

MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MANCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
September 8, 2015

The Manchester Community Schools' Board of Trustees met at Manchester Community Schools Administration Offices on September 8, 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 Schlitt; Keri Koenig, *Warsaw Times-Union*, 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.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

Dr. Reichhart requested that Item #C under New Business (Fundraisers 2015-16) be deleted from the agenda. Superintendents now authorize fundraisers and it is not necessary to have Board approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

No public comment.

"WHAT ARE YOU READING NOW" PRESENTATION

Mrs. Amy Acree was joined by Mrs. Bethany Hall and Mr. Jacob Everett to present information on the next phase of the MCS Reading Initiative, "What Are You Reading Now," which is being called #readit. The mission of #readit is to excite students, teachers, and the North Manchester Community to explore new genres of reading material and to share that excitement and what they are reading with a global audience. A new website at www.readitglobal.com will be released on October 1. There will be a corporation-wide convocation in September with a ten-day countdown to the October 1 launch. Each month a new author will be featured who will endorse the website and encourage visitors to try a new genre of reading. In October the featured author will be Kate McMullan who will challenge readers to read from the fantasy genre. Readers can then share what they are reading using the hashtag, #readitoctober. The hashtag will also change from month to month. Every time a hashtag is used it allows for viewers to click on the hashtag to see others who have hashtagged on the same subject. When the hashtag #readitoctober is used, the viewers will join a global audience of readers who have also used #readitoctober. The ultimate goals are to encourage excitement for reading; share the love of reading with a global audience; challenge one another to read from new genres; and to practice digital citizenship and use our digital voices for a good cause. Work is continuing on a new logo to be included on the website, all social media references, and on the letters that will go out explaining this year's program.

ROTARY CLUB MENTORING PRESENTATION

Mr. Mark Eastway then introduced a program being promoted by the local Rotary Club regarding School Mentoring. The Rotary Club recently conducted a survey produced by Search Institute in which 141 MCS Juniors and 426 seniors participated. The survey covered 40 developmental assets that identify a set of skills, experiences, relationships and behaviors that enable young people to develop into successful and contributing adults. The conclusions drawn from the survey results included a need for opportunity to spend time constructively and productively; a need for more guidance with long-range planning; and a need for positive role models for our teenagers. Mr. Eastway had discussions with counselors, teachers and administrative staff and found that a career testing and placement program is already in place, but that students often fail to follow through and there is not a mentoring program currently being used. The proposed Mentoring program would match mentors with students based on Career Direct testing. Teachers would also be able to make recommendations. Students participating in Jobs for Americas Graduates (JAG) classes, student internships and 21st Century Scholars candidates could also be assigned to mentors. Mentoring sessions could take place during the JAG class time, lunch time, study hall or before and after school. Recruitment for mentors can be from local businesses, service organizations and retirement communities. North Manchester has two large retirement communities locally, as well as Manchester University and many religious institutions where mentors could likely be found. Mentors undergo a screening process including a formal application, background and reference checks and an in-person interview, much like the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program. Mentoring Central is one software program that is recommended for matching mentors and pre-training. MentorCore Youth is another software program designed specifically for youth. The chosen software would help with the screening process, gathering information for the mentors and mentees, evaluating the data for matching, and tracking activity.

Manchester Community Schools would be responsible to a contact person, which would most likely be Ms. Shelly Leifer, and identify the students for referral to the mentoring program. The data for the referred students, including grades, attendance, discipline records, and counselor/teacher reports would be evaluated. The Rotary Club would oversee the program as partners with MJSHS in a team-based approach using cloud-based training and administration. The total annual cost for the program is estimated to be \$500 for training approximately 20 mentors and \$900 for the administrative software, for a total of \$1,400.

Dr. Reichhart advised the Board that he has met with MJSHS administrators and Ms. Leifer who all felt this would be a very positive program and beneficial for MCS students. There would be funds available from the Ford Meter Box donation to cover the cost. In answering a few of the Board members' questions, Mr. Eastway advised that the program may require teachers to do some additional work in evaluating students for recommendation, but the extra work could be done at their convenience. The mentoring program would be scheduled to start in January. Mr. Eastway would not start promoting the program or recruiting members until the school has agreed to begin the program. Another person would be chosen to partner with Ms. Leifer to supervise the program on MJSHS' behalf. More help would be recruited within MCS and within the Rotary membership.

Dr. Reichhart commented that MCS is willing to try the program and see how it goes. Mr. Eastway responded that if he is successful in recruiting at least ten committed mentors, he will go forward with purchasing the software.

CONSENT ITEMS

- *A. Minutes
 1. Minutes of the August 11, 2015 School Board Meeting.
 2. Minutes of the August 11, 2015 Executive Session.

- *B. Claims
 1. Regular Claims dated September 8, 2015.
 2. Prepaid Claims dated August 1-31, 2015.
 3. Payroll Claims dated August 14, 2015, August 27, 2015 and August 28, 2015.

- *C. Grants - None

- *D. Donations
 1. Donation in the amount of \$500.00 from Parker & Sons Equipment for the MJSHS Boys Basketball program.
 2. Donation in the amount of \$400.00 from North Manchester Chamber of Commerce, Inc. for the MJSHS Football program in exchange for trash removal during FunFest.
 3. Donation in the amount of \$250.00 from Sweetwater Assembly of God for the MJSHS Football program.
 4. Donation in the amount of \$800.00 from Three Rivers Running Company, Inc. for MJSHS Cross Country Program as a sponsor for the 2015 Cross Country Invite.
 5. Donation in the amount of \$240.25 from Delaughter Bail Bonds for pom-poms and socks for the MJSHS Cheerleading program in recognition of Cancer Awareness.
 6. Donation in the amount of \$3,000.00 from the Indiana State Fair Commission for the MJSHS FFA program.

- *E. Personnel
 - MES
 - Leave Request
 1. Debbie Thompson, 08/31/15 – 09/15/15 (medical)
 2. Bonita Schmidt, 08/11/15 – 09/01/15 (medical)
 - Employment
 1. Christina Smith, Special Ed Assistant
 - MIS
 - Leave Request
 1. Ginny Perry, 08/11-08/14, 4 days
 2. Nathan Patterson, 08/17-08/28 10 days
 3. Kari Airgood, 10/19-10/23, 3 personal & 2 days pay loss (personal)
 - Employment
 1. Carol Collett, Intramural Volleyball Coach
 2. Jennifer Jenkins, Intramural Volleyball Coach
 3. Stephanie Pinkerton, Intramural Volleyball Coach
 4. Heather Terfingier, Intramural Volleyball Coach
 5. Andrew Zimmerman, Intramural Volleyball Coach

MJSHS

Resignation

1. Tricia Shoemaker, JH Assistant Track Coach
2. Mike Schlitt, Model UN Coach
3. Nick Kopke, Assistant Wrestling Coach

Leave Request

1. Darla Miller, three days per week x 2 weeks (personal)

Employment

1. Eric Screeeton, 8th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach
2. Amanda Schroll, Assistant JH Volleyball Coach and Volunteer HS Volleyball Coach

MAO

Leave Request

1. Lance Christiansen, approx. 4 weeks beginning 08/31/15 (medical)

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

*A. AP Biology Class Overnight Field Trip

Ms. Alspaugh recommended approval of the annual overnight trip to the Indiana Dunes Lake Shore for AP Biology classes. The trip will be lead and chaperoned by Mr. Burnworth and Ms. Miller on October 10-11. A lot of field research and study of the Dunes' eco-system is done during this trip. The students will be camping at the Dunes, will pay their own way and will travel on the school mini-bus.

Mr. Schilling made a motion to approve the proposed overnight field trip. Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion. With no further discussion and a vote of 7:0, the AP Biology field trip to Indiana Dunes Lake Shore was approved.

*B. Manchester Youth Basketball Program

Ms. Alspaugh recommended approval of the annual Manchester Youth Basketball Program. The girls will take place October through December, and the boys will take place January through March on Sunday afternoons. Varsity and JV players help with the program and it is pretty self-sufficient. This program helps train future MHS athletes.

On a motion by Mr. McLaughlin, second by Mr. Brunn, and vote of 7:0, the Manchester Youth Basketball Program was approved as proposed.

*C. Fundraisers-2015-16- (Deleted from Agenda)

D. Addition of Transfer Students Policy #4045

Dr. Reichhart did an initial reading of the additional language to the Transfer Students Policy #4045. The revision is required by the State. School employees who live outside the district will be given priority for their children to attend MCS from out-of-district over non-employee students. The language used was recommended by the ISBA with some tweaking by Mr. Al Schlitt. In answer to some Board member questions, enrollment in the past has never caused classes to be too full to add out-of-district students. There can be a date set as a deadline for application, and one can be considered, but there has never been a problem in the past. The revision will be brought before the Board next month for approval.

E. Revision of Attendance Policy #4085 (Truancy)

Dr. Reichhart did an initial reading of a revision to the Attendance Policy #4085 with respect to truancy. This is also a required revision by the State. This policy change will also be brought before the Board in October for approval.

*F. Resolution Regarding Heartland Career Center

Dr. Reichhart advised the Board that Parkview Hospital has been considering building a new hospital in Wabash County. Parkview purchased land south of US Highway 24 between Welbrooke and the church. However, over the past 3-4 months they have been considering a different site. Parkview is interested in 40+/- acres on which Heartland Career Center (HCC) is located. Several options have been considered including: selling the entire property and rebuilding on the Parkview property south of Hwy 24; take cash payment to buy land elsewhere;

or sell just the 30+ acres of land next to the school site and keep the current buildings with a right of first refusal to Parkview on the improved property. Heartland was built in the 1970's. There could be advantages to a new building, but it would take a lot more money to rebuild than what would be gained by selling. Any transaction that takes place would result in division of the cost or sale by the five school districts involved. Parkview is going to make a proposal on September 14th. Therefore, a Resolution by the five school districts would give authority to the Heartland Career Center Board of Managers to negotiate with Parkview. There must be a unanimous agreement by all five school district representatives who sit on the HCC Board of Managers in order to go forward with any land transaction. Mr. Steve Flack is the representative for MCS. The balance of the HCC Board of Managers includes Mark Hobbs and the attorney for HCC, Mr. Downs. School Superintendents are not part of the Board of Managers and do not have voting power, but they can sit in on the meetings. The proposed Resolution has been reviewed by all attorneys involved, including Attorney Al Schlitt. MCS has averaged 70-90 students enrolled at HCC over the years, and has an allowed maximum of 100. The question was raised as to whether or not the Board of Managers can determine whether the cash from any possible sale would go back to the five districts or stay at HCC. Dr. Reichhart recommended approval of the Resolution.

Mrs. Krouse made a motion to approve the proposed Resolution. Mr. Schilling seconded her motion. Mr. Brunn then noted that the lower paragraph referenced the MCS Board of Managers rather than Board of Trustees. Mrs. Krouse then made a motion to amend the Resolution with said correction. Mr. Schilling seconded her motion. The Board voted 7:0 to approve the Resolution.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT HEARING

Mr. Flack opened the hearing for comment or objection to the proposed Superintendent's Contract. Said contract was published in the local paper pursuant to State statute. Dr. Reichhart did note the error in the last paragraph of July 1, 2014 which should be July 1, 2015. No public comment or objection was made. Mr. Flack closed the hearing.

2016 BUDGET HEARING

Mr. Flack then opened the hearing for comment or objection to the proposed 2016 Budget which was approved for publication and has been published in the local paper two times pursuant to legal requirement. Mr. Bumgardner also presented the proposed Budget to Wabash County Council. No public comment or objection was made. Mr. Flack closed the hearing.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND REPORTS

A. Principals

Mr. Self reported to the Board that MIS students will be taking a field trip to tour the training facility at IVY Tech and Biomet and Zimmer in Warsaw. A lot of students will not pursue college, and will need other type of workforce training. This field trip will provide some ideas for those types of training options. Mr. Riggs, 5th and 6th grade Special Education teacher at MIS, also coaches football at Manchester University. The MU football team will be mentoring with MIS students one time per week during the football season. They will participate in reading with students and other activities. All is going well with the start of the school year at MIS. iPads were rolled out without any problems. Fourth graders are assigned their own iPads for the year within the classrooms, but will not be taking their devices home. Intramural volleyball is beginning with an increased participation. There are five good-sized teams this year, and MIS only had three teams last year. There are a lot of fourth graders involved. Mr. Bumgardner also commented that the sewer project is all but finished. The inspector and Mr. Eads are trying to coordinate a time to be there to do the final hook-up.

Mr. Rodgers reported that MES is also off to a fantastic start. The Title I budget has been finished. Preliminary data for mClass assessments for K-2 have arrived. Students are on target which means that they received quality instruction last year. Mr. Rodgers has seen lots of neat things going on in the MES classrooms.

Ms. Alspaugh was excited to report two new AP classes offered this year at the junior class and senior level for biology and English literature and composition. Also, thanks to a generous gift by the Susan Klingler family, money is available for English classes to do some special activities. Heartland Career Center students will also continue to earn dual credits this year. Mr. Bolinger is teaching a higher technology class in advanced manufacturing. This is the first level toward earning credits toward and certifications toward a CNC degree at Ivy Tech. MJSHS has partnered with 80/20 in Columbia City for this class. This new class also provides students with a great opportunity to tour Paragon Medical and GM.

Ms. Alspaugh then reviewed the Class of 2015 including Graduation Rate, Advanced Placement Performance, Post-Secondary Plans, and ECA Results. Ms. Alspaugh congratulated MJSHS teachers and staff for all their help obtaining all of these accomplishments.

B. Curriculum Director

Ms. Gnagy had no report this evening.

C. Business Manager

Mr. Bumgardner had no report.

D. Superintendent

Dr. Reichhart encouraged support for the new housing addition which could help boost enrollment in MCS. He appreciates the good turnout from North Manchester residents at the recent public meeting.

Dr. Reichhart reported to the Board that Administrators have chosen NWEA for the formative assessment for measuring growth for third to tenth graders. MCS previously used NWEA about five years ago and so it is a familiar assessment. Hopefully, the State will reimburse for the K-2 mClass assessment. English language arts, math and reading assessments will still have to be done with ISTEP.

Due to the ISTEP test results delay, the School Improvement Plans that originally had a deadline of September 15 now have a new deadline of March 16, 2015. This new deadline only gives school districts two months to achieve their goals.

Representative Jackie Walorski visited MJSHS for approximately 30 minutes on September 1 to meet with Ms. Becky Landes and Mr. Jabin Burnworth for a good presentation by both regarding our Farm to School lunch program. Mrs. Krouse attended the event which went very well.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

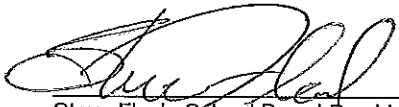
No comments from visitors.

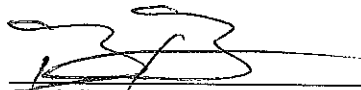
COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Krouse reminded Board members about the upcoming ISBA meeting on September 28-29.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mr. Flack, School Board President, adjourned the Manchester Community Schools' Board of Trustees Board Meeting at 6:50 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