

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

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

ABSENT: Dr. Nate Trump

Also in Attendance: Dr. Bill Reichhart, Superintendent; Mr. Scott Bumgardner, MCS Business Manager; Attorney Al Schlitt; Makenzi Holland, *Wabash Plain Dealer*; 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 the addition of item #C. to New Business. Ms. Patty Grant from the Wabash County Community Foundation has a presentation for the Board regarding a recent opportunity that would allow the expansion of the Wabash Promise program to Grades 4-8.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

No public comment.

CONSENT ITEMS

- *A. 1. Minutes of the November 10, 2015 School Board Meeting.
- *B. Claims
 - 1. Regular Claims dated December 8, 2015.
 - 2. Prepaid Claims dated November 1-30, 2015.
 - 3. Payroll Claims dated November 6, and November 20, 2015.
- *C. Grants - None
- *D. Donations
 - 1. Donation of cleaning supplies and paper products in the valued amount of \$2,733.00 from Wildman Uniform in support of the MJSHS Gift of Giving Event.
- *E. Personnel
 - MES
 - Leave Request
 - 1. Lisa Williams, (Medical leave 10/29/15 – 11/05/15)
 - 2. Whitney Bazzoni (Maternity leave extension through end of 2015-16)
 - MIS
 - Employment
 - 1. Jen Birch, Intramural Basketball Coach
 - 2. Heather Terflinger, Intramural Basketball Coach
 - 3. Andrew Zimmerman, Intramural Basketball Coach
 - MJSHS
 - Leave Request
 - 1. Elaine Metzger (personal unpaid leave -- Dec 15,16,17,18)
 - Resignation
 - 1. Jayme Smith, Special Education Assistant
 - Employment
 - 1. Bethany Hall, Media Specialist
 - 2. Laura Dickey, Winter Guard Coach
 - 3. MacKenzi Lowry, Volunteer Winter Drumline
 - 4. Lawrence Neumann, Volunteer Winter Guard
 - 5. Tanya Rooney, Special Education Assistant
 - Retirement
 - 1. Nancy Alspaugh, MJSHS Principal (Effective 06/30/16)

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

Mr. Brunn 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.

MANCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD APPROVED

JAN 12 2016

NEW BUSINESS

- *A. Overnight Field Trips
 1. Honors Band, 2 students to ISU, Terre Haute, IN
 2. Chemistry II & Physics trip to Disney World

Ms. Alspaugh reviewed the requests for the two overnight field trips and recommended approval. Band members, Carter Vernon and Alexis Webb, were chosen to participate in the Indiana State All Stars Honors Band in January, which will be a great experience and honor for them. The second request is for the long-time, annual Disney World trip that Chem II and Physics students may elect to participate in. Retired teacher, Mr. Jim Myer, is the organizer and MJSHS's connection to Disney World. Mrs. Gnagy will accompany the students for the Youth in Science Education program there. It is a six-day trip over a weekend, so the students will miss four days of school.

Mr. Schilling made a motion; Mr. Brunn seconded the motion; and the Board voted 6:0 to approve the two overnight field trips as presented, without further discussion.

- *B. Sunday Facility Rental Request - Old German Baptist Youth Group by Becky Landes for Sunday, March 13, 2016

Dr. Reichhart shared a request by the Old German Baptist Youth for facility rental on Sunday, March 13. This is a routine request, the certificate of liability insurance was provided, and Dr. Reichhart recommended approval of the request.

Mr. Burgess made a motion to approve the Facility Rental Request as presented. Mrs. Krouse seconded the motion. The Board approved the requested Facility Rental Request as presented with a vote of 6:0 without further discussion.

- *C. Wabash Promise Expansion to Grades 4-8

Ms. Patty Grant began by expressing her appreciation to Dr. Reichhart and Attorney Al Schlitt for their help in obtaining more scholarships for the Community Foundation last year, and thanking MCS for their support of the scholarship programs and the Wabash Promise program. She went on to comment on the outstanding job Wabash Promise is doing in Wabash County, and Community Foundation has been able to help fund the YMCA with grants to enable administration of the Wabash Promise program. She then explained that some of the most financially challenged students are not in the pool of applications for scholarships. An article in this morning's *Wabash Plain Dealer* noted Parkview Foundations renewed commitment to the Wabash Promise with funding. There are currently 4,600 529 accounts owned by families across the northeast region of Indiana. Through affiliation with the YMCA, Ms. Grant was introduced to Bonita Melton of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, which has a strategic commitment to support children savings accounts for ten years. When children have a savings account intended for children, it changes the expectations of the child and the parents. Ms. Grant continued by stating that research has shown that there is influence on a college-going identity, that a child begins to believe they can do it. The question was raised, what if scholarships could be given to students younger than 18 years old? The obstacle is that if a \$100 scholarship is given to a fourth graders, how can it be protected from being spent on something else? With the advent of 529 accounts, there is a means to award a scholarship at lower grade levels into Wabash Promise or Community Foundation-owned 529 accounts. At the end of August, Community Foundation was invited to submit a proposal, called Promise Early Distribution Scholarship, to the Mott Foundation. The proposal was approved and Community Foundation has been awarded a \$430,000 grant which will provide Wabash County students in grades 4 through 8 with scholarships based on three criteria: academic achievement; family college planning; and savings. Students may earn up to \$150 into their 529 account. Ms. Grant anticipates working with administrators and teachers to create the incentives, which could be attendance, test scores, family savings, etc. The Community Foundation will begin work in January for the two-year grant which will encompass three semesters. The first awards will be given in the fall of 2016. Ms. Grant is very excited about this innovative program. No one else in the Midwest is doing anything like this. The Mott Foundation sees this as a pilot program. Ms. Grant expressed her appreciation for support from MCS, as the program cannot be successful if schools, teachers and principals are not willing to help.

Dr. Reichhart shared this information with the administrators earlier today. The details still have to be flushed out. Mr. Self commented that he likes the idea of finding incentives for the students to set some goals toward the awards. He further commented on trying to get away from referring to it as 'college' scholarships, but instead call it scholarships for 'further training', because not all students will pursue a 4-year degree, but may choose to

pursue an industry certification at a tech school, trade school, or two-year program. Even \$1,000 could pay for at least a couple of courses to get started.

Ms. Grant went on to say that the average unmet need for a high school student is \$4,000. She is hoping that by starting students early in saving and good returns in investment, they could end up with \$2,000 toward that \$4,000 need. Hopefully, three to four years down the road a program can be started for grades 9-12 to allow even more students to further their education. Indiana Works estimates 26,000 jobs to be open in the northeast region of Indiana over the next ten years which will require at least some post-secondary education. Dr. Reichhart agreed that he likes that this can be for certifications as well as college. Ms. Grant added that starting at the lower 4th grade level, goals would be along the lines of academic performance; whereas, at the other end of the spectrum in the 8th grade, work will focus on preparing for college. The Community Foundation works closely with National Center for College Costs, which has the equivalent of a FAFSA form available. Eighth grade would have more activities geared toward filling out the college cost estimator, doing mock college admissions and writings, and researching the best course work for high school to prepare for college. The Community Foundation is open to ideas for all levels of the program. Dr. Reichhart stated that the Community Foundation will have a committee to work with teachers to develop a system of incentives.

In answer to a Board member question, Ms. Grant clarified that 529 accounts have an owner (can not be a minor) and a beneficiary. The parents open and are the owners of a 529 account for the benefit of their student. The Wabash YMCA or the Community Foundation then opens and is the owner of a mirror account for the benefit of the same student. Once the student reaches the age of 21 or 22, if the student does not pursue continued education after high school, the funds in the account owned by Wabash YMCA or Community Foundation are forfeited by that student, and Community Foundation would then transfer those funds for the benefit of another student. The funds are never lost, and they can never be used for anything other than the purposes of higher education.

Mr. Schilling made a motion to approve the Community Foundation plan to expand Promise scholarships to grades 4-8. Mr. Brunn seconded the motion. Without further discussion and a Board vote of 6:0, the Community Foundation plan for scholarship expansion was approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND REPORTS

A. Principals

Mr. Self reported that the 6th graders are swimming this week, and the MIS Holiday Bash will be held on Friday afternoon at 3:00-4:30. He invited Board members to join the students.

Mr. Rodgers did not have any updates for this evening, but will be speaking about MES' music program next month.

Ms. Alspaugh recognized the incredible job that MJSHS students are doing with the Sharing and Caring program this year. These activities do not measure on a test, but they are very important values to teach students how to get involved in community service and become caring adults. Some of the highlights she shared included: 78 units of blood for the annual blood drive; 5,000 canned food items donated to Reach; 720 pair of gently used shoes for Soles4Souls; gifts purchased for 57 individuals on the Angel Tree; donation of baby supplies for the Life Center; the Gift of Giving event; and many other smaller activities.

B. Curriculum Director

Mrs. Gnagy stated that the high ability grant from the State has been approved. She will have a report for the Board early next year as to how the funds are expended. Mrs. Gnagy is looking forward to joining a group of MES teachers next Sunday evening through Tuesday to attend the Indiana Association for the Gifted conference in Indianapolis to learn how to differentiate for high ability students.

C. Business Manager

Mr. Bumgardner thanked the Insurance Committee, made up of Jody Sarber, Jolane Rohr and Tammy Allen, for all of their commitment and work over the past two months to establish the medical insurance coverage packet for 2016. The plan requires a few small changes and a change in providers, but overall is a great benefit package to offer to teachers and staff without a change in rates. The new plan will be in effect as of January 1. Mr. Bumgardner then commented on the status of the budget as the end of the year approaches. He is cautiously optimistic. There is a cash balance in the General Fund and is within a few thousand dollars of where it was this time last year. There is nothing being held in accounts for payment after the first of the year. Last year there were some items held over, but all have been paid. The Capital

Projects Fund is in the black, as well as all other funds. Mr. Bumgardner continues to monitor the ADM count closely.

D. Superintendent

Dr. Reichhart informed the Board that yesterday was the first missed school day due to fog. He thanked Mrs. Knight for her confidence in making the call first thing in the morning. Dr. Reichhart went on to congratulate Ms. Alspaugh and all the staff at MJSHS on the great job on all of their service projects and teaching and modeling community involvement to the students. He reminded all that the Christmas Fantasy concert will be in the MJSHS PAC on Sunday, December 13, at 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm. He will be in Indianapolis Sunday through Tuesday for the State Superintendents' conference. Dr. Reichhart wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

Patty Good and Rhonda Snover, co-Presidents of the Manchester Teachers' Association, commented on the recent discussion in the news regarding the award of letter grades to schools in the State of Indiana. They are both very disappointed in the way ISTEP scores have affected schools, teachers, and students. They recently spoke with Dr. Reichhart searching for a way for the teachers to have their voice heard. They expressed appreciation to Dr. Reichhart making a special effort to write and call State legislators. They wrote a letter on behalf of Manchester Community Schools and shared it with the Board. Mrs. Good and Mrs. Snover made copies of the letter and signature pages available for anyone who wished to sign the letter in support. They will be making signature pages available for the teachers and administrators in all three buildings. Dr. Reichhart commended Mrs. Good and Mrs. Snover on writing this letter, and agrees that the State needs to hear from the teachers and administrators.

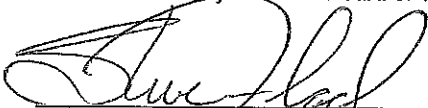
COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS


Mrs. Krouse thanked Ms. Alspaugh for her many years of service.

Mr. Flack wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and holiday season.


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.



Steve Flack, School Board President


Brady Burgess, Member


Sally Krouse, Vice President


Tim McLaughlin, Member


Nate Trump, Secretary


Brian Schilling, Member


Byron Brunn, Member