

MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MANCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
December 2, 2014

The Manchester Community Schools' Board of Trustees met at Manchester Community Schools Administration Offices on December 2, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

Board Members were present or absent as follows:

PRESENT: Mr. Byron Brunn, Mr. Brady Burgess, Mr. Steve Flack, Mrs. Sally Krouse, Mr. Tim McLaughlin, Mr. Brian Schilling, and Dr. Nate Trump.

Also in Attendance: Dr. Bill Reichhart, Superintendent; Scott Bumgardner, Business Manager; Attorney Al Schlitt; Shaun Tilghman, *News Journal*; and Eric Seaman, *Wabash Plain Dealer*.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Krouse, School Board President, called the meeting of the Manchester Community Schools' Board of Trustees to order at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Reichhart led those in attendance in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT ITEMS

- *A. Minutes
 1. Minutes of the November 4, 2014 School Board Meeting.
 2. Minutes of the November 4, 2014 Executive Session.
 3. Minutes of the November 19, 2014 Executive Session.
- *B. Claims
 1. Regular Claims dated December 2, 2014.
 2. Prepaid Claims dated November 30, 2014.
 3. Payroll Claims dated November 7, 2014 and November 21, 2014.
- *C. Grant
 1. Community Foundation of Wabash County awarded a grant to Manchester Elementary School in the amount of \$2,000 from the Eileen Basicker Donor Advised Endowment for Begindergarten 2014.
- *D. Donations
 1. Anonymous donation in the amount of \$500.00 to the MJSHS FFA Program.
 2. Donation in the amount of \$50.00 to the MJSHS FFA Program from the Wabash County Farm Bureau.
 3. Donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the MJSHS-Bergstedt Exchange Program from the Community Foundation of Wabash County.
 4. Donation in the amount of \$150.00 to the MJSHS Key Club from the North Manchester Kiwanis Club.
- *E. Personnel
MJSHS
Employment
 1. Patricia Shoemaker, Asst. Co-Ed JH Track Coach
 2. Amber Ramseier, Asst. Varsity Softball Coach
 3. Jasmine Headd, Winter Guard Volunteer
 4. MacKenzi Lowry, Winter Drumline Volunteer
 5. Heidi Slavkin, JH Geography Bee Sponsor
 6. Dorey Mobley, Interim Administrative Assistant through 06/30/15

Dr. Reichhart asked for comments from Mr. Mullett regarding Item C(1). Mr. Mullett informed the Board that the initial grant for Begindergarten that was proposed was in excess of \$18,000, but the final money that was allocated was around \$10,000. The \$2,000 being received at this time is to help offset some of the additional transportation costs that were incurred. Ms. Alspaugh also commented regarding Item C (3) that thanks goes to the Community Foundation for their donation in support of the exchange program. MJSHS experienced a great 3 weeks with the German visitors who went home on November 19. MJSHS is looking forward to sending students to Germany in March to experience their school. Mike Schlitt and Deb Kern will be accompanying the students. The Community Foundation and the American/German Alliance help fund this program. Dr. Reichhart recommended approval of all of the consent items hereinabove documented with the exception of Item E(6).

Mr. Brunn moved to approve the Consent Items as recommended by Dr. Reichhart. Mr. Flack seconded the motion. With no further questions or discussion, a vote of 7:0 approved the Consent Items as presented with the exception of Item E(6).

MANCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD APPROVED

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Dr. Reichhart then recommended approval of Consent Item E(6).

Mr. Burgess moved to approve Consent Item E(6). Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion. Mr. Brunn responded with his concern about the wisdom of giving additional responsibility of Interim Administrative Assistant to Mrs. Mobley in her first year of the Squire Academy program. Mr. Brunn continued that he has a special heart for kids with learning challenges and knows that they need stability. Mrs. Mobley was selected for the Squire Academy position because of her skill sets with respect to the program. Mr. Brunn struggles with the idea of Mrs. Mobley trying to balance the duties of Squire Academy and being the Administrative Assistant, including handling the disciplinary issues, plus possibly managing another lead teacher in such a new program. Mr. Brunn is a believer in promoting from within and succession planning, but is questioning the cost of possibly disrupting the learning program for students with learning challenges. Mr. Brunn is not voting against Mrs. Mobley personally, as he feels she is a good educator. With no further comment, the Board voted 6:1 to approve the recommendation of Mrs. Mobley as Interim Administrative Assistant. Mr. Brunn cast the dissenting vote.

NEW BUSINESS

*A. Mini Cheerleading Clinic

Ms. Alspaugh and Mr. Markham recommend approval of the Mini Cheerleading Clinic which will be scheduled for January 14-15 after school hours for girls in grades K-6 in the MAO Auditorium. The cost is \$30 which includes a t-shirt and snacks and free admission to a home basketball game on Jan the 16th to perform at half-time. The clinic is sponsored by Leona Campbell, the Varsity Cheer Coach, and the Varsity cheerleaders.

Mr. Schilling moved to approve the Mini Cheerleading Clinic as presented. Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion. Without any further questions or discussion, the Board voted 7:0 to approve the Mini Cheerleading Clinic.

*B. Sunday Facility Rental Request

Dr. Reichhart recommended the approval of employee, Jo Kerr's, request to use part of the MJSHS facilities on Sunday, January 18, for her mother's 90th birthday gathering.

Mr. Flack made a motion to approve the Sunday Facility Rental Request. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion. Without further discussion or questions, the Board voted 7:0 to approve the Sunday Facility Rental request.

*C. 2015-2016 School Calendar

Dr. Reichhart presented the proposed school calendar for 2015-2016 which has been reviewed by the MTA and has been subject to parent input. As a result of a couple of suggestions from that input, the proposal has been changed to reflect those suggestions. The first day of Winter Break, December 21, has been designated as a ½ work day for MJSHS teachers only for completion of 1st semester grades and records. This is a no attendance day for all except MJSHS teachers. This ½ work day makes up for ½ day that MJSHS teachers do not work for parent/teacher conferences in October unlike MES and MIS. The other suggested change was for the three built-in snow make-up days to be one each in February, March and April. The first day for students is Tuesday, August 11 (with teachers starting on Monday, August 10). The only way to get the first semester completed by Winter Break is to start a little earlier than August. This also lines up better with Heartland students as other schools in the County start about that time, if not a little before. The last scheduled day for students in May 20 with graduation scheduled Friday, May 27, barring any additional days being added at the end for snow make-up days. Memorial Day is not until Monday, May 30th. Dr. Reichhart recommended approval of the calendar as presented.

Mr. Schilling made a motion to approve proposed 2015-2016 School Calendar. Mr. Flack seconded the motion. Without further questions or discussion, the Board voted 7:0 to approve the 2015-2016 School Calendar as presented.

*D. Memorandum of Understanding Between MTA and Board of Trustees

Mr. Bumgardner reviewed and recommended for approval the Memorandum of Understanding that was negotiated with the MTA regarding disbursement of the School Performance Awards granted by the State. Dr. Reichhart added that the key component for receiving benefit from this award, an MCS teacher must have been employed by MCS 2013-2014 and continue to be an active employee 2014-2015 with an effective or highly effective rating. The total award is then evenly divided by the number of eligible teachers rather than per building as previously stated by the State. The amount of the award is unknown at this time.

Mr. Schilling made the motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Flack seconded the motion. With no further questions or discussion, the Board voted 7:0 to approve the adoption of the 2015-2016 school calendar.

*E. Appointment of Legislative Liaison for Indiana School Boards Association

Mrs. Krouse opened for nominations of a Legislative Liaison for the ISBA to replace Dr. Sharfman. Dr. Trump nominated Mrs. Krouse as the Legislative Liaison for ISBA. Mr. Schilling seconded the motion. Without any further discussion or comment, the Board voted 7:0 to appoint Mrs. Sally Krouse as the Legislative Liaison for the ISBA.

*F. Appointment of Representative for North Manchester Redevelopment Commission

Mrs. Krouse opened for nominations of a Representative for the Redevelopment Commission to replace Dr. Sharfman. Dr. Trump nominated Mr. Brunn as the Representative. Mr. Flack seconded the motion. Without any further discussion or comment, the Board voted 7:0 to appoint Mr. Byron Brunn as the Representative for the North Manchester Redevelopment Commission.

*G. Board Meeting Dates and Times for 2015

Dr. Reichhart recommended the Board approve revision to Board Policy #1060 for Board Meetings to be the second Tuesday of the month commencing January 13, 2015 which is also the reorganizational meeting. This change was mentioned earlier in the year in order to avoid first of the month holidays and give more time to gather end-of-the-month financial documents. A list of proposed Board Meeting dates for 2015 based on this change was also presented and reviewed.

Mr. Brunn made a motion to revise Policy #1060 to reflect the proposed change and to approve the monthly Board meetings dates as presented for 2015. Mr. Flack seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion regarding a possible amendment to that motion to also change to a time later than 5:30 p.m. However, the Board voted 7:0 to approve that commencing Tuesday, January 13, 2015, School Board meetings will meet the second Tuesday of every month remaining at the 5:30 p.m. start time and that MCS Board Policy #1060 will be revised to reflect the same.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND REPORTS

A. Principals

Dr. Reichhart advised that Mr. Self is currently traveling back home from Kentucky after attending his wife's aunt's funeral.

Ms. Alspaugh commented that MJSHS is in the middle of the annual Sharing and Caring activities. The students are given the choice of participation in numerous events created for understanding the idea of helping the school and community. New this year was the Soles for Souls collection of new or gently used shoes which was lead by Mr. Zinsmeister's 1st period Senior English class. Kohl's Department Store will also be contributing to the almost 600 pair of shoes collected by MCS students. Also, the Red Cross set a goal of 60 units for the Blood Drive held on November 24. Total units collected was 61. The students also decorated the school, including the fabulous stained glass windows by some of Mrs. Kern's students which bring many compliments from visitors. This evening Mr. Zinsmeister's third period Senior English class is leading Can*vas the Town which is a door-to-door collection of canned goods. The many activities will culminate in a convocation to recognize the different groups of students and totals for each activity. This has been a great tradition at MJSHS and it contributes to a sense of community among the students. MJSHS is only three weeks out from semester exams.

Dr. Reichhart asked Ms. Alspaugh to comment on a recent threat recently experienced at MJSHS. On the evening of November 19, Ms. Alspaugh received information about a social media threat that went out on SnapChat that included a collage of photos of 16 students with a threatening message, as well as additional disturbing texts and messages to some of the students throughout the evening. Some of the students and their parents sent emails to Ms. Alspaugh and Mr. Markham requesting help. Ms. Alspaugh reached out to students for help researching the threat. On Thursday, students came forward to give good information which lead to reviewing videotape of a study hall class in the PAC which ultimately lead to a particular suspect who had in fact been interviewed once already. Dr. Reichhart and Mr. Bumgardner then interviewed the same student who confessed to the threats. The student's mother was called and had a police officer present. Ms. Alspaugh went through the process of suspending the student pending expulsion. Ms. Alspaugh was very grateful for the staff cooperation and the students who showed their concern and really stepped up to help. The parents, of course, were very concerned and took the threat very seriously. The biggest take-away was that the students' attitudes and actions showed that they didn't want this in their school.

Mr. Mullett commented that November 12th several MES students were recognized at a reception for the Honeywell Holiday Street Banner contest, including Asher Hall, Avery Akins, Beau Shultz, Leighton Duffy, Addison Brubaker, Macy Greer, Emma Ulrey and Kaidyn Howard. Countywide Grade Level Winners were: K- Gracie Miller, 2nd- Adrian Vazquez, and 3rd-Jalayah Paige. School Division Winner for MES was Kaydence Whennen. Winner's of the Sponsor's Choice category were 2nd grader, Jaydan Simmons, and Kindergartener, Tallulah Gawthrop. Teresa Galley advised Mr. Mullett that MES had more winners overall than any other school building in the County. Those winning banners will be featured in downtown North Manchester soon.

B. Curriculum Director

Mrs. Gnagy updated the Board on plans for the eLearning conference, WISE 2015, which will once again be a joint hosting effort between MCS, WCS and MSD and sponsored by the IDOE. An additional \$20,000 grant was received this year for this e-learning project due to the joint effort. The conference is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, June 10-11. Any teacher, administrator, or school board member from Wabash County can attend free of charge. Any folks from surrounding counties have to pay a nominal fee to attend. Keynote speakers are secured, including Michael Wesch, a cultural anthropologist from Kansas State University on Wednesday the 10th. He does a lot of speaking on game simulation, video creation, and other digital technology. On Thursday the 11th, there will be speakers for elementary, middle school and high school. Kristin Ziemke is presenting for the elementary perspective. Kim Campbell will host the middle school segment. The high school keynote speaker will be Mike Gorman from Homestead. The speakers will be followed by break-out sessions.

Also, Mrs. Gnagy has met with every MCS teacher with the exception of maybe a couple of fine arts/music teachers in the last two months, approximately 85 meetings. There has been a lot of web professional development with elementary teachers and for math, English and social studies curriculum. She has just about met with all MCS teachers which is going very well. There has also been math and English curriculum and vertical alignment projects going. Social Studies teachers have met. MIS teachers have also met. When asked about 1:1 development, Mrs. Gnagy responded that her top items of focus are 1. Standards/Curriculum; 2. High Ability; and 3. 1:1. She has engaged in a couple of 1:1 meetings so far this year, but not as many as last year yet.

C. Business Manager

Mr. Bumgardner gave updates on three items: 1) Last week began open enrollment for 2015 insurance for all staff and retirees; 2) the School Performance Award from IDOE has not been received yet, but should arrive on or about December 5; and 3) The 1782 Notice for certifying the budget should be taking place at the January or February meeting.

D. Superintendent

Dr. Reichhart advised the Board that the Community Foundation recently sought some scholarship money for Wabash County students that was being held by the Wells Fargo bank, whose Trust Department is in South Carolina, through a legal proceeding filed on behalf of the three Wabash County Superintendents. Mr. Schlitt did a great job of presenting the court case last week which Dr. Reichhart attended. Dr. Reichhart just found out this evening that Judge McCallen ruled in favor of the Community Foundation who will receive approximately \$5 Million which will help marry the scholarships for traditional and non-traditional students. Dr. Reichhart congratulated Mr. Schlitt on a job well done. Now one scholarship committee will be reviewing all of the scholarships that will be available to all Wabash County students, rather than it being done on a piece-meal basis with the two entities not knowing what the other is doing.

Dr. Reichhart wants to remember the passing of Office Rigney and this tragedy for his family. Officer Rigney's wife is the secretary for the Athletic Director at Southwood, and on December 19 MJSHS Booster Club will be hosting a benefit before the Southwood game. Half of the proceeds that evening will go to Officer Rigney's family.

Dr. Reichhart thanked everyone for their efforts in resolving the threat as quickly as possible, which took a total community effort.

Dr. Reichhart also thanked the Board for allowing him to be the Superintendent Representative for HECC. Dr. Reichhart participated in the HECC conference for four days in November. Approximately 1,100 educators from across Indiana were a part of the program. As the conference closed, the HECC Executive Board called in the 25 Board members and gave each one substantial gifts in exchange for the members' time away from their local responsibilities. Dr. Reichhart is the only Superintendent representative. The gifts included 3 Microsoft 7" tablets and

some programmable Sphero (robotic) balls which totaled about \$860.00 in value. The Sphero balls will be used as part of the Science Olympiad competition. Dr. Reichhart appreciated the generosity of the HECC Executive Board as well.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

No comments from visitors.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

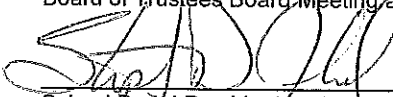
Mr. Schilling noted that according to the December MIS Newsletter, Caleb Flick was also a winner in the Honeywell Holiday Banner contest.


Mrs. Klouse noted that MCS art teachers, Hannah Burnworth and Debra Kern, currently have some of their personal works included in the exhibit at the Galleria in Jefferson Pointe, Fort Wayne.

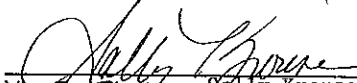
Mr. Brunn thanked staff and students with respect to all their efforts in the 'Be the Good' campaign for Sharing and Caring, and commented that the Cannonball Dodgeball Tourney scheduled for December 9 is always fun.

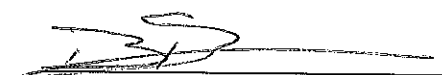
ADJOURNMENT

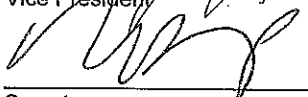
The Executive Session scheduled for the evening was cancelled due to no business to discuss. With no further business, Mrs. Krouse, School Board President, adjourned the Manchester Community Schools' Board of Trustees Board Meeting at 6:15 p.m.

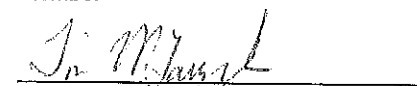

School Board President - Steve Flack

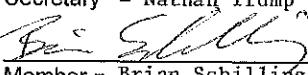

Member -

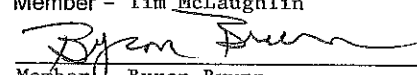

Vice President - Sally Krouse


Member


Secretary - Nathan Trump


Member - Tim McLaughlin


Member - Brian Schilling


Member - Byron Brunn