

MANCELONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
Minutes of Regular Meeting
April 14, 2009

Present: Cook, Derrer, Musselman, Nothstine, Ross
Absent: Avery, Harden
Central Office Staff: DiRosa, Moeke, Meeder
Administration: Clark

President Ross called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. in the Middle School Media Center

Approval of Agenda

Musselman/Cook approve the agenda as presented, with changes noted

YES: 5
NO: 0
Motion carried.

Citizens Comments- no comments were made

Consent Agenda

Cook/Ross to approve the consent agenda items: A) Minutes of the regular meeting held on March 10, 2009; B) Monthly Finance- approve accounts payable checks for the dates and amounts of: GENERAL FUND: 3/17/09- \$267,643.47; 3/24/09- \$20,556.69; 4/7/09- \$12,929.50; SINKING FUND: 3/17/09- \$1,124.77; C) Extend contract for Chad Culver (note: due to contractual requirements, future contracts will automatically roll over with good evaluation)

YES: 5
NO: 0
Motion carried.

Correspondence- none

CIS/MSU Peer Mentors- Amy Derrer introduced participants in the CIS/MSU Extension Sportin' Character Peer Mentoring Program, including high school students Jonathan Smith, Danielle Hoose, Mike Dalton and Nick Harvey, middle school students Ashlee Wycoff, Riley Henderson, Miklo Meadows, Cody Hockridge, and Taylor Robbins, along with Mr. Tony Miller, program facilitator. The program was introduced last school year with many of the same students participating again this school year. Students asked the board if they would offer suggestions for a community service project, pointing out that last year they constructed a sandbox for the early childhood center. Mr. Miller explained they would like the students to work on a community project, something within the scope of their abilities. He also expressed their gratitude for district's support.

Some of the students shared why they joined the Peer Mentoring Program. Jonathan said it allows him to give other students opportunities he never had in middle school. Nick stated he likes to help the younger kids. Danielle said she likes to help people, adding that makes her feel self-worth. She also said the experience has helped her to be more outspoken. Mike told about having a mentor when he was younger, how he looked up to that person and how he was a great role model.

Pami Sprague, Mancelona Education Project- Pami began by explaining the purpose of the project is to look at alternate programs to develop and explore at our school. She touched on three topics that are currently being looked at; Seat Time Waiver, Non-Traditional Education and Drop-Out Prevention. Principal Joe Clark and counselor Laura Powers, both at the high school, have been working with Communities In School (CIS) to learn more about seat time waivers (students are enrolled in our district but do on-line learning elsewhere). In the process, they discovered there are significant funding and

administrative fees that accompany the program. CIS recommends that the seat time waiver application process be tabled until alternative funding can be identified.

Pami, Marcie Grabruck and Amy Burk have been looking at five area district's non-traditional education sites, learning what is working and what has not been successful. Results of their informal study were shared with Jeff DiRosa, Laura Powers and Joe Clark. It is the group's recommendation that we continue to explore the concept, keeping in mind that research shows students at risk for dropping out of school can be identified as early as first grade. Perhaps focusing on drop-out prevention strategies as early as pre-kindergarten could be part of a district-wide prevention program. Of interest to the group were findings from a survey of students whom dropped out of high school within the past ten years. When asked why they dropped out, the answers given included: they missed too many days of school, poor grades, they were pregnant and they felt they did not belong. All respondents had dependants and none of them had gone on to obtain a GED degree. Pami said the group would like to see the school commission a formal survey to see what is going on culturally in our district and to work to create a drop-out prevention program. Superintendent DiRosa asked if they could create a model and sketch the framework for presentation at the administrator meeting on May 26. Jerry Cook said when mentoring sixth grade students he hears some students say they are going to drop out of school, that they think they are stupid and they know they are going to fail. Marcie Grabruck stated this is the culture of poverty and there are all sorts of reasons for it. She said we need to be patient but persistent. Amy Derrer asked how many students we send to surrounding alternative schools. Joe said we currently have seven at Midtown and several attending Northside. Superintendent DiRosa added the group has done a great job. He asked Pami to get a quote from Wendy Tackett (Pami's evaluator) to do further research for the district.

Deb Dewey, Health Committee progress/Teen Parent Program- Deb explained the purpose of her visit is to report the status of the Teen Parent Program started last fall. Although getting off to a very slow start, she is optimistic that if they continue to work hard, things will pick up. She said adding a full-time social worker would make a big difference.

This same time last year the Health Committee was in the process of getting approval for curriculum they selected for middle and high school. As of now, grades five through twelve have received instruction, covering the approved curriculum: fifth/sixth grade- Healthy Peer Relations; seventh/eighth grade- Just Say Know; ninth grade-Just the Facts, From All Walks of Life and Michigan Model Tobacco Prevention; tenth grade- All Walks of Life (STD and HIV prevention) and eleventh/twelfth grade- Michigan Model (sexually transmitted infections, HIV). Great presenters came to our buildings and talked with our students. Each are certified health educators with special training for the curriculums. Joe Clark said now that the program is in place we need to continue it. Superintendent DiRosa asked Deb if she will be continuing leadership of the health committee and working with our principals. Deb stated there is one more curriculum the committee will soon recommend to be added. It is likely it will be available for public comment over the summer.

Committee Reports- Superintendent DiRosa reported negotiations with the support staff are under way and will meet again next week.

Principals'/Superintendent's Reports

Elementary School Principal Trent Naumcheff was at kindergarten round up, thus unable to attend.

Middle School Principal Chad Culver was out of town, thus unable to attend.

High School Principal Joe Clark expressed appreciation for the Board's support in addressing the important issues the high school faces. He said the number of drop-outs and pregnancy are closely related and it is important to talk about and deal with the issues. He reminded everyone of the Mancelona Educational Foundation dinner/auction to be held on Friday at the high school. The group's efforts help answer some of the financial problems in the district. This year's prom will be on April 25 in the Jordan Room at Cedar River. There will be a post-prom party at the high school, concluding around 6 a.m. Sunday morning. This is the first year we are offering this safe alternative to our students. Deputy Bob Daunter recently visited our juniors and seniors to talk to them about the ramifications of under-aged drinking. Students had the opportunity to try the 'drunk goggles'. Students will be shown SADD movies this week. Freshman Orientation is tentatively scheduled for May 15 at 5 p.m.

Superintendent DiRosa noted the MEAP scores have been distributed. If the Board wishes, Mr. DiRosa said he would invite Shelly James to attend a future meeting to discuss the MEAPs in more detail. Although overall improvement was made in quite a few areas, there is still work to be done. We will

continue to work on this through our curriculum task force. Bill Nothstine asked if the results enable us to determine where the problems are, identify teachers and weak points. Mr. DiRosa said there are class reports and grade-level results available for the past three years.

Superintendent DiRosa spoke to the upcoming school election. The ballot includes an 18 mill renewal and three board seats. Burt Thompson, Tom Ross and Gerald Cook are running unopposed, unless there are write-in candidates.

Citizens Comments on Action Items- no citizens comments given

Action Items

Musselman/Nothstine renew food service contract with Chartwells

YES: 5
NO: 0
Motion carried.

Derrerr/Cook hire Joe Clark as permanent high school principal

YES: 5
NO: 0
Motion carried.

Superintendent DiRosa stated we are currently talking with two firms that conduct studies to look at reducing energy costs in our buildings. Generally the cost of the study is surpassed by the savings realized. He asked the Board for approval to continue with a study and said the Board will be updated at future meetings.

Cook/Ross continue exploration of performance-based contracting program

YES: 5
NO: 0
Motion carried.

Superintendent DiRosa reported he recently met with the Finance Committee and Mark Nixon regarding potential cuts in the athletic program. Consensus was that eliminating the cheerleading program and coached 5/6 boys/girls basketball would have the least impact on the students overall. Hopefully the basketball program will continue, with volunteer coaching, and the cheerleading program will evolve into a pep club. Mr. DiRosa said it is his recommendation to eliminate cheerleading and the coached 5/6 grade boys/girls basketball programs.

Ross/Musselman adopt athletic reductions for 2009-2010 school year, as presented

YES: 5
NO: 0
Motion carried.

President Ross pointed out that Dr. Michael Washburn conducted the superintendent evaluation at the March meeting, with all board members participating. His narrative of the session will be made a matter of record by the action taken.

Musselman/Cook accept Superintendent evaluation as prepared by Dr. Washburn

YES: 5
NO: 0
Motion carried.

Superintendent DiRosa explained the resolution for the ISD biennial election is something all boards in the ISD are doing this month. He added that at May's regular meeting our representative will be directed to vote for specific people at the ISD's June election.

Cook/Musselman adopt Resolution naming Tom Ross as electoral representative for the ISD
June 1, 2009 biennial election

YES: 5
NO: 0
Motion carried.

Items for Future Consideration- Superintendent DiRosa stated that another item for next month's meeting will be to approve the ISD general fund budget. The ISD Superintendent, Mike Hill, will soon visit our district and go over the budget with Mr. DiRosa, Tom Ross and Kim Musselman. Approval of the budget will be an action item on May's agenda. Also, notification regarding cuts to be made in the support and professional staff will be going out over the next two weeks, via personal meetings with the staff members affected. Jerry Cook asked if staff members that will be part of the cuts have been determined. Mr. DiRosa said they have. Jerry asked if Mr. DiRosa had an idea about the State's situation. Mr. DiRosa replied MASB thinks there will be no cuts to foundation allowances. However, Mr. DiRosa met with Senator Jason Allen recently and it is Mr. Allen's prediction that a \$57 per pupil cut may be made. If fact, Senator Allen was pessimistic on many economic issues. Districts may not know what will be happening until this summer.

Derrer/Cook to adjourn at 6:00 p.m.

YES: 5
NO: 0
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Moeke, Recording Secretary

Kim Musselman, Secretary