

MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MANCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
February 10, 2015

The Manchester Community Schools' Board of Trustees met at Manchester Community Schools Administration Offices on February 10, 2015 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, and Mr. Brian Schilling.

ABSENT: Dr. Nate Trump

Also in Attendance: Dr. Bill Reichhart, Superintendent; Mr. Scott Bumgardner, MCS Business Manager; Al Schliitt, School Attorney; and Lauren Winterfeld, *Wabash Plain Dealer*.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flack, 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.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT*

Attorney Schliitt submitted to the Board a signed Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement signed by Mr. Brunn, whose spouse is an employee of Manchester Community Schools. Attorney Schliitt will file the Statement as required with the Clerk of Wabash County and the State of Indiana. (*This item was inadvertently left off the agenda.)

STUDENT CODING PRESENTATION:

Mrs. Erny teaches a digital applications class in the afternoons at MIS. She has been teaching coding since the national emphasis on December 8 for the 'Hour of Code' intended to draw attention to the growing field of computer science. Coding helps with problem solving and creativity. The current project used an app called "Tinker" which starts the student with a blank screen. The students were instructed to create a game or a story. The students chose the background, characters, and the action of the characters. Noah Stafford, 6th grade student, demonstrated his zombie apocalypse game and explained some of the coding choices he used. Next, Laney Shock, 6th grade student, demonstrated the story she created. Laney stated that she was not interested in coding at first and found it hard. Laney likes it better now that she understands it. Her story was about a penguin that was trying to take over the world and a superhero that was trying to stop the penguin. A child character included as the narrator. Laney then explained the difference between the 'on start' and 'play' buttons and different codes she used to switch scenes. Last, Max Carter demonstrated a 'tap' game he created. He also expressed that coding was hard at first, but now it is pretty easy and fun. Max also explained some of the different coding options he used. Mrs. Erny went on to explain that coding is very much a problem solving application involving learning what each 'code' is capable of doing and building the codes together to reach an end goal. Coding also incorporates the skill of project management – where do you want to start and where do you want to end.

Mr. Miller added that MES classes, Beth Rosen's High Ability class, and Ms. Leifer's digital citizenship class all participated in an 'Hour of Code.' There is also an after school computer club that is learning how to program. The hope is to build interest in the younger grades and increase from there.

Ms. Leifer stated that last fall MHS offered a dual credit class through IPFW in which the students worked through actual computer languages. She continued that it is really fun to watch the students problem-solve. IPFW would send them problems to fix and figure out what language to use and how to code the solution. The job opportunities for this type of field are astronomical, with starting annual wages at \$80,000 - \$100,000. Sometimes students who are normally pretty quiet find that they love the interaction and common ground with other students that they probably wouldn't normally interact with. Hopefully, there will be enough interest and schedule time to offer the class again next fall.

CONSENT ITEMS

- *A. Minutes
 1. Minutes of the January 13, 2015 School Board Meeting.
 2. Minutes of the January 13, 2015 Board of Finance Meeting.
- *B. Claims
 1. Regular Claims dated February 10, 2015.
 2. Prepaid Claims dated January 1-31, 2015.
 3. Payroll Claims dated January 16, 2015 and January 30 2015.

MANCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD APPROVED

MAR 10 2015

*C. Grants - None

*D. Donations

1. Donation in the amount of \$1,500.00 to the Manchester Junior-Senior High School Caring and Sharing Program from Kohl's Department Stores, Inc.
2. Donation in the amount of \$685.00 from friends and family of Susan Klingler to establish the Klingler Collection in the MJSHS Media Center.
3. Donation in the amount of \$125.00 to the Manchester Junior-Senior High School FFA from Brodbeck Seeds.
4. Anonymous donation in the amount of \$400.00 to the Manchester Junior-Senior High School FFA.
5. Anonymous donation in the amount of \$300.00 to the Manchester Junior-Senior High School Science Olympiad program.

*E. Personnel

MES

Resignation

1. Randy Fruitt, Instructional Assistant (eff 01/30/15)
2. Lara Singleton, Kindergarten teacher (eff end of 2014-2015 school year)

Employment

1. Ashley Dirck, Long-term Maternity Sub (approx. 02/13/15 – end of year)
2. Karrie Rose, Instructional Assistant (eff 02/03/15)

MIS

Resignation

1. James G. Smith, Custodian (eff 12/19/14)

Employment

1. Carol Collett, Intramural Girls Basketball Coach
2. Jenny Jenkins, Intramural Girls Basketball Coach
3. Heather Terflinger, Intramural Girls Basketball Coach

MJSHS

Employment

1. Wendy Isbell, Volunteer HS Cheerleading Coach
2. Liberty Slinden, Volunteer HS Track Coach
3. Tommy Riggs, Assistant HS Co-Ed Track

Dr. Reichhart recommended approval of all of the consent items listed above.

Mr. McLaughlin moved to approve all the Consent Items outlined above. Mr. Brunn seconded the motion. With no further discussion, a vote of 6:0 approved the Consent Items as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

*A. Safe Place/Host Home Program

Dr. Reichhart reviewed the Safe Place/Host Home program that was presented by Jan Williams of the Youth Service Bureau in Huntington at the January board meeting. Dr. Reichhart has discussed this program with the Administrators who feel that if it can help students in our community it would be a worthwhile program. There is no cost to the school district. Youth Services Bureau only needs about 20 minutes of instructional time at each of the MCS buildings to introduce the program to the students. Ms. Williams takes care of soliciting the businesses that would serve as a Safe Place. The Administrators did not see any negatives to implementing the program, as it would be available for students to use as needed. Dr. Reichhart and the Administrative team recommend that the program be approved to be implemented in the MCS community.

Mrs. Krouse made a motion to approve implementation of the Safe Place Program/Host Home in MCS schools. Mr. Schilling seconded the motion to approve. With no further discussion and a vote of 6:0, implementation of the Safe Place/Host Home program was approved.

*B. Snow Make-up Days 05/26/15 and 05/27/15

Dr. Reichhart recommended adding Tuesday, May 26 and Wednesday, May 27 to the end of the current school year calendar for snow make-up days #4 and #5. At this point, there is room to add two more days without running into a problem with rescheduling Graduation.

On a motion by Mr. Brunn, second by Mr. McLaughlin, and a vote of 6:0, the recommended additional snow make-up days on May 26 and May 27 were approved.

*C. Budget Reduction Resolutions

Mr. Bumgardner stated that in October the 2015 Budget was approved. In January, MCS received its 1782 Notice from the State which now requires budget reductions based on the cuts in the appropriations. Mr. Bumgardner presented his proposed reductions to the board which are very similar to last year's, and recommends approval of the proposed Resolution.

Mr. Schilling made a motion to approve the proposed Budget Reduction Resolution. Mr. Brunn seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the Board voted 6:0 to approve the Budget Reduction Resolution.

*D. Approval of Tax Anticipation Warrant Bids

Mr. Bumgardner received approval at the January board meeting for advertisement of Tax Anticipation Warrant Bids. The advertisement appeared in the News Journal two times in January as approved for \$1,000,000, which includes \$300,000 for General Fund; \$500,000 for Capital Projects Fund; and \$200,000 for Transportation Fund. A lone bid was received and opened from Crossroads Bank. Mr. Bumgardner thanked Crossroads for their help in that regard. The bid was similar to last year's with a slight interest increase from 2.35% to 2.48%. Mr. Bumgardner recommends approval of the Bid and working with Crossroads again this year.

Mr. Schilling made a motion to approve the Tax Anticipation Warrant Bid from Crossroads Bank. Mr. Brunn seconded the motion. Without additional discussion, the Board voted 6:0 to approve the Tax Anticipation Warrant Bid as presented.

*E. State School Funding Formula Resolution

Dr. Reichhart commented in regard to the amount of funding the schools are receiving across the State. Last week the Superintendents in northeastern Indiana met and the message was 'United We Stand'. The message to the State is that all schools should be funded. Dr. Reichhart reviewed with the Board a graph created by Fort Wayne Community Schools' Chief Financial Officer which shows the progression of State School funding from 2008 forward. In 2009, the funding rate was \$5,452 per student and has decreased to \$4,587 per student presently since the State has taken over the funding. As a result, Dr. Reichhart presented a proposed Resolution and read it to the Board. This Resolution is similar to what is being adopted by other schools in the area. Dr. Reichhart went on to state that the teachers are feeling a great amount of stress with the ISTEP testing. Fortunately, over the last 5 years there has not been a need to RIF any teachers and MCS has added staff through the local means of being able to add students. If the State continues to cut funding, staffing and programs will likely need to be reduced. Dr. Reichhart recommended adoption of the proposed Resolution for submission to the State legislators.

Mrs. Krouse made a motion to approve the State School Funding Formula Resolution proposed by Dr. Reichhart. Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the Board voted 6:0 to approve adoption of the State School Funding Formula Resolution.

F. Legislative Update

Mrs. Krouse commented that what Dr. Reichhart just presented is one piece of current legislation that is at issue. The Board received a letter from Annie Clark regarding some of the current legislative issues, especially in regard to testing. Dr. Reichhart added that Dana Clutter also shared a letter with him regarding the same issues. Ms. Clutter then presented copies of her letter to each Board member. Her letter also addressed the stress that teachers are feeling and her own worry for her students with regard to the amount of time that is needing to be spent getting ready for the tests and practicing for the tests. Ms. Clutter feels that the pressure of all the testing is taking the joy out of school. Mrs. Krouse went on to say that the Governor is now stepping in with an attempt to rescue all from testing, but it is not known whether he can actually accomplish that as the testing is mandated by the State Board of Education. Ms. Gnagy added that listening to news reporters talking about it is frustrating in itself, as well as the thought that all of the money being used for testing could be used in better ways to serve the students. Ms. Gnagy certainly understands why teachers and students alike are so frustrated. Dr. Reichhart spoke with Governor Pence today while in Indianapolis and thanked him for going on record against the amount of testing. Previously the length of the test was 5.5 hours for grades 3-8 and is now 11-12 hours. Mr. Self pointed out that is just for the practice test and part one of the test with an additional 10 hours for the second part of the test. Special education students' test is estimated to be a total of about 30 hours. Dr. Reichhart added that the schools have only known about the extended length of testing time for about 2-3 weeks, which has been revised again since then. Parents are even threatening to keep their students home and refuse to have them tested. However, Mrs. Krouse said that pending Senate Bill 566 may end up letting the schools give NWEA instead of ISTEP by 2016. She also brought attention to the fact that the current School Funding Formula gives 43% of \$200,000,000 for charter vouchers for only 2% of all students.

G. Future Board Meeting Date at Heartland Career Center

Mr. Flack proposed picking a date in the near future to have a Board Meeting at the Heartland Career Center. There are a lot of exciting things going on at Heartland and changes coming. Heartland received \$100,000 grant about a month ago and another \$138,000 grant today. Subaru donated a couple of two-year-old cars back in December. Dr. Reichhart added that Heartland plans to buy a virtual welder with some of their grant money. The unit will be able to record and evaluate the quality of the students' welds. There is a huge demand for advanced manufacturing employees. Chrysler in Kokomo has stated that 50% of their current blue-collar work force is eligible for retirement and very few are standing in line to take those positions. Ms. Alspaugh also reported to the Board that MHS is going to offer the first year of an advanced manufacturing program in partnership with Heartland. As sophomores, students will take the first year course at MHS, as juniors they will go to Heartland; and then as seniors they will serve an internship in the workforce with a company who partners with Heartland. There will also be a company to partner with MHS for the first year that will provide opportunities for guest speakers, field trips, and introduction to other equipment. Jerry Bolinger will be the teacher for the program and will get training this summer. There is a software technology component and textbook component. This will be great for students who wish to go into advanced manufacturing or pre-engineering students. The students will also be able to earn 6 dual credits through Ivy Tech and will have the opportunity to sit for three industry certificates in the first year of the program. Dr. Reichhart also advised that Heartland will have a new CNC lathe from a \$3.2 million grant at Ivy Tech who is partnering with Heartland.

Mr. Flack will check on some dates that will work for the Board to visit Heartland for a Board Meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND REPORTS

A. Principals

Mr. Mullett thanked the Tin Caps for having Johnny Tincap at MES on Friday to kick off the reading initiative. MES is currently doing mClass testing and WIDA testing for EL students. iRead and ISTEP tests are right around the corner. Acuity testing is also going on right now. The iRead window has been extended for two days. If 3rd grade students don't pass the iRead, they don't go on to Grade 4 without taking the summer re-take. Mr. Mullett has yet to retain a student due to iRead. Mr. Mullett commented that they will stay as positive as possible at MES. If the staff is not relaxed, the students won't be relaxed. The iRead test only takes about 72 minutes. The irony is that if a student fails the 20 hour ISTEP, they can still go on to 4th grade; but if they fail the 72 minute iRead test, they can't go on to fourth grade unless they take the summer re-take. The WIDA Access test is a very extensive test for the EL students. Dr. Reichhart interjected that there is a current bill being discussed that would move the iRead to Grade 2 instead of Grade 3.

Mr. Self reported that Annie Clark is at the Kiwanis and Journal Gazette Spelling Bee Competitions in Wabash with students: Owen Kruschwitz, Gabriel Case, Sam Hupp, Morgan Parrett, Elijah Burlingame, Peyton Addair and Abby Love.

Earlier in the year the 4th grade team and Mr. Self talked about the circus field trip. Last year's third graders couldn't go because of the weather so there was a plan to go this year. However, based on a lot of things going on it was decided to not take them to the circus. Late in the game, it was realized that decision did not go over well and with a huge thank you to Sam Knight for getting enough last-minute tickets for the 4th grade and the help of the Shriners, the 4th graders were able to go after all. Mr. Self also apologized to the Shriners for any unintended speculation that MIS was in some way opposed to the Shriners.

This week the three grade levels have been going swimming as a reward for reading their second nine-week goal of 2,000 books. An additional 500 books were read over Christmas Break which was rewarded by teacher cannon balls.

With regard to ISTEP testing, all three grades at MIS are directly impacted. There is a lot of frustration with continued directives from the State. The practice test books were seen for the first time after arrival today only one week prior to the scheduled practice next Tuesday. In addition, the instructions on how to give the test have not yet been received. One practice test is the same for 3rd and 4th grade, and one is the same for 5th and 6th grade. MIS is trying to balance education with test preparation. Once the 4-hour practice test has been given, it can be used to prepare the students for the actual test. The staff is having conversations about the testing outside the classroom, but intend to create the best atmosphere possible inside the classroom with the students. Annie Clark sent copies of the Acuity B test this evening for Board Members to try if interested. The frustration is not in not knowing the answer, but in not knowing how the answer is

expected to be expressed. Mr. Self also encouraged Board Members to check out the DOE web site at the College and Career Readiness link where there is a sample ISTEP test. The testing schedule also keeps changing because the windows keep moving. Mr. Self knows the students will ultimately do well because MIS has great students and great teachers.

Ms. Alspaugh echoed the concerns and frustrations about testing. MJSHS is also faced with a multitude of testing through the end of the school year: ISTEP for 7th & 8th grade; ECA for Algebra I and English 10 students; Accuplacer for all students who didn't score at least 46 on the PSAT; and the Capstone for the AP courses in May. These tests take a great deal of time and effort away from other things. MJSHS is still trying to do some fun, educational things. On Friday the National Honor Society members are going to MES to read to the elementary students. Ms. Renbarger's interpersonal relations' class will also be going to MES to take Valentines and cookies to students. The end of February a group of students will be going on the annual AP Environmental Trip to the Everglades. In March some of the MHS students will be going to Germany for three weeks with Ms. Kern and Mr. Schlitt.

Congratulations to Emma Burlingame who is the Manchester representative in the National Geography Bee. She was coached by Mr. Webb and won over approximately twenty other students in the final round. Her test was submitted as the MHS entry.

MHS is hosting the Girls' Basketball Sectional #37. Mr. Markham and his crew have worked very hard to prepare for the games which start tonight and go through Saturday night.

B. Curriculum Director

Mrs. Gnagy shared that the K-3 teachers have been working very hard on getting writing curriculum frameworks done. The math team is doing some vertical alignment to cover scope and sequence. MJSHS teachers continue to talk about integrating technology and different options for textbooks. Next month hopefully a presentation can be made of a technology video about Quick Hits and MJSHS teachers can talk about technology being used in those classrooms. There are currently 214 High Ability students identified. Mrs. Gnagy is looking at all the data points of those students. Beth Rosen and Mrs. Gnagy will be reviewing the services provided for those students and upgrade as necessary. The Broad Based Planning Committee is scheduled to meet February 23rd at noon and 6:30 p.m. Mr. Burgess will be attending as a representative for the Board of Trustees. Lastly, Wabash W.I.S.E. has scheduled the summer e-learning conference for Wednesday and Thursday, June 10-11 at Northfield High School. All teachers are encouraged to attend. There are plans to make it more attractive to even more attendees including a "playground in technology." Vendors with 3D printers are being invited to attend.

C. Business Manager

Mr. Bumgardner reported that he had concerns in December and January that the ADM count in February would be down, following the pattern in recent years and especially last year's drop of 16 students. However, MCS is actually up one student at 1542.5 in February as compared to 1541.5 in September. Squire Academy has definitely played a role in keeping that number steady. Optimistically, the Senior class this year is the smallest class; so hopefully with a strong Kindergarten class in the fall, MCS can continue to grow. Kindergarten students count as ½ student. The actual enrollment count currently is 1,603 students. Another positive is that MCS has had 109 cash transfers this year spread over the K-12 grades. When multiplied by approximately \$6,400 per student, that covers 10-12 staff members which is a huge credit to MCS and the community, and has resulted in a significant financial boost.

D. Superintendent

Dr. Reichhart sympathized with the teachers' frustration over testing issues and appreciates the two emails received today. He shared those emails with Senator Banks and Governor Pence today. It is important to keep the dialogue with legislators going. ISBA has said it is important to establish those relationship outside of the legislative session. Dr. Reichhart went on to say that School Boards need to make attempts to get to know the State legislators better.

Dr. Reichhart also thanked Sam Knight for his extra work getting the circus tickets. Also, Carter Vernon, a student at MJSHS, was named to the IPFW Tri-State band which is believed to be a first. Congratulations are extended to Carter and Jeff Huber and the Band.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

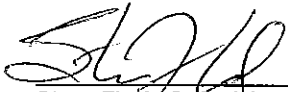
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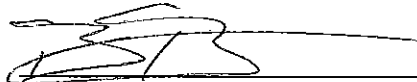
COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

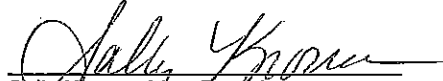
Mr. Flack mentioned the possibility of hosting a breakfast or dinner once or twice a year with the area's legislators in order to get to know them better and they can get to know more about MCS, and possibly in joint effort with MSD and Wabash City. Also, speaking for the whole Board, Mr. Flack expressed appreciation to the MCS staff and all their efforts.

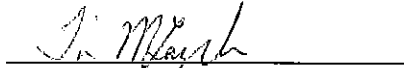
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mr. Flack, School Board President, adjourned the Manchester Community Schools' Board of Trustees Board Meeting at 6:40 p.m.


Steve Flack, School Board President


Brady Burgess, Member


Sally Krouse, Vice President


Tim McLaughlin, Member


Nate Trump, Secretary


Brian Schilling, Member


Byron Brunn, Member