

MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MANCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
February 9, 2016

The Manchester Community Schools' Board of Trustees met at Manchester Community Schools Administration Offices on February 9, 2016 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; Mackenzi Klemann, *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

No consideration of agenda items.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

No public comment.

FIFTH GRADE TECHNOLOGY PRESENTATION

Mr. Self introduced the fifth grade presentation and fifth-grade teacher, Mrs. Collett, who was recently awarded a Lily Creative Fellowship grant. Mrs. Collett then introduced all the students participating in the presentation, including Maria Smith, Aliala Atienza, Dakota Wilson, Kobe Flock, Johnathon Crussemeyer, Ella Clifford, Olivia Neal and Kaitlyn Gish. Mrs. Kari Airgood began the presentation by sharing with the Board an app called KidBlog which she uses with her students during English/Language Arts & Reading classes. KidBlog is an app that allows the students to write and publish. This app has classroom access and also family access and global access. The app gives the students an audience besides their teacher. It lends itself to peer editing, teacher editing and self editing. It is an interactive way for students to showcase what they are learning in their classes. Mrs. Airgood exhibited examples of letters to parents, letters to Santa Claus, expository writing, narrative writing, and poetry. The students' writing progress is seen on KidBlog. This app is also used for grammar work which the students are excited to do. Mrs. Messer followed with a demonstration of vocab.com which is an online subscription that is new to MCS this year for 4th through 12th grade. There are pre-made lists of vocabulary words with quizzes for drill and practice. The students love earning points on the app. Some students have actually placed Statewide recently. The teacher can monitor all students in the class as to time spent practicing and mastery of the words. The teacher can also pick out quickly what words are causing challenges to the students. The vocabulary lists can also be customized. Mr. Riggs was next and he explained an app called Kahoot! which is a review activity he likes to use in his fifth grade math class. It promotes a lot of competition amongst the students. Kahoot! is very similar to a Jeopardy game with the students' ipads acting like a Jeopardy clicker. There is a public database of pre-made games that Mr. Riggs can screen, or he can customize a more specific game. The amount of time allowed to answer a question can be pre-set between 20-120 seconds. There is also an answer survey that shows the teacher what material needs to be reviewed. Mrs. Allen continued with a demonstration of Educreations which she uses in her fifth grade math classes. This tool is great for reviewing lessons or for use by the students and a sub if Mrs. Allen would be absent for a day. Mrs. Allen can email the assignment to the students, and also leave for the sub in her lesson plan. Mrs. Allen also uses this app for students who can't remember how to add mixed numbers with unlike denominators. The student can pull up the whole lesson and practice the concept. Mrs. Allen can create whatever lessons she chooses to, but there are also lessons that others have created, so different topics can be chosen. Mrs. Allen feels this is a fabulous tool to use in the classroom. She doesn't use it every day, but it has been great to have for the students. Mrs. Collett presented the application called "Sumdog" which educates by engaging and it is a free program. The questions progress as the student gets them right, and it is a super-motivating program. Students want to do it and there are a lot of progress stats provided to the teacher. Students do these on their own and the data is reported back to the teacher, so she can see how much a student has been working on the program and the level of accuracy of their work. As an example, one particular week there were 6,179 correct answers, with one student having 1,030 total. Next, Mrs. Sare, English/Language Arts & Reading teacher, shared about QR Codes. In the fall during the Native American Dwelling project, students use QR Codes for parents and other students to scan and get the report and more information about the individual projects, rather than view printed reports at the stations. There are more and more QR Code activities available, such as one for metaphors and similes that Mrs. Sare has used. There are also QR Codes being used at MIS in the catch-up room or during the after-school tutoring.

Following the teacher presentations, a Google slide show was shared with the Board about why MIS students love their ipads. Following the slide show, two videos made by MIS students were shown of interviews of MIS teachers and MIS students as to the reasons ipads are good tools in the classroom.

SQUIRE ACADEMY PRESENTATION

Mrs. Mobley brought student guests with her to help present information about Squire Academy. She introduced Lora Lewis, Chelsea Blankenship and Jackie McConnell to the Board. Mrs. Mobley then shared a slide show culminating Squire Academy students' studies, a lot of the community service activities that they participate in, and the building of their relationships together as a class body. Mrs. Mobley then reviewed some comparison statistics relating last year to this year. In 2014-15 Squire Academy serviced 42 different students in grades 7-12 with 6 graduating, three of which were teen moms. Service projects were established with Congregational Christian Church once a month on Saturdays serving breakfasts; Peabody Kids; and Peabody Retirement Community. This year Squire Academy has serviced 52 different students in grades 7-12 with 4 students having graduated already first semester, and a potential for 8 more graduates in the Spring for a total of 12. Since Peabody Kids are no longer in operation, Squire Academy created a partnership with Manchester Early Learning Center this year helping the preschoolers once a week. This year the class body also includes 9 teen moms, so a Mommy group was started that meets twice a month with guest speakers about healthy families and other subjects. The group also did freezer meals at one meeting. The largest group at one time is about 20 students, and the lowest number is about 15. There is only one student that attends Squire Academy only. All the other students have classes at both MJSHS and Squire Academy. The partnership with Ms. Alspaugh, Dr. Lippe, and Mrs. Terri Denney has been great. A new college student intern will be starting in Squire Academy on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week.

The three students then shared about Squire Academy. Lora Lewis shared that she has been a student in Squire Academy about one year. Squire Academy gives Lora the opportunity to work at her own pace and get a lot of individual help. Lora doesn't feel that she had the opportunity to work with other students her age or older, but she has great peer help and great teacher help and it is more of a one-on-one environment. Chelsea Blankenship stated that she started at Squire Academy second semester of last year. Chelsea started out at Squire Academy behind in a lot of classes and she feels that she has been able to complete a lot of classes. She also feels that she has matured a lot and that Squire Academy has helped her attitude toward people. She has also been able to go to the Squire Academy staff for help with non-academic problems. Jackie McConnell just started Squire Academy this year. She had to finish three classes in order to graduate which she completed within a month. Jackie has been able to start college early and get a head start on classes. Jackie is one of the teen moms in the Mommy group. Mrs. Mobley uses her as a role model to the younger moms because of her motivation and priorities. Mrs. Sharon Lewis shared that she has two students in Squire Academy and that she has found it has greatly reduced the stress in their household. Mrs. Lewis' biggest impression is that you can walk into Squire Academy at any time of the day and it is dead silent which is something that her children have never experienced in their traditional classrooms. Everyone in the classroom is working in a very structured environment and it is not chaotic.

Mrs. Mobley continued that sometimes an alternative education setting can get a negative connotation, but she states that if you visit Squire Academy you would be floored at how awesome the group operates. If you were to put the same students in a traditional setting, this particular set of students probably would not intermingle. However, in Squire Academy everyone is one unit and is very structured, but the group also has fun together. The class group does take some breaks for physical activity in the gym or outdoors if the weather is nice. In answer to questions from the Board, Mrs. Mobley added that working at their own pace could mean a slower pace or a faster pace, depending on the student. There are 16 students in the current class group that have an IEP, and APEX does provide built-in accommodations for those students. Mrs. Mobley and her instructional aide, Mrs. Wendy Isbell, also work one-on-one with students as needed, not only on their APEX classes, but also for their classes that they take at the high school. A lot of the students are focusing on Algebra and English for the ECA tests. Mrs. Isbell goes over to MJSHS 6th period each day to attend Algebra class in order to hear the lesson and takes notes, so that when she comes back to the approximately twelve Algebra students in Squire Academy she is able to give them extra support. Mrs. Mobley tries to not overwhelm her students by enrolling them in too many classes at a time. Typically a student will work on 4-5 classes instead of the standard 6-7 classes. The students are in Squire Academy for all the right reasons and respect Mrs. Mobley's expected work ethics in the classroom, so she does not have problems with the students not staying focused on their work. Some of the Squire Academy students graduate with a standard diploma, and some with a Core 40. There have even been a couple of students graduate with Honors. Each student's graduation plan is unique to them and

there are dozens of APEX subjects available. Graduates' diplomas are Manchester Junior-Senior High School diplomas. Squire Academy is a part of MJSHS. Enrollees into Squire Academy are on an application basis, so Mrs. Mobley works closely with Ms. Alspaugh, Mrs. Denney and the student's parent(s) to decide if Squire Academy is appropriate for them. Mrs. Mobley is regularly getting email communication from students wanting to attend Squire Academy. She just had a young lady transfer to Squire Academy from Homestead where she was in an alternative education program. Mrs. Mobley also stated that she has a couple of twenty-year-old students who have seen the struggle in not having their high school diploma and are now very motivated to come back and finish. Mrs. Mobley looks forward to Squire Academy growing even more in the near future.

CONSENT ITEMS

- *A. Minutes
 1. Minutes of the January 12, 2016 School Board Meeting.
- *B. Claims
 1. Regular Claims dated February 9, 2016.
 2. Prepaid Claims dated January 1-31, 2016.
 3. Payroll Claims dated January 1, 2016, January 15, 2016, and January 29, 2016.
- *C. Grants - None
- *D. Donations
 1. Anonymous donation in the amount of \$50.00 in support of the Manchester Junior-Senior High School Science Olympiad Program.
 2. Donation in the amount of \$150.00 in support of the Manchester Junior-Senior High School FFA Program from Brodbeck Seeds LLC.
 3. Donation in the amount of \$250.00 in support of the Manchester Junior-Senior High School Girls Basketball Team from Sweetwater Assembly of God.
 4. Anonymous donation in the amount of \$800.00 in support of the Manchester Junior-Senior High School AP Everglades Program.
- *E. Personnel
 - MES
 - Leave Request
 1. Debbie Thompson, Extension of medical leave 01/21/16 - approx. 02/10/16
 - MIS
 - Employment
 1. Jen Birch, Intramural Girls Basketball Coach
 2. Carol Collett, Intramural Girls Basketball Coach
 3. Jenny Jenkins, Intramural Girls Basketball Coach
 4. Heather Terflinger, Intramural Girls Basketball Coach
 5. Anita Brubaker, Instructional Assistant
 - MJSHS
 - Leave Request
 1. Judith Brovont, Personal/unpaid leave March 3, 4, 7, and 8
 - Resignation
 1. Kelly Kerr, ½-time Special Education Instructional Assistant
 2. Michele Barnett, Assistant Girls' Tennis Coach
 - Employment
 1. Derrek Freshour, Volunteer Baseball Coach
 2. Cody Egner, Volunteer Boys Soccer Coach
 3. Tommy Riggs, Assistant Football Coach
 4. Kaytlin Dotson, Assistant JH Track Coach
 5. Ashton Bradford, Volunteer JH Track Coach
 - MAO
 - Leave Request
 1. Deb Williams, Medical 01/11/16 – 02/22/16 (possibly to 03/07/16)

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

*A. Renewal of Surety Bond for Darla Cain

Mr. Bumgardner recommended approval for the renewal of the Surety Bond for Darla Cain in the amount of \$50,000. He reminded the Board that these bonds are renewed annually for those in the corporation who handle money.

Mr. Schilling made a motion; Mr. Brunn seconded the motion; and the Board voted 7:0 to approve the renewal of Surety Bond for Darla Cain.

*B. Approval of Tax Anticipation Warrant Bids

Mr. Bumgardner reported to the Board that Crossroads Bank submitted a proposed bid for the Tax Anticipation Warrants that were approved to be advertised for bidding last month. Crossroads Bank was awarded the bid last year, and offers to issue the warrants at the same rate and same terms as last year. Mr. Bumgardner appreciates Crossroads Bank's willingness to work with Manchester Community Schools. Mr. Bumgardner recommended approval of granting the tax anticipation business bid to Crossroads Bank.

Mr. Burgess made a motion to approve the Tax Anticipation Warrant Bids to Crossroads Bank. Mr. Brunn seconded the motion. The Board approved the bid award to Crossroads Bank with a vote of 7:0 without further discussion.

*C. Approval of Teacher Performance Pay

Mr. Bumgardner shared with the Board that as of 5:00 p.m. this date, the State announced Teacher Performance Pay award for MCS in the total sum of \$42,370.52. This amount calculates out to \$521.05 each for Highly Effective teachers and \$473.68 each for Effective teachers, which is a 10% difference between the two classifications. Teachers will receive these amounts included in the February 26, 2016 payroll, on the condition that the money has been received from the State by then. Otherwise, the distribution date will have to be changed. Mr. Bumgardner recommended approval of the proposed Teacher Performance Pay distribution.

Mr. Schilling made a motion to approve the Teacher Performance Pay calculated amounts for distribution. Mrs. Krouse seconded the motion. Without further discussion and a Board vote of 7:0, the Teacher Performance Pay distribution was approved as presented.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND REPORTS

A. Principals

Mr. Self thanked all students and staff for their help with the technology presentation this evening.

Dr. Lippe stated that the School Improvement committee at MJSHS has been working on a new Mission Statement and Vision for the past couple of years. The new MJSHS Mission Statement is: "Globally Connected – Locally Engaged." Dr. Lippe likes this statement because it is all encompassing and something everyone in the building can get behind without running head long into what the other buildings may be doing. Also, Dr. Lippe likes that it is easy to remember and not cumbersome. Dr. Lippe shared the MJSHS Vision Statement as: "The Manchester Junior-Senior High School graduates will achieve their potential and face their future with confidence and skills through life-long learning and appreciation of the arts and service to others." Dr. Lippe feels this Vision Statement encompasses everything that the community supports in MJSHS graduates. He continued that it is also important to hold onto MJSHS Squire Strong values of Service, Quality, Unity, Integrity, Respect, Enthusiasm and Strength.

Mr. Rodgers was not present this evening.

B. Curriculum Director

Mrs. Gnagy reported that she has been working closely with Mr. Self, Dr. Lippe and Mr. Rodgers on the planning of math curriculum K-12. Mrs. Gnagy is excited about the teachers writing their curriculum frameworks and everyone getting on the same page for math. High Ability testing is complete in Grades 2 and 5. Kindergarten testing is almost finished, but is in process and should finish this month. Broad Base Planning Committee will be meeting February 15 at 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. and again at 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. The BBP committee helps MCS stay in compliance with the High Ability grant and works as a sounding board about the program and different aspects within it. Finally, the Goshen Regional for Science Olympiad is coming up on Saturday, February 13. For the first time ever, MCS is taking three teams to the Regional, one of which is almost entirely sixth graders.

C. Business Manager

Mr. Bumgardner updated the Board that the second ADM count on February 1 came in at 1558 which is about 12 students down from the fall count. Kindergarten Roundup is coming up soon which will give an indication on potential enrollment in order to calculate budgets and staff for next year. Also, Mr. Bumgardner advised that certification has been received for total asbestos removal at Maple Park, and a demolition permit has been granted. Demolition of the building will begin within the next week. Dr. Reichhart interjected that a few former Maple Park students have requested bricks from the building, and some will be saved for that purpose. The cornerstone will be going to the Historical Museum.

D. Superintendent

Dr. Reichhart reported to the Board that Directors of the Wabash-Miami Area Program and the involved corporation Superintendents have been going through a process of 'decentralizing' the cooperative, which means the cooperative can function more efficiently by each corporation taking back the teachers and aides and staff that work within their individual buildings as employees. Next year, instead of the four corporations sending money to Area Program for payroll of staff through MSD as WMAP employees, the staff will be an employee of the district where they service and the individual corporations will issue payroll directly. The thought is that having the WMAP staff as corporation employees will promote a better tight-knit relationship in each of all four corporations involved. Cooperatives were once formed because students with learning disabilities were centrally located in a classroom, but that model is no longer effective and those students are, for the most part, kept within their own district of residence. The same process has already taken place with the WMAP transportation department. Once the new Joint Service Agreement is formally drawn up, it will be presented at a Board meeting for approval. Many of the serviced students still need occupational therapy, physical therapy, etc. WMAP will continue to share those services along with the position of Director, Assistant Director and some office staff with the four corporations. WMAP currently has approximately 200 employees and will go down to about 30.

Dr. Reichhart mentioned that two wrestlers are going to Semi-State this coming weekend, and MJSHS Choir and Band students will be competing at State ISSMA. Dr. Reichhart wished luck to Science Olympiad in their upcoming competition. Dr. Reichhart thanked Crossroads Bank for their interest in MCS business and expressed appreciation for Mr. Bumgardner's continuing relationship with them in banking matters.

Dr. Reichhart invited all Board members, administrators, and their guests to RSVP for a dinner honoring Ms. Alspaugh's retirement on May 14. Tentative reservations have been made at CHOP's in Fort Wayne at 6:00 pm. MJSHS is also working on plans to honor Ms. Alspaugh with a dinner at the high school.

Ms. Alspaugh mentioned upcoming events including the annual FFA Spring Banquet on Friday, April 29 Prom on Saturday, April 30; and Spring concert dates will be announced soon.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

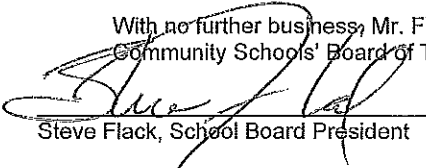
No comments from visitors.

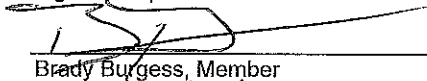
COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

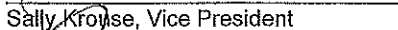
No comments from Board Members.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mr. Flack, School Board President, adjourned the Manchester Community Schools' Board of Trustees Board Meeting at 7:05 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