

Mansfield School Committee Meeting

Minutes for Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Town Hall Room 3 AB

An Open Meeting of the Mansfield School Committee was held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, December 15, 2009. The meeting was called to order and opened by Mrs. Miller, 2nd by Mrs. Losiewicz. A motion was made by Mrs. Miller, 2nd Mrs. Losiewicz; to have the School Committee go into Executive Session. The Open Session meeting was called to order by Chairman, Mrs. Jean Miller at **7:43 P.M.**

Members Present – roll call vote to open meeting:

Mrs. Jean Miller, Chairman -	yes
Mrs. Lisa Losiewicz, Vice Chairman -	yes
Mr. Frank DelVecchio -	yes
Mr. Michael Trowbridge -	yes
Mr. Jim Perry -	yes

Also Present:

Mrs. Brenda Hodges, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Edward Vozzella, Director of Finance

Chairman, Jean Miller called the meeting to order and requested a moment of silence in respect for the late Mary Beth Witkavitch, a Qualter's Middle School teacher of 23 years who passed away in November after a long brave battle with Cancer. Ms. Witkavitch will be missed.

Correspondence:

School Committee Vice Chair, Lisa Losiewicz read a letter from Ms. Linda Cameron, applauding members of the Student Service Corps at Mansfield High School. Ms. Cameron recognized these students along with their advisor, Ms. Claire Inglefinger, for the many hours of volunteer work each Tuesday evening at the First Baptist Church Soup Kitchen. These students also volunteered to help with the monthly Senior Luncheon and recently have been collecting winter coats which have been donated to the Soup Kitchen. Mrs. Hodges expressed her thanks and appreciation to Ms. Inglefinger and the Student Service Corps members for their contribution to the Mansfield community and for representing Mansfield High School in such a positive endeavor.

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Superintendent's Report:

The School Committee and our community recognized twelve Mansfield High School students as National Merit Commended Students. Joanna Rothchild was also recognized as a National Merit Semi-Finalist. Congratulations to these students for an impressive academic accomplishment. It should also be stated that these accomplishments are not attained without tremendous effort on the part of the students and a rigorous academic program provided by a skilled and dedicated staff.

Approval of Warrants

The following warrants were presented and accepted by the School Committee on December 15, 2009 Good & Services # 2010-1015 dated 11-03-2009, in the amount of \$548,047.49; ; Salary & Wages, #2010-11 dated 11-3-2009 , in the amount of \$1,319,233.47 Good & Services, #2010-1020 dated 11-17-2009 in the amount of \$353,165.73; Salary & Wages, #2010-12 dated 11-25-2009 , in the amount of \$1,331,983.80.

Motion to accept by Mrs. Jean Miller, 2nd by Mrs. Lisa Losiewicz.

Motion U.C. 5 - 0

Approval of Minutes:

The Executive Minutes of **July 15, 2009** were approved.
Motioned by Mr. Michael Trowbridge, 2nd by Mrs. Lisa Losiewicz.

Motion U.C. 4 - 0

The School Committee Minutes of July 15, 2009 were approved as amended.
Motioned by Mr. Michael Trowbridge, 2nd by Mr. Frank DelVecchio.

Motion U.C. 4 - 0

The Executive Minutes of August 4, 2009 were approved.
Motioned by Mr. Michael Trowbridge, 2nd by Mr. DelVecchio.

Motion U.C. 4 - 0

The School Committee Minutes of August 4, 2009 were approved.
Motioned by Mr. Michael Trowbridge, 2nd by Mr. DelVecchio.

Motion U.C. 4 - 0

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The Executive Minutes of August 25, 2009 were approved.
Motioned by Mr. Michael Trowbridge, 2nd Mrs. Lisa Losiewicz.

Motion U.C. 4 – 0

The School Committee Minutes of August 25, 2009 were approved.
Motioned by Mr. Michael Trowbridge, 2nd by Mrs. Lisa Losiewicz.

Motion U.C. 4– 0 -1

The Executive Minutes of September 22, 2009 were approved.
Motioned by Mr. Michael Trowbridge, 2nd by Mrs. Lisa Losiewicz.

Motion U.C. 4– 0 -1

The School Committee Minutes of September 22, 2009 were approved.
Motioned by Mr. Michael Trowbridge, 2nd by Mrs. Lisa Losiewicz.

Motion U.C. 4– 0 -1

OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent’s Evaluation:

The Superintendent’s evaluation was brought forward and made public. Mrs. Hodges thanked the School Committee for an extremely positive evaluation and cited that her success is a result of having the opportunity to work with an experienced and committed School Committee as well as being surrounded by a highly skilled district leadership team. This success has been made possible through the dedication and team effort formed by this leadership to work and support each other. The strength of our district comes from our proud staff, teachers, para professionals, administrative assistants, custodians, food service and bus drivers who work daily to ensure that our students are safe, well nourished, and intellectually challenged. Each of you deserves recognition for your tremendous contributions.

NEW BUSINESS

Scott Foresman Literacy Presentation:

Jennifer Fleischman, Stephanie Manning and Elise Marvelle have been working with the Robinson and Jordan Jackson staff to collect and analyze data regarding the Scott Foresman Literacy Program. Jennifer and Elise made a presentation describing how this data is collected and analyzed to make consistent decisions about instructional grouping across same grade classrooms. They also described how common assessments are administered to all students and explained that standards of success are determined based upon a review of local norms, national

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benchmarks, and curriculum expectations. Students are placed in instructional groups based upon the data and teachers are supported to work with the special needs of each group. The staff at Robinson and Jordan Jackson have worked extremely hard over the past two years to implement this Literacy Program and are to be commended for their continued efforts to successfully deliver these reading services to children, along with all other components of the curriculum. This data is one measure of the success of both our students and our teachers.

Closing of SPOKE Collaborative:

The School Committee voted to close the Spoke Collaborative at the end of the school year. It is the hope and plan of the School Committees and Superintendents of the member Spoke Collaborative schools that the transition will be a smooth and seamless one. The plan is that the programs that are housed at Jordan Jackson, Foxboro and Norton school will continue to be housed in those same locations.

Motion was made to accept by Mr. Michael Trowbridge and 2nd by Mrs. Lisa Losiewicz.

M.C. 5 – 0

Communities That Care Survey results:

The Communities That Care Youth Survey results were presented to the School Committee. Mrs. Hodges commended Mrs. Patricia Harrison on her dedication to this project. This survey was administered to students in grades 6-12 in Norton and Foxboro and grades 7-12 in Mansfield. The intent of the survey was to gather data regarding the use of alcohol, marijuana and cigarette use by the youth in these three communities. The findings were very similar in each of the three communities as well as very similar to the data gathered for the state. Mrs. Pat Harrison, head nurse for the District, is to be commended for her leadership and representation for the Mansfield School District with the Tri Town Drug and Alcohol Coalition which initiated this survey and is working to address the concerns identified by the survey. The next step will be to form a Health Advisory Committee among the three communities. The Mansfield Health Advisory Committee will hold the first meeting on January 4, 2010, at Mansfield High School. The results of the survey will be posted on the Mansfield Schools website.

Mansfield High School Schedule:

Mrs. Hodges was pleased to announce that the School Committee and the MEA had reached an agreement in principal regarding the high school schedule on Wednesday, December 10, 2009. The Committee is awaiting the final wording of the Memo of Agreement by the district's attorney, Mr. Kevin Bresnahan. Once the memo has been completed, MEA President,

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Mr. Kevin McGovern and School Committee Chair, Mrs. Jean Miller, will officially sign the memo and the present high school schedule will remain intact for the 2009 / 2010 school year and until such time that the School Committee and MEA reach an agreement regarding the new contract going forward. The original vote on the MHS schedule was taken on July 15, 2009. The vote remains.

Qualter's Middle School:

Mary Ellen Mega, QMS Principal and MEA members Jim Adams, Judy Mahoney and Daryl Webster met on Wednesday, December 10th with the Superintendent to go over the adjusted proposal for the QMS class schedule.

Approval of FY'11 Budget:

Ed Vozzella presented the FY'11 Budget. The Fy'11 Budget represents a 4.2% increase over the FY'10 actual budget. The School Committee voted to accept the FY'11 Budget as presented as \$40,616,656.00. Mrs. Hodges and Mr. Vozzella will present the budget to the staffs at each of the schools in the month of January.

Motion was made to accept the budget to send to the Town Account by Mr. Michael Trowbridge 2nd by Mrs. Lisa Losiewicz.

Motion U.C. 5 - 0

Other:

The fee charged for after school supervision of students participating in the CHAMPS after school music program was discussed. The School Committee voted to reimburse those parents that had paid for these services and provide these services at no charge to parents. Some parents voiced questions regarding the number of students participating in the program and the effectiveness of the program as offered.

Motion was made to reimburse the parents who paid CHAMPS this year only by Mr. Michael Trowbridge 2nd by Mr. Jim Perry.

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The criteria for the Race To The Top Grants was released on Friday, December 10, 2010. Mrs. Hodges shared a brief overview of this with the School Committee. The DESE is asking each school district to sign a Memorandum of Understanding prior to January 13, 2010 indicating their desire to participate in the awarding of these competitive grants. The Memorandum of Understanding requires signatures of the School Committee, MEA, and the Superintendent of Schools. We will be meeting soon to begin these discussions.

Motion to adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn the School Committee Meeting of December 15, 2009 at 9:54 PM for the sole purpose of adjourning. Motion by Mr. Jim Perry, 2nd by Michael Trowbridge. Roll call to close: Jean Miller, yes; Michael Trowbridge, yes; Frank DelVecchio, yes; Lisa Losiewicz, yes; Mr. Jim Perry, yes.

Motion U.C. 5 - 0

Respectfully submitted,
Mary O. Jackson
Secretary to the Superintendent

