh, healthy meals at their school. The program teaches respect and appreciation for the local farmers that grow the food, and the agricultural land that sustains healthy food. Throughout the year we increase the number of "local tray days"

during National Farm to School Month in October. We work with eight different local farms and orchards in a school year.

A CT Department of Agriculture Farm Viability grant provided the school district with funds to obtain equipment and personnel support and pilot a central processing program. We participated in advanced planting arrangements where farmers plant crops to be specifically sold to Mansfield's Schools. This program allows us to purchase local produce in the summer months and process it for freezing, providing a sustainable source of produce throughout the school year. The grant has helped launch a program that will contribute to sustain local farming for years to come.

This summer we processed eggplant, green beans, kale, summer squash, zucchini, and beets, and plan on obtaining more items such as butternut squash and possibly corn. With school in session we can use local produce such as apples, peaches, tomatoes and greens, directly in our meal lines. We are waiting for items like

sweet bell peppers, in small kid-friendly sizes, that one of our farmers grows for us. These were a big hit with the students last year.

We also collaborate with other town stakeholders in a working group called "A Taste of Mansfield" event that connects the community and local farms in the Mansfield area. As part of this effort, we have hosted three community dinners with free admission to community members.

Here's what participants in our farm to school program are saying:

"Mansfield's "farm to school" program helps kids get fresh, healthy meals at school. It also teaches them respect and appreciation for the local farmers that grow the food and the agricultural land that sustains us."

– Benjamin Wiles, Parent, Southeast Elementary School, member of Mansfield Sourcing and Quality

"Kids can perform well in school when they are well nourished. It is important to me as a local farmer to help support our youth by providing healthy and delicious vegetables for school meals".

– Susan Mitchell, Cloverleigh Farm

"Students are increasingly aware of where their food comes from locally. One of our students spearheaded building a greenhouse at the middle school. Students now work and understand what it takes to provide food locally throughout the year."

– Doug Perkins, Teacher, Mansfield Middle School

About the Food Services Department

Director of Food Services Stephanie Richard manages five kitchens, four in Mansfield K-8 schools and EO Smith High School, and one in the farm to school program. The department has a staff 20 people, with two to seven employees in each self-operated kitchen.

Important Dates



BOE Meeting Dates 7:30pm

September 13
October 11
October 25
November 8
December 13

School Building Committee 2nd and 4th Thurs: 4:30pm

September 13
September 27
October 11
October 25
November 8
December 13

Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education



Board of Education

Edith Allison
Rebecca Aubrey
Susannah Everett (Vice Chair)
John Fratiello
Martha Kelly (Secretary)
David Litrico
Katherine Paulhus
Kathleen Ward (Chair)
Kelly Zimmermann

Superintendent of Schools

Kelly Lyman
District Central Office
4 South Eagleville Road
Storrs, CT 06268
860-429-3350
mboesupt@manfieldct.org