

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

The Manchester Community Schools' Board of Trustees met at Manchester Community Schools Administration Offices on March 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, and Dr. Nate Trump.

Also in Attendance: Dr. Bill Reichhart, Superintendent; Mr. Scott Bumgardner, MCS Business Manager; 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.

#### USE OF TECHNOLOGY PRESENTATION

Mrs. Amy Acree introduced the MJSHS Tech Squad who has been working with her, Mr. Tony Miller and Mr. Eric Sanson this year. This group of students and the MIS tech squad that works with Jacqui Erny compiled a video to showcase how the teachers and students have been using technology this year. The video was then presented showing short clips of various teachers being interviewed by the tech squad students and explaining different purposes for various apps and technology in their classrooms as they pertain to specific subject areas. The students then introduced themselves as: Clayton Moore, Senior; Cylas Howard, Sophomore; Zachary Shenefield; Senior; Jordan Hicks, Freshman; Nathan Ozenbaugh, Freshman; Jimmie Harris, Freshman; Drew Jones, Sophomore; and Ray Hathaway, Sophomore. The Tech Squad's duties include updating iPads and computers; finding apps that can be more helpful to the students; helping students with minor issues with iPads that they can't resolve on their own; helping educate students on different uses of their iPads; distributing iPads back to classrooms once they have been worked on; assisting teachers on use of their iPads or computers; replacing iPad stands, repairing, reprogramming, and cleaning off iPads. In answer to several questions from Board members, the Tech Squad students explained that they are actually considered part of a class and were required to have a recommendation from a teacher to be a member of the class. Several of the students intend to pursue technology careers. The teachers are more relaxed about and open to learning more about the technology and having students help them with technology issues compared to last year.

Dr. Reichhart also acknowledged and congratulated Clayton Moore on going to State in wrestling this year.

#### CONSENT ITEMS

- \*A. Minutes
  1. Minutes of the February 10, 2015 School Board Meeting.
  2. Minutes of the February 10, 2015 Executive Session.
- \*B. Claims
  1. Regular Claims dated March 10, 2015.
  2. Prepaid Claims dated February 1-28, 2015.
  3. Payroll Claims dated February 13, 2015 and February 27, 2015.
- \*C. Grants - None
- \*D. Donations
  1. Donations in the total amount of \$13,000.00 from Community Foundation of Wabash County, Bergstedt-Manchester High School Exchange Fund.
  2. Anonymous donation in the amount of \$200.00 to Manchester Community Schools.
  3. Donation in the amount of \$500.00 from Brodbeck Seeds, LLC to the Manchester Junior-Senior High School Science Olympiad Program.
  4. Donation in the amount of \$100.00 from Joel Eichenauer and Lori Zimmerman to the Manchester Junior-Senior High School Science Olympiad Program.
  5. Donation in the amount of \$250.00 from LHN - Kosciusko Community Hospital to the Manchester Junior-Senior High School Science Olympiad Program.
  6. Anonymous donation in the amount of \$600.00 to the Manchester Junior-Senior High School Band program.
  7. Anonymous donation in the amount of \$500.00 to the Manchester Junior-Senior High School Drama program.

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8. Anonymous donation in the amount of \$500.00 to the Manchester Junior-Senior High School Choir program.
9. Donation in the amount of \$250.00 from Sweetwater Assembly of God to the Manchester Junior-Senior High School Cheerleading program.
10. Donation in the amount of \$324.00 from The Wrestling Club to the Manchester Junior-Senior High School Wrestling team.
11. Anonymous donation in the amount of \$200.00 to the Manchester Junior-Senior High School Science Olympiad Program.

\*E. Personnel

MES

Employment

1. Carrie Sautter, Grade 2 Long-term Maternity Sub

MIS

Employment

1. Danae Adams, Intramural Soccer Coach
2. Jen Birch, Intramural Soccer Coach
3. Jacqui Erny, Intramural Soccer Coach
4. Heather Terflinger, Intramural Soccer Coach
5. Cynthia Pence, Part-time Custodian

MJSHS

Employment

1. Nicole Brubaker, Interim Department Chair 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester
2. Liberty Slinden, Assistant HS Track Coach
3. Nikki Briner, Volunteer Girls' Tennis Coach

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

Mr. Brunn moved to approve all the Consent Items outlined above. Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion. With no further discussion, a Board vote of 7:0 approved the Consent Items as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

\*A. Science Olympiad State Competition

Ms. Alspaugh stated that it is an honor that the junior high and senior high Science Olympiad teams have both qualified for State competition at Indiana University in Bloomington on Saturday, March 21. This competition requires an overnight stay in order to be ready to go early on Saturday morning. The teams travel by bus both ways and supplies and fees are covered by donations. Any additional expenses are paid by the students and funds earned by cleaning up the gym after basketball games. The students will be chaperoned by Mr. Lock and Mrs. Gnagy along with several parents. Ms. Alspaugh recommended approval of the overnight trip to Science Olympiad State Competition, adding that it is a great academic competition that deserves support and MJSHS is lucky to have such strong teams.

Mr. Schilling made a motion to approve the overnight trip. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion to approve. With no further discussion and a vote of 7:0, the overnight trip to Science Olympiad State Competition was approved.

\*B. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chicago Field Trip

Ms. Alspaugh shared that the 8<sup>th</sup> graders annually go to Chicago to visit several points of interest including Shedd's Aquarium and Medieval Times. New this year will be a tour of the Holocaust Museum, and the 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be reading the Diary of Anne Frank before the trip. Ms. Alspaugh recommended approval of the out-of-state field trip to Chicago.

On a motion by Mr. Brunn, second by Mr. McLaughlin, and vote of 7:0, the recommended field trip to Chicago was approved.

\*C. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp Crosley

Mr. Self commented on the annual 6<sup>th</sup> grade outdoor learning trip that will be overnight on May 11-12. It is always a highlight of students' school years. The trip is partly paid for by PTO funds. The student portion is about \$25.00 each. Mr. Self recommended approval of the Camp Crosley field trip.

Mr. Brunn made a motion to approve the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp Crosley trip. Mr. Schilling seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the Board voted 7:0 to approve the overnight field trip to Camp Crosley.

\*D. Snow Make-Up Days 05/28/15 & 05/29/15

Dr. Reichhart announced that MCS had a couple more weather-related closures since the last Board meeting. Dr. Reichhart recommended approval of extending the current end-of-year calendar with additions of Thursday, May 28 and Friday, May 29, 2015. The last teacher half-day to work would then be on Monday, June 1.

Dr. Trump made a motion to approve the additional make-up days. Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion. Without additional discussion, the Board voted 7:0 to approve the additional make-up days to the 2014-2015 school year calendar as presented.

\*E. Graduation Date Change to 06/05/15

Ms. Alspaugh has requested to move Graduation Day to Friday, June 5. The reasoning behind this request is that it is unknown if we will yet have additional school closings due to weather. In addition, having Graduation on the same day as the last day of school can be quite chaotic, especially with the quick turn around for grade submissions by teachers and trying to get rehearsal in while trying to do final exams. Even if there would not be any additional weather issues, the rescheduling of Graduation would allow ample time to get everything ready to go for the following Friday. It is still early enough for the change of date to allow families to get those travel and planning schedules rearranged rather than a last-minute change or choosing to bring Seniors back on a Monday after Graduation. Dr. Reichhart added that the Administration team discussed other alternatives such as Saturday school like last year, but the team felt that last year was different because MCS was already into the second week of June, which conflicted with summer school and already planned family vacations. This change allows the first full week of June to work with if additional make-up dates are required. Also, every weekend in April is already full of scheduled activities and we are past scheduling Saturday school in February or March. Dr. Reichhart and Ms. Alspaugh both recommended the change of date for Graduation to Friday, June 5, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. and any additional make-up days to be scheduled beginning on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mrs. Krouse made a motion to approve rescheduling Graduation to June 5. Mr. Schilling seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the Board voted 7:0 to approve the recommended date change for Graduation.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND REPORTS

A. Principals

Mr. Mullett reported that MES is through its first round of ISTEP. All make-ups were finished today. iRead test will be administered on Thursday, March 12, and hopefully Mr. Mullett will be able to have those results at the April or May meeting. Mr. Mullett congratulated Kaidyn Howard, 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, who placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the State Elks Hoop Shoot.

Mr. Self reported that MIS is finishing up ISTEP. Today was the last day for the Language Arts portion of the test, and the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade have a 30-minute science test tomorrow. There are a few make-ups to squeeze in, but MIS should be finished by the end of the week. A lot of the students are feeling good about the tests, but some of the tests definitely seem harder than others in certain grades. Fortunately, the students have been very positive about it.

Ms. Alspaugh reported that MJSHS is also almost finished with their testing. One student just moved in yesterday that had not taken any portion of the test yet, so that is being worked out. Ms. Alspaugh felt the 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading passage/essay portion of the test was terrible. The MJSHS building is going to be very busy this coming weekend. Friday night and Saturday morning MJSHS is hosting the junior high ISMA contest so there will be a multitude of junior high band and choir teams competing. When that is finished at noon, about 15 high school FFA teams are coming for a district competition. Virtually every classroom of the high school will be used for the various demonstrations and presentations by the teams that are being judged. Also, the Color Guard, Winter Guard and Drum line will be in competition this weekend. All of these activities are great opportunities to showcase our school.

Dr. Reichhart interjected that Friday night is also the Wabash County-Wide Honors Band and Choir concert at the Honeywell Center at 7:30 p.m., which is always a great program.

B. Business Manager

Mr. Bumgardner updated the Board members on current projects, and plans to make presentations to them in coming months, hopefully no later than the May meeting, including the Summer 2015 work plan and the Summer 2016 work plan for the high school. Mr. Bumgardner has also been working with the town on a possible plan for the Maple Park building that should be ready for presentation in the coming months.

C. Curriculum Director

Mrs. Gnagy shared the super news that came yesterday that MCS was awarded the Digital Learning Grant from the IDOE in the amount of \$100,000! The three focus areas for that award are: 1. To employ a Digital Learning coach (tech coach); 2. to send five teachers to the ISTE National Convention in Philadelphia; and 3. To purchase 70 iPads for the fourth graders for 1:1, which will stay in the classrooms. In reference to the ISTE Convention, Mrs. Acree attended last year and felt it was a career-changing experience. Mrs. Gnagy went on to state she could not have accomplished this award without the pitch team that presented with her last Wednesday in Indianapolis, including Amy Acree, Jabin Burnworth and Jacob Everett. The team designed a non-traditional, ten-minute pitch based on classic rock that the panel must have liked.

Dr. Reichhart added that there were 88 school corporations from across Indiana that initially applied. Thirty of those corporations made it to the second round, and only 19 were chosen for this grant. Dr. Reichhart congratulated Sue, the tech team, the steering committee, and administrative team who worked collaboratively to secure this grant.

D. Superintendent

Dr. Reichhart received an email today from the DOE stating that CTB/McGraw-Hill (the designers of the ISTEP test) admitted to at least four major errors on the ISTEP test. There were wrong answers in the practice book that MCS had already discovered. There is real concern about Form 1 being equal to Form 2. Fortunately, in MCS everyone is taking the same Form. However, in Tippy Valley, Mentone is taking either one or the other, and Akron is taking the opposite. So, those two schools will be compared to each other in terms of teacher evaluation and performance with some real issues developing there. CTB/McGraw-Hill is saying that they will scale the results so that they will be equal, but if the tests aren't the same there is question whether they can truly be equalized. There are three other areas of concern that are supposed to be scaled out. For instance, one of the questions on Form 2 has a practice question that is the same question on a previously released test. There is a lot of frustration when these issues affect school-wide letter grades, teacher performance and pay; and most importantly the students.

Dr. Reichhart has been working with State political leaders to hopefully make an impact as to what is best for MCS students and others across Indiana. Dr. Reichhart is leaving tonight for Indianapolis to join several other Superintendents who testified in front of the finance committee today. The Superintendents will be meeting with legislators to review the budget and express some of the other concerns. Today, Dr. Reichhart had lunch with U.S. Representative Jackie Walorski, which went well. She showed an interest in our Farm-to-School lunch program, which was discussed. She also gave Dr. Reichhart some additional contacts to discuss the No Child Left Behind bill and legislation.

Dr. Reichhart thanked the community for supporting the student athletes. The basketball sectional games were a great environment, and there was a sea of red and black.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

No visitor comments.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

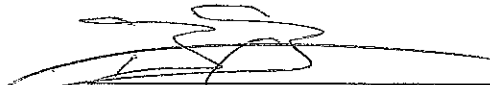
Mrs. Krouse expressed appreciation of the Squire AD reports on Facebook during sectionals. The photos were classic, like something out of "Hoosiers." Also, Mrs. Krouse stated that Annie Clark should feel really good about her Acuity score, because Mrs. Krouse thought she did well on hers, but the score turned out to be not as good as she thought. Mrs. Krouse felt the Acuity was really a hard test.

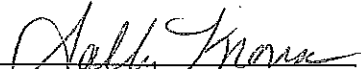
Mr. Flack thanked and congratulated Mrs. Gnagy and the Tech Team. The technology grant award makes the Board, the community, and the parents very proud to know the caliber of people working with MCS students.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mr. Flack, School Board President, adjourned the Manchester Community Schools' Board of Trustees Board Meeting at 6:15 p.m.

  
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Steve Flack, School Board President


  
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Brady Burgess, Member

  
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Sally Krouse, Vice President

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Tim McLaughlin, Member

  
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Nate Trump, Secretary

  
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Brian Schilling, Member

  
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Byron Brunn, Member