

MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
MANCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
April 11th, 2017

The Manchester Community Schools' Board of Trustees met at Manchester Community Schools Administration Offices on April 11th, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Board Members were present or absent as follows:

PRESENT: Mrs. Ruth Ayres, Mrs. Sally Krouse, Mr. Brady Burgess, Mr. Tim McLaughlin, Mr. Brian Schilling, Dr. Nate Trump and Mr. Steve Flack

ABSENT: Mr. Albert Schlitt, Attorney

Also in Attendance: Dr. Bill Reichhart, Superintendent; Mr. Scott Bumgardner, MCS Business Manager; Makenzie Kelmann, Wabash Plain Dealer; David Purvis-Fenker, News Journal 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

None

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

Andrew Zimmerman, Manchester Intermediate Schools, sixth grade teacher thanked Board Members and the Administrators for their service to the children in our community and also for the opportunity to address them this evening. He asked the Board to please rescind his resignation and apologized for any hardships that the situation on March 16, 2017 may have caused.

The following people voiced their concerns on the resignation of Andrew Zimmerman. Lisa Ulrey, Kevin Kling, Amber Isley and Tracey Myers.

Mr. Flack thanked everyone for their comments.

CONSENT ITEMS

- *A. Minutes
 - 1. Minutes of the Mar. 14, 2017 School Board Meeting.

- *B. Claims
 - 1. Regular Claims dated April 11, 2017.
 - 2. Prepaid Claims dated April 1 -30, 2017
 - 3. Payroll Claims dated Mar.10, 2017 and Mar. 24, 2017

- *C. Grants

- *D. Donations
 - 1. Donation of \$610.00 to Manchester Community Schools Corporation from the Barb Welborn Memorial Fund from anonymous donors to be used for MCS Reading Programs.
 - 2. Donation of \$1000.00 to the Manchester Jr. Sr. High School Drama Program from an anonymous donor.
 - 3. Donation of \$750.00 to the Manchester Jr. Sr. High School Drama Program from an anonymous donor.
 - 4. Donation of \$500.00 to the Manchester Jr. Sr. High School Drama Program from an anonymous donor.
 - 5. Donation of \$300.00 to the Manchester Jr. Sr. High School Drama Program from an anonymous donor.
 - 6. Donation of \$100.00 to the Manchester Jr. Sr. High School Drama Program from an anonymous donor.
 - 7. Donation of \$50.00 to the Manchester Jr. Sr. High School Drama Program from an anonymous donor.

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8. Donation of \$500.00 to the Manchester Jr. Sr. High School Drama Program from Ryan Hedstrom and J. Elizabeth Struble.
9. Donation of \$150.00 to the Manchester Jr. Sr. High School Drama Program from BIT Computers.
10. Donation of \$100.00 to the Manchester Jr. Sr. High School Drama Program from Kappa Kappa Kappa, Inc.
11. Donation of \$100.00 to the Manchester Jr. Sr. High School Art Program from Kappa Kappa Kappa, Inc.
12. Donation of \$100.00 to Manchester Community Schools Health and Wellness Program from Tri Kappa.

*E. Personnel

MIS

Resignation

1. Andrew Zimmerman, Sixth Grade Teacher, Effective 03/19/17
2. Thomas Riggs, Special Education Teacher, Effective end of 2016-17

Employment

1. Tracey Myers, Sixth Grade Teacher, 2017-18

MJSHS

Resignation

1. Thomas Riggs, Jr. Sr. High School Assistant Football Coach, Effective end of 2016-17
2. Thomas Riggs, Jr. Sr. High School Assistant Track Coach, Effective end of 2016-17
3. Andrew Zimmerman, Jr. High Co-Ed Golf Coach, Effective 03/19/17

Employment

1. Connor McLaughlin, Volunteer Baseball Coach, 2016-17
2. Josh Troyer, Jr. High Co-Ed Golf Coach, 2016-17
3. Logan Haston, Spanish/EL Teacher, 2017-18
(Pending ECH & DCS check)

Leave Request

1. Traci Wilcox, Cook, two personal – three unpaid days
(May 22nd – 26th, 2017)

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

Mrs. Krouse moved to approve all the Consent Items outlined above. Mr. Schilling seconded the motion with no further discussion, a Board vote of 6:0:1 approved the Consent Items as presented with Mrs. Ayres abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS

*A. Sunday Facility Rental – Tri Kappa Bike Rodeo, May 7th, 2017

Dr. Rodgers asked for approval of Tri Kappa to use the facilities at the elementary school on May 7th, 2017 for their Bike Rodeo.

Mr. Burgess made a motion to approve the Sunday Facility Rental – Tri Kappa Bike Rodeo, May 7th, 2017 as presented: Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion; and the Board voted 7:0 to approve the motion.

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*B. Transitional Kindergarten

Dr. Rodgers presented a power point slide show explaining the Transitional Kindergarten program for the 2017-2018 school year. Transitional Kindergarten is an early childhood education program that builds a bridge between preschool and traditional kindergarten and has a focus on literacy and numeracy along with strong emphasis on self-regulation and social engagement. This program is the first year of a two year kindergarten program. It will follow the full day schedule of traditional kindergarten and is based on the Indiana Kindergarten Academic State Standards. The Indiana Code stipulates that schools enroll students as kindergarteners that are five years old on or before August 1st of each school year. Indiana schools may enroll a student younger than five with a signed waiver from the school corporation superintendent. The five year olds and the four year olds will have one year in transitional kindergarten with specialized curriculum. The next year, those students will then enter a regular kindergarten classroom. The first year of transitional kindergarten will follow a full day schedule. The only difference is, they will have a "hard nap", so those students that are four can have a good rest and then get up and start moving again. Transitional Kindergarten program staff will have a full time kindergarten certified teacher and one full time instructional assistant. The enrollment will only be for twenty students with a waiting list and it will be a first come, first served. They may ride a regular school bus and they will have art, music and physical education. We are trying to have them experience everything of what a school day is. Parents will pay only a fee for textbook rental and parents who are eligible, may sign up for the free and reduced lunch program. We may expand the program for the 2018-2019 school year upon successful evaluation of the pilot program. Mrs. Rose, kindergarten teacher at MES has expressed interest in this position. Dr. Reichhart commented they have been working on this program for a couple of years and feels that it is a tremendous need in our community and talking to preschool programs and by starting this program, it will help students in our community get a start into kindergarten and be better for them as they grow into the regular kindergarten program.

Mr. Schilling made a motion to approve the Transitional Kindergarten program as presented: Mrs. Ayres seconded the motion; and the Board voted 7:0 to approve the motion.

*C. Overnight Field Trip Request – Camp Crosley, May 8th – 9th, 2017

Mr. Self asked approval of the Overnight Field Trip to Camp Crosley on May 8th – 9th, 2017. The sixth grade class will be attending this along with teachers and parent chaperones. They will leave Monday morning and return Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Burgess made a motion to approve the Overnight Field Trip Request – Camp Crosley, May 8th – 9th, 2017 as presented: Mr. McLaughlin seconded the motion; and the Board voted 7:0 to approve the motion.

*D. Update on School Calendar

Dr. Reichhart reported the Board approved the school calendar at the December board meeting. The teachers looked at the fall break and saw we had scheduled a two day fall break for the first time, with parent – teacher conferences occurring on Tuesday, October 24th and Wednesday October 25th. The teachers along with the administrators came back to Dr. Reichhart and said, is there a way that parent – teacher conferences could be held earlier in the week, so staff could have a three day break also like the students for a fall break. Each building along with their Manchester Teachers Association representatives sat down and came up with a schedule they thought would work in their buildings. On October 23th and October 24th, conferences will be from 3:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

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2017-2018

If some parents can't make it in, teachers are willing to meet them at other times. What that does, is contractually teachers have to work one more half day and each building has addressed that differently. MES teachers will work August 11, 2017 as A.M. only, MJSHS teachers will work December 21, 2017 as A.M. only and MIS teachers will do targeted conferences on January 25, 2018. They will do another day of conferences with students who they feel they need to talk to parents before the end of the school year to give them one more last opportunity to boost up their performance so they can pass fourth, fifth and sixth grade.

Mr. McLaughlin made a motion to approve the amended School Calendar as presented: Mr. Burgess seconded the motion; and the Board voted 7:0 to approve the motion

E. Consideration of Home Schooled students to be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities at MJSHS

Dr. Lippe explained to Board members that they want to provide a seamless policy to send out an open invitation to students that are home schooled and their families in the area. We want to give the families a chance to test the waters and see what a great program we have. Dr. Lippe read the policy "Educating a Student at Home" to Board members and Mr. Markham read again the IHSAA rules the students would have to follow. Dr. Reichhart said this is the first reading. Nothing will be voted on tonight and this is just a recommendation coming from Dr. Lippe and Mr. Markham. Dr. Reichhart told Board members if they want to change anything, they can since this is the first reading. Mr. Flack expressed he was worried about our student athletes and what they really go through academically, socially and athletically and the requirements in the classroom. There should be a lot of consideration for that. Dr. Reichhart asked if we want the three year requirement also for non-athletics and do we want it for ISMA and drama productions? If we want it for both, then the language needs to be tweaked in Part A, number two. Dr. Reichhart would like to hear from Mrs. Mason and Mr. Huber for their thoughts from the non-athletic side and to run this past our board attorney for proofing of language. Board members agreed to bring this back at the next board meeting.

*F. Purchase of two school busses

Mr. Bumgardner asked for approval of purchasing two 2018 busses. The first bus is a seventy-eight passenger bus totaling \$96,405. The second bus is wheelchair lift accessible totaling \$103,437. Those are state bids and both busses will come with a \$10,000 maintenance contract through Kerlins.

Mr. McLaughlin made a motion to approve the Purchase of two school busses as presented: Mr. Burgess seconded the motion; and the Board voted 7:0 to approve the motion

*G. Approval of Bus Lease

Mr. Bumgardner introduced Mr. Barry Grossman, Senior Vice President from Crossroads Bank. Mr. Bumgardner explained to the Board, that he bid out the lease of these two busses and they were the lowest percentage rates. Mr. Grossman explained the terms of the lease is for five years with semi-annual payments at the interest rate of 2.25% with a one time documentation fee of \$350.00. Mr. Bumgardner said Mr. Schlitt gave his approval of the resolution. Dr. Reichhart explained to the Board, that we needed a motion to introduce and approve the resolution before the approval of the bus lease. Mr. Flack asked for an approval of the resolution.

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Mr. Schilling made a motion to approve the resolution by Crossroads Bank and name Mr. Bumgardner as the acting agent for us as presented: Mr. Burgess seconded the motion; and the Board voted 7:0 to approve the motion.

Mr. Schilling made a motion to approve the Bus Lease as presented: Mr. Burgess seconded the motion; and the Board voted 7:0 to approve the motion.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES AND REPORTS

A. Principals

Dr. Lippe reported Tahnee Fuentes and Ben Green received the Academic All American Award for swimming through the National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association. 2% out of the 340,000 high school swimmers in the nation qualified for this award. They did a great job. Shrek the musical was a fantastic show. A lot of work and the kids were great.

Mr. Self reported ISTEP starts next week with students and staff ready to go. Tests will be online with Chromebooks. The fourth grade class will be traveling to the Indianapolis Speedway, April 21, 2017. Camp Crosley, May 8 – 9, 2017 and Grandparents Day will be May 5, 2017.

Dr. Rodgers reported they held the Muffins with Moms event and that went very well. A great turnout. There are numerous field trips coming up with all grades. A Fine Arts event will be held April 24, 2017. The school carnival will be held May 20, 2017.

B. Curriculum Director - Absent

C. Business Manager

Mr. Bumgardner had nothing to report at this time.

D. Superintendent

Dr. Reichhart shared good news with the Board. Senator Andrew Zay who represents us here in North Manchester is holding a special luncheon on May 2, 2017 and he has asked that we bring our outstanding teacher from Manchester Community Schools. He is doing this for each one of the school districts that he represents. Dr. Jennifer McCormick and professors from Indiana Wesleyan will be present. Each of our building principals nominated a teacher to take with them to the luncheon. Unfortunately, only one teacher can attend. Dr. Reichhart recognized Nancy Hanback, fourth grade teacher at MIS and Beth Rosen, RTI teacher at MES. The outstanding educator this year who will be joining Dr. Reichhart and Dr. Lippe will be Jabin Burnworth, biology teacher at MJSHS. The Collective Bargaining Agreement with Manchester Community Schools Teacher Association was red flagged last year without being in compliance along with other school districts across Indiana by IERB. This year we are in compliance after making the changes that were suggested. This is good news also. Dr. Reichhart also reported the Community Foundation of Wabash County released a press release, that on April 20, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Honeywell Center in Legacy Hall, the Community Foundation will be having a public meeting with Manchester Community School Board of Trustees, the Metropolitan School District of Wabash County Board of Trustees, and the Wabash City Schools Board of Trustees. This is the first time that this has ever happened in Wabash County. This will be a public school meeting, where anyone can come. "The Studies for Advancement" is going to be presented by the Community Foundation to each of the school districts and the great news is, this is made possible through the financial support of the Community Foundation as well as others who provide funding to the Foundation.

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Author Jarrett Krosoczka from New York will be doing presentations at each of our schools on April 12, 2017. Bethany Hall, MCS media specialist, put this presentation together through donations that they have received. The schools are very excited that he is coming. Mrs. Ayres commented that he is a very good author.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

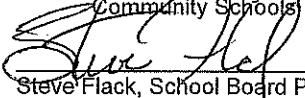
The following people voiced their concerns on the resignation of Andrew Zimmerman. LuAnn Harley, Allie Kauffman, Kevin Kling, Joel Eichenauer and Tracey Myers. Tracey Myers also withdrew her recommendation for the Sixth Grade Teacher position for the 2017-18 school year at MIS, that was approved at the meeting.

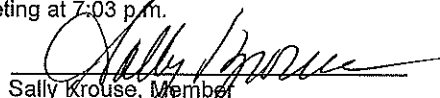
COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS.

Mr. Schilling wanted to extend his sympathy for Phil Enyeart who passed away recently. He thanked Crossroads Bank for the low cost loans on the busses and commented on the resignation of Andrew Zimmerman.

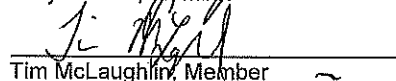
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mr. Flack, School Board President, adjourned the Manchester Community Schools Board of Trustees Board Meeting at 7:03 p.m.


Steve Flack, School Board President

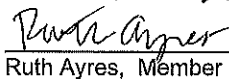

Sally Krouse, Member

Brady Burgess, Vice President


Tim McLaughlin, Member

Nate Trump, Secretary


Brian Schilling, Member


Ruth Ayres, Member

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