

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

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

Also in Attendance: Dr. Bill Reichhart, Superintendent; Mr. Scott Bungardner, MCS Business Manager; Attorney Al Schlitt; and Keri Koenig, *Warsaw Times-Union*.

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 addition of two Sunday Facility Rental Requests to add to Item B of New Business that were received after posting of the Board Agenda for this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

No public comment.

CONSENT ITEMS

- *A.
 1. Minutes of the October 13, 2015 School Board Meeting.
 2. Minutes of the October 13, 2015 Executive Session.
- *B. Claims
 1. Regular Claims dated November 10, 2015.
 2. Prepaid Claims dated October 1-31, 2015.
 3. Payroll Claims dated October 9, and October 23, 2015.
- *C. Grants - None
- *D. Donations
 1. Donation in the amount of \$100.00 from North Central Cooperative in support of the Manchester Junior-Senior High School FFA program.
 2. Donation in the amount of \$500.00 from Dale & Elaine Haupert Family Foundation, Inc. in support of the Manchester Junior-Senior High School FFA program.
 3. Donation in the amount of \$250.00 from North Manchester Congregational Christian Church in support of the Manchester Junior-Senior High School FCA program.
 4. Donation in the amount of \$125.00 from Roann Church in support of the Manchester Junior-Senior High School FCA program.
 5. Donation in the amount of \$250.00 from Sweetwater Assembly of God in support of the Manchester Junior-Senior High School Girls' Soccer program.
 6. Donation in the amount of \$250.00 from Sweetwater Assembly of God in support of Manchester Junior-Senior High School Cross Country program.
 7. Donation in the amount of \$50.00 from Randall and Margaret Yoder in support of the Manchester Junior-Senior High School Boys' Soccer program.
- *E. Personnel
 - MES
 - Leave Request
 1. Christina Smith, (Medical – 10/05/15-10/14/15)
 2. Kristen Roth (Maternity leave extension through end of 2015-16)
 - MJSHS
 - Resignation
 1. Traci Michel, ½ time Special Education Instructional Assistant
 - Employment
 1. Matt Carver, Assistant Wrestling Coach
 2. Kelly Kerr, ½ time Special Education Instructional Assistant
 3. Josh Cumberland, Volunteer Boys' Basketball Coach
 4. Ashley Warren, Volunteer JH Cheer Coach

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

Mr. Brunn moved to approve all the Consent Items outlined above. Mrs. Krouse seconded the motion. With no further discussion, a Board vote of 5:0 approved the Consent Items as presented.

MANCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD APPROVED

DEC 08 2015

NEW BUSINESS

*A. Appoint Board Member to Parks and Recreation Board for 2016

Dr. Reichhart advised that it is time to re-appoint a representative to the North Manchester Parks and Recreation Board for 2016. Mr. McLaughlin was appointed last year and is willing to continue said position.

Dr. Trump made a motion to nominate Mr. McLaughlin for appointment to the North Manchester Parks and Recreation Board. Mr. Schilling seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the Board approved the appointment of Mr. McLaughlin with a vote of 7:0.

*B. Sunday Facility Rental Request

1. Old German Baptist Youth Group by Nelda Metzger, Sunday, Dec 13
2. Indiana Shock Travel Softball by Adam West, Sundays through mid-March
3. Tri-Kappa by Tena Brunn, November 15.

Dr. Reichhart shared a request by the Old German Baptist Youth for facility rental on Sunday, December 13. Additions to the Agenda this evening include a request by Adam West for Indiana Shock Travel Softball practice in the junior high gym on Sundays from November 8 through March 13, and Tena Brunn's request on behalf of Tri-Kappa for their cheese ball making day in the high school cafeteria on Sunday, November 15 for their annual fundraiser. These are routine requests, and Dr. Reichhart recommended approval of the request.

Mrs. Krouse made a motion to approve the Facility Rental Request as presented. Mr. Brunn seconded the motion. The Board approved the requested Facility Rental Requests as presented with a vote of 7:0 without further discussion.

*C. Project and Lease Hearing

Mr. Bumgardner advised that according to State statute, a school corporation that finances more than \$1 million to build, renovate or alter a facility must hold a public hearing to present potential values of the project. The proposed \$2 million project ("Project") would potentially include unit ventilator replacements at the high school; lighting replacement in the high school PAC; demolition of the Maple Park building; parking lot work at the high school, junior high and Administration office; gutters at MES and MIS; restroom renovation at the high school; carpet and intercom system at the high school; and hopefully digital signs at one or all of the schools. The unit ventilator portion is the most expensive, but also the highest priority. Bids will open for that portion of the Project in the next month, which will dictate how many of the additional portions of the Project can be included. Mr. Damien Maggos, financial advisor for MCS, then referred back to his presentation at the Board Meeting in August and advised that the option to minimize the tax impact has not changed much in the way of the structure and terms since then. Tax rates have gone up a little, but were estimated a little high initially. The proposed Project consists of about \$1.912 million of actual hard costs and \$87,000 of costs for issuance and selling of the bonds, including financing cost, ratings, trustee fees, attorney costs, etc. The proposed payback structure of the bonds is basically four or five maturities out through 2024 and 2026 with interest only payments in the first part of the bond issue in order to take advantage of existing debt. As debt falls off in the later years, the tax impact will be minimized long-term. The levy would have a maximum impact of 3 cents based on the amortization of a 3.6% average rate. If rates stay where they are, the tax rate could be under 2% and probably closer to 1.5%. The maximum tax impact would be in 2017. Mr. Maggos went on to explain that there are two taxing districts in North Manchester, "Township" and "Town", which results in differences of rate and impact. Between the two, Township is significantly lower. The Town rate is equal to the Township rate plus Corporate rate. Therefore, the tax impact on a home valued at \$100,000 would be \$10 the first year. Town residents with a home valued at \$120,000-\$130,000 will not be impacted because the proposed bond issue would be non-exempt debt service because it is part of a circuit-breaker calculation and MCS has a circuit breaker (cap). The homes that are capped are homes valued at over \$130,000 in market value. The average home value for North Manchester is closer to \$90,000 - \$100,00, so there will not be a large impact. Tax impact with respect to agriculture is harder because there are more variables in the calculation with a piece of farm ground due to structures, etc. For example, looking at land only with a base value of \$2,420 for this year, the tax impact should only be about 75 cents per acre maximum. Mr. Bumgardner then opened the hearing for public questions and comments. No questions or comments were brought by those in attendance.

Mrs. Krouse made a motion to close the Project and Lease Hearing. Mr. Brunn seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the Board approved with a 7:0 vote.

*D. Project Resolution ("Exhibit A")

Mr. Bumgardner then presented the Project Resolution which summarizes the Project and financing as presented in the Project and Lease Hearing. The Resolution provides estimated costs of the Project, tax impact and timing impact. Mr. Bumgardner recommended approval of Project Resolution.

Dr. Trump made a motion to approve the Project Resolution as presented by Mr. Bumgardner. Mr. Brunn seconded the motion. The Board voted 7:0 to approve the Project Resolution as presented.

*E. Resolution Approving Form of Fourth Amendment to Lease ("Exhibit B")

Mr. Bumgardner commented that MCS is funding the Project through a lease financing, as it has done with other past construction/renovation projects. Lease financings are used by school corporations across the State of Indiana in order to borrow for renovation and construction. This type of financing does not count against the school corporation's State Constitution debt allowance. The Building Corporation currently owns a portion of Manchester High School and is leasing the building back to MCS. The lease rental due from MCS will be paid from property taxes and will be for the lease of such facility during the term of the Lease Agreement, as amended. The lease rental will be sufficient to pay the principal and interest due to the bond holders. Mr. Bumgardner presented the Resolution Approving Form of Fourth Amendment to Lease and recommended approval by the Board.

Mr. Brunn made a motion to approve the Resolution Approving Form of Fourth Amendment to Lease as presented by Mr. Bumgardner. Dr. Trump seconded the motion. The Board voted 7:0 to approve the proposed Resolution without further discussion.

*F. Resolution Reapproving Building Corporation ("Exhibit C")

Mr. Bumgardner advised that in order for the Building Corporation, a not-for-profit Indiana Corporation, to issue tax-exempt bonds, the IRS requires that the governmental entity approve the Building Corporation and authorize it to issue tax-exempt bonds on behalf of MCS. This resolution contains the required language by the IRS. Mr. Bumgardner presented the Resolution Reapproving Building Corporation and recommended approval by the Board.

Mr. Brunn made a motion to approve the Resolution Reapproving Building Corporation. Dr. Trump seconded the motion. Without further discussion and a Board vote of 7:0, the proposed Resolution was approved.

*G. Resolution Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures ("Exhibit D")

Mr. Bumgardner then presented a Resolution Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures which summarizes that if MCS pays any preliminary costs related to the Project in advance of receiving the bond proceeds, it gives MCS the right to reimburse itself from bond monies. Mr. Bumgardner recommended approval of this Resolution.

Mr. Brunn made a motion to approve the Resolution Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures. Mr. Schilling seconded the motion. The Board voted 7:0 to approve the proposed Resolution without further discussion.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND REPORTS

A. Principals

Mr. Rodgers reported that all is going well at MES. New formative assessments through NWEA MAP have started for the third graders. That data will be gathered and reviewed in order to determine how to start meeting needs for those students and move forward academically. Sue Gnagy was a great help getting the computers ready and students logged in. About 40 third graders have been busing to the hub every Wednesday afternoon to prepare for participation in Christmas Fantasy, along with the 4th graders and high school students. The performance will be at the PAC on Sunday, December 13 at 2:00 p.m. This is a very exciting event for the students and Mrs. Huber. Mr. Rodgers is joining the second graders on a trip to the History Museum this week. Manchester University students are continually in MES building helping out students in the classroom and also after school. Finally, Brooke Airgood is hosting a family fitness time every other Tuesday evening. The students seem happy and parents seem pleased.

Ms. Alspaugh commented on the great convocation held in all three buildings for the #ReadItNovember event. David Bazzoni and Jed Bruce came and presented a program featuring their new book series, Joe Journeyman. Ms. Alspaugh thanked both of them for coming. They did a fantastic job and it was wonderful to recognize two successful young men

who are products of MCS. The students were really pleased to meet them and have the opportunity to hear about their work. Both gentlemen also met with Ms. Kern's art students in the classroom. Last Friday the entire freshman class and foreign exchange students had the privilege of touring the Notre Dame campus. It was really wonderful for the students to experience a college campus. Last week the six German students from Bergstedt arrived along with the same teacher who has come the last two years. They will be staying with host families in North Manchester for three weeks ago. Also last week, MJSHS entertained ten young adults from El Salvador who were visiting in the community. The visitors toured MJSHS to experience an American school and also ate lunch which was a highlight for them. They spoke with the Spanish classes and Mr. Schlitt's World History class. Finally, winter sports practices and contests are starting. Tomorrow evening is the Fall Sports Award Program at 7:00 p.m. in the PAC.

B. Curriculum Director

Ms. Gnagy updated the Board on the MCS Title II Grant. The Title II Grant is used for job-embedded professional development. Those needs are determined through discussion with administrators and teachers. Last year 251 teachers and Administrators, including Mrs. Gnagy, participated in approximately 84 different professional development opportunities. The focus for 2014-15 was English/Language Arts. Approximately 44% of the professional development was in some way, shape, or form associated with English/Language Arts. The other professional development included the Arts, math, technology, social studies, special education, business, media center, physical education, health and music. Also the middle school teacher team was able to participate in a national convention, the Association for Middle Level Educators in Nashville. Also several teachers were able to attend the ISTE Conference in Philadelphia last summer. So far this year, 46 teachers have participated in 22 different professional development events. This year's focus is math and the goal is to achieve alignment both vertically and horizontally with Indiana standards. Ms. Gnagy also requested participating teachers to reflect on their professional development experiences and share their thoughts. Ms. Gnagy shared those responses with the Board. This year's grant award totaled \$49,835.

Dr. Reichhart added that in the past sometimes a partial teacher's salary would be taken out of the funds if that teacher had a significantly smaller class. However, it has been decided that the entire grant award will go for professional development. The grant overlaps in about a 27-month cycle to get the funds spent. The total does not have to be exhausted within twelve months. It can carry over. Dr. Reichhart feels that MCS tries to give staff as many opportunities as possible to attend professional development events. Ms. Gnagy makes the necessary recommendations. Out of about 90 teachers, 46 are actively engaged so far this year, and there will be many more opportunities throughout this school year. There are several employees participated in the three-day HECC technology conference taking place this week in Indianapolis which Dr. Reichhart is also attending.

C. Business Manager

Mr. Bumgardner stated that preparing for the bond issue kept him very busy recently, along with the insurance renewal, both of which are going well. An update on the insurance renewal will be forthcoming in December. Mr. Bumgardner is looking forward to updating on both items in the upcoming months.

D. Superintendent

Dr. Reichhart was hoping to share ISTEP results this evening. Currently, parents have been able to log on to the IDOE site and find out if their child has passed or did not pass on the Spring 2015 ISTEP test. However, Dr. Reichhart received an email today from Michelle Walker, the director of the testing, which read that "... the school percentages are extremely preliminary and if shared with staff should include strict words of caution. Data should not be shared beyond staff members, if at all." So, parents are able to log in for scores, but the scores are not reliable enough to be shared. Dr. Reichhart went on to comment that he anticipates the MCS percentage passing will go down, based on the preliminary figures, but the whole thing is being reset and hopefully by December or January more accurate school percentages will be available. No idea has been given as to the State percentage result, so Dr. Reichhart has no idea if MCS passing average will be above the State level or not. Dr. Reichhart feels that the entire situation is a fiasco and it is very disappointing that teachers' evaluations throughout the State are based on this process. The A-F letter grades have not been released yet, but it is assumed they will go down as well and that 50% of the schools in the State will be in the D-F range based on preliminary results. Dr. Reichhart is very disappointed in the DOE and State legislature and feels it is unfair to educational staff who have worked extremely hard. The Administrative team recently talked about how MCS does not give our students just a test grade when they graduate. If you think back on all the sports achievements, successful convocations, and accomplishments in the arts that have just been discussed this evening. MCS does a lot more than base our education on a test score. The MCS teachers and administrators certainly want to do their best and are doing their best for our students.

On a positive note, Dr. Reichhart noted that the Junior High students who performed in the Guys and Dolls play last weekend were excellent actors/actresses. He added that some of those students really shine in the arts when they may not shine in the classroom.

Additionally, Dr. Reichhart informed the Board that the State is considering a new graduation diploma. Part of the requirements would be that all students take 4 years of math. However, when applying that to potential future schedules, it becomes apparent that another math teacher, which are in short supply, will need to be hired in every school in the State. Also, the current classes such as art, music and business will be cut back and teachers will be lost in those areas. Fortunately, area Superintendents have pretty close ties with Dr. Yager, who serves on the State Board of Education. The Superintendents reached out to Dr. Yager, who carried a resolution to the State BOE and it did pass to take a study committee back and look at the ramifications of the proposed new diploma requirements.

Dr. Reichhart attended the Joe Journeyman convocation at the high school. He was amazed how engaged the students were, and they were not on their phones or ipads. Both gentlemen are MHS graduates and one of them noted that Lynn Watson, retired MJH art teacher, was very involved in his being the artist he is today. An Indianapolis TV station did a documentary on the pair and it highlighted Lynn Watson's influence on him.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

No comments from visitors.

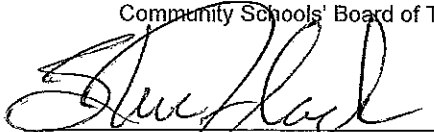
COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

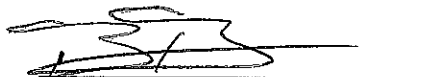
Mr. Burgess inquired if Dr. Reichhart has reached out to IDOE with respect to the ISTEP issues. Dr. Reichhart responded that Dr. Ritz's right hand, Danielle Shockey, was present at the Regional Superintendents' meeting two weeks ago in Kokomo. Dr. Reichhart asked if the DOE could release the scores to the schools prior to the parents, so that schools would have access to the information in parents had questions. The scores came out last Friday in an unreadable format. Subsequently, the DOE sent out two more emails that the scores would be re-sent in a readable format on Saturday. Dr. Reichhart has also expressed frustrations to Dr. Yager and others at the State level. Dr. Reichhart feels that no one at the State level wants to take responsibility and they just want to blame someone else.

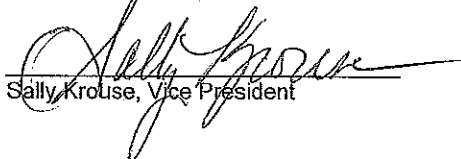
Mr. Flack congratulated Mr. Burgess on the recent birth of his new son, Miller. Mr. Flack also wished everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving.

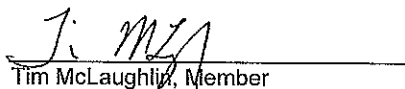
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mr. Flack, School Board President, adjourned the Manchester Community Schools' Board of Trustees Board Meeting at 6:12 p.m.

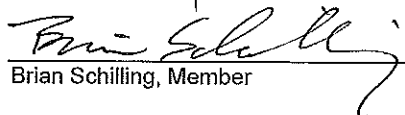

Steve Flack, School Board President

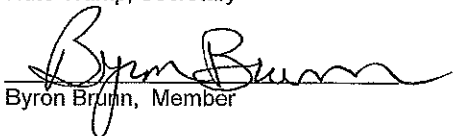

Brady Burgess, Member


Sally Krouse, Vice President


Tim McLaughlin, Member

Nate Trump, Secretary


Brian Schilling, Member


Byron Brum, Member