

MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MANCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
June 9, 2015

The Manchester Community Schools' Board of Trustees met at Manchester Community Schools Administration Offices on June 9, 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, Mr. Brian Schilling and Dr. Nate Trump.

Also in Attendance: Dr. Bill Reichhart, Superintendent; Mr. Scott Bumgardner, MCS Business Manager; Attorney Al Schliitt; Shaun Tilghman, *News-Journal*; and Makenzie Holland, *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. Dr. Reichhart requested an addition to Item (E) Personnel of the Consent Items by adding the name Joseph Rodgers to "Appointment of Principal" for MES. There were no public comments regarding agenda items.

CONSENT ITEMS

- *A. Minutes
 1. Minutes of the May 12, 2015 School Board Meeting.
 2. Minutes of the May 12, 2015 Public Work Session.

- *B. Claims
 1. Regular Claims dated June 9, 2015.
 2. Prepaid Claims dated May 1-31, 2015.
 3. Payroll Claims dated May 8, 2015; May 11, 2015; and May 22, 2015.

- *C. Grants
 1. Grant from Community Foundation of Wabash County from the Board Good Deeds Endowment in the amount of \$16,000 for the 2015 Begindergarten program.

- *D. Donations
 1. Donation in the amount of \$2,500.00 from Community Foundation of Wabash County from the Manchester Fine Arts Club Endowment for lighting and sound equipment for the benefit of the MJSHS Performing Arts Center.

- *E. Personnel
 - MES
 - Resignation
 1. Wes Mullett, Principal
 2. Debbie Stoltzfus, Instructional Assistant
 - Employment
 1. Appointment of Principal -- Joe Rodgers
 - MIS
 - Resignation
 1. Danae Adams, 4th Grade Teacher
 - MJSHS
 - Leave Request
 1. Lorie Sorg, Pay loss (07/28/15 – 08/14/15)
 - Retirement
 1. Teresa Bailey, Attendance Secretary/Assistant ECA (eff 08/31/15)
 - Resignation
 1. Linda Immel, Media Center Assistant (end of 2014-15 school year)
 2. Amy Acree, English Dept. Chair (end of 2014-15 school year)
 3. Tommy Riggs, Assistant Football Coach
 4. Bill McNeeley, 8th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach
 5. Matt Webb, JH Co-Ed Track Coach
 6. Janika (Marcum) Fulk, JH Cheerleading Coach
 - Employment
 1. Kira Hawkins, Assistant HS Musical Director (01/06/15 – 03/29/15)
 2. Jeff Huber, Instrumental Musical Director (01/06/15 – 03/29/15)
 3. Dennis Unger, Assistant JH Musical Director (09/03/14 – 11/10/14)
 4. Joseph Auler, HS Assistant Football Coach 2015-16
 5. Matt Carver, Volunteer JH Tennis Coach Fall 2015
 6. Nikki Briner, Volunteer JH Tennis Coach Fall 2015
 7. Patricia Shoemaker, Head Co-Ed JH Track Coach
 8. Jody Sarber, Math Department Chair
 9. Heidi Slavkin, English Department Chair
 10. Jama Lange, LT Sub Spanish Sub

MANCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD APPROVED

JUL 14 2015

MAO

Leave Request

1. Dennis Unger, Pay loss for May 4-8, 11-15, 18-21

Retirement

1. Dennis Unger, Effective 08/01/15

Employment

1. Mark Sorg, Substitute Maintenance
2. Lisa Booher, Part-time Custodian

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

Mrs. Krouse moved to approve all the Consent Items outlined above. Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion. With no further discussion, a Board vote of 6:0 approved the Consent Items as presented. (Dr. Trump arrived after the vote.)

Dr. Reichhart introduced Mr. Joseph Rodgers from Abbett Elementary School in Fort Wayne as the new MES Principal. Mr. Rodgers expressed his appreciation and excitement for the opportunity to be a part of MCS. His wife, Shannon, is also an educator. They have two children: Josh will be 9 soon and Maddie is 7. Ms. Alspaugh then introduced Ms. Jama Lange who will be the long-term substitute for Nicole Brubaker's maternity leave in the fall. Ms. Lange was a LT sub at Covington High School last year. She is a previous basketball player of Mr. Bumgardner's at Wabash High School.

NEW BUSINESS

*A. Music Department New York Trip 2016

Ms. Alspaugh reported that every other year the MJSHS Music Department offers the opportunity for students and parents to participate in a quick trip to New York City. The trip commences on the Thursday night before the start of Spring Break and returns the first part of the next week of Spring Break. The students do not miss any school, and it is a great opportunity to see the Big Apple and attend a Broadway show.

Mr. Brunn made a motion to approve the Music Department's overnight field trip to New York in the Spring of 2016 as proposed. Dr. Trump seconded the motion. With no further discussion and a vote of 7:0, the New York field trip was approved.

*B. Facility Rental – Human Powered Race American – August 15 & 16

Dr. Reichhart recommended approval for Jeff Hunn's facility rental request for the Human Powered Race American. The rental includes the high school parking lot and one set of restrooms. This bike race has been approved in previous years. The Certificate of Insurance is included with the request.

On a motion by Mr. Schilling, second by Mrs. Krouse, and vote of 7:0, the facility rental request was approved.

*C. Textbook Fees for 2015-16 - MIS

Mr. Self reviewed his proposal for textbook fees for each grade at MIS for 2015-16. The total proposed for 4th grade is \$162.38. There are two new items this year for the fourth grade. First, the 4th grade have been participating in swimming lessons at the Aqua Center one week each year. The Corporation has always picked up the cost of \$15.00 per student, which is the net cost. Mr. Self proposes that cost be passed on to the parents. Second, this year the 4th grade students will each have ipads assigned to them, rather than just having two carts of ipads for the whole grade to share. The ipads will not be going home with the students, but will remain in the classroom. The ipads were purchased with the State grant awarded to MCS. There will not be a charge for insurance; however, the proposal is for a \$25.00 fee per student to help cover the cost of maintenance and repairs for normal wear and tear on the ipads. The total proposed for 5th grade textbook fee is \$202.53. There are not any significant changes in 5th grade items. The total proposed for 6th grade textbook fee is \$237.27. Once again, the \$15.00 per student swimming lesson fee is being added. The Social Studies classes will be using the ipads instead of textbooks, so that amount has been reduced. Math, however, will be a little more expensive. This past year an on-line pilot program called "Math Space" was tried with much success. The program monitors all students' work on their ipads and quickly provides feedback to the teacher as to which students are struggling and which students are working very well. The program also checks the students' work step-by-step and gives prompts. This year there is a \$15.00/per student fee for "Math Space". At some point in the future, this program will most likely replace all the 6th grade textbooks for math. Mr. Self has trimmed about every bit of "fluff" out of the textbook costs possible. There are still some payments being charged for the rental on some textbooks that are still in cycle that will eventually be finished.

Mrs. Krouse made a motion to approve the Textbook Fees for MIS as proposed by Mr. Self. Mr. Brunn seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the Board voted 7:0 to approve the recommendation by Mr. Self.

*D. Student Handbook Changes - MIS

Mr. Self disbursed copies of a draft of the MIS Handbook which is still being re-formatted before finalizing. He then reviewed for the Board the proposed changes to the Handbook for the 2015-16 school year. First, on page 5 there will be an addition of the health classroom grade for fifth graders into the calculation for Academic Excellence. On pages 6 and 31, a clarification will be made in the language relevant to tobacco products to include e-cigarettes as a tobacco product. Lastly, on page 11, the dress code will be modified. The dollar-bill rule for short and skirt lengths will be removed and referred to as 'appropriate length.' The decision as to 'appropriate' will be made in the office. Shirt sleeves will be clarified to allow sleeveless, but not allowing spaghetti-strings and tube-tops, etc. With respect to holes in pants, some students would have a hole above the knee and be asked to change. The student would then change into shorts that were shorter than the height of the hole. The new wording will be that pants shouldn't have holes in inappropriate places, which will be at the discretion of the office. Hats and hoods have never been allowed, but it is not stated in the Handbook. That language will be added. All technology guidelines will refer to the Technology Handbook so that there is only one source that has to be revised as needed and all buildings will be consistent.

Mr. Schilling asked if MIS experienced many problems with wording on shirts or other clothing and freedom of speech issues. Mr. Self responded that he dealt with some of that when he was located at the high school. However, that is not really an issue at MIS. Mr. Self went on to say that issue is left fairly open as far as clothing not being rude, vulgar, inappropriate, etc. The problem with any dress code is that it is all left to interpretation. A short discussion then ensued about consideration of changing dress policy to requirement of slacks (no denim) and a nice shirt. Dr. Reichhart added that administrators could research the idea if the Board desired; but parental feedback should also be included.

Mr. Schilling made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the MIS Student Handbook. Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion. Without additional discussion, the Board voted 7:0 to approve MIS Handbook changes.

*E. Textbook Fees for 2015-16 - MES

Mr. Mullett stated that his proposal for textbook fees for MES this year are very similar to the fees adopted last year. The fee proposal for Kindergarten is \$109.89, which is a decrease of \$7.84 from last year. Grade 1 fee proposal of \$140.32 is a slight increase of \$4.57 over last year. They added a few more writing notebook binders for the year. Grade 2 fee proposal of \$134.52 is a decrease of \$14.16 from last year. Grade 3 fee proposal of \$126.50 is a decrease of \$4.14 from last year. Mr. Mullett challenged team leaders to get the fees down. There were a few items being ordered that Mr. Mullett felt should come out of the teacher supply fund which were taken out.

Mrs. Krouse made a motion to approve the MES Textbook Fees as recommended by Mr. Mullett. Mr. Brunn seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the Board voted 7:0 to approve the MES Textbook Fees.

*F. Student Handbook Changes - MES

Mr. Mullett recommended minimal changes to the MES Handbook for 2015-16. The new MES Mission and Vision statements and Squire Guidelines approved at the last Board meeting will be added to next year's Handbook. Also, an updated list of Emergency Closing and Delay media outlets will be listed.

Mr. McLaughlin made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the MES Student Handbook. Dr. Trump seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the Board voted 7:0 approving MES Handbook changes.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND REPORTS

A. Principals

Ms. Alspaugh reported that Graduation and 2014-15 school year are completed. Now, MJSHS is in the process of ordering supplies and getting some cleaning done in preparation for the new 2015-16 school year.

Mr. Self and Mr. Mullett did not have reports this month.

B. Business Manager

Mr. Bumgardner commented that he shared facilities information with the Board this week through email. Dana Wannemacher from Barton Coe and Damien Maggos have been rescheduled for the August Board meeting, which will give the Board time to consider the information that was recently sent out.

D. Superintendent

Dr. Reichhart expressed appreciation to the Community Foundation for their support of the - Begindergarten Program. The data definitely shows how much those students grow. To be able to fund that outside of the school budget is greatly appreciated. In addition, the donation toward the expenses to replace the lights and sound system in the PAC is greatly appreciated as it is an expensive project.

Dr. Reichhart thanked Ms. Alspaugh, Mr. Zinsmeister and Mrs. Mize for all their work in preparation for Graduation. Dr. Reichhart felt the crowd was the best-behaved throughout his five years as Superintendent. He thanked the attendees publicly for not cheering and being so respectful of the ceremony. Dr. Reichhart received a lot of compliments and he felt the program went very well. He also thanked Mrs. Mason for the music provided; and complimented the speeches. Additionally, Dr. Reichhart congratulated the 2015 Graduates.

Dr. Reichhart went on to thank Mr. Mullett for his work at MCS and expressed that the administrators, as well as MES staff, parents and students, will miss him. MCS has been fortunate to have Mr. Mullett for the past four years, and he is wished nothing but the best. Mr. Mullett has done a great job and left his mark on MES.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

No visitor comments.

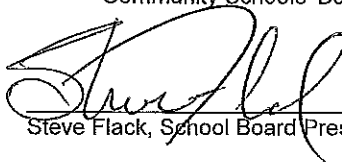
COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS


Mrs. Krouse also thanked Mr. Mullett and wished him well. She also commented on the great Graduation program.

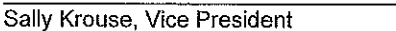
Mr. Flack thanked Mr. Mullett and expressed appreciation for all his hard work and efforts. In addition, Mr. Flack thanked Ms. Alspaugh and Mr. Self for an outstanding year. MCS's success continues to grow due to the their administrative leadership. Mr. Flack looks forward to 2015-16.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mr. Flack, School Board President, adjourned the Manchester Community Schools' Board of Trustees Board Meeting at 6:05 p.m. to Executive Session.


Steve Flack, School Board President

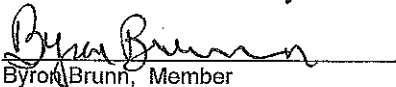

Brady Burgess, Member


Sally Krouse, Vice President


Tim McLaughlin, Member


Nate Trump, Secretary


Brian Schilling, Member


Byron Brunn, Member