

MANCELONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
Minutes of Regular Meeting
February 9, 2010

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

Vice-President Derrer 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

YES: 6
NO: 0
Motion carried.

Citizens Comments- Margaret Vanover asked about the outcome for the two young adults found responsible for the vandalism last August.

Consent Agenda

Cook/Musselman to approve the consent agenda items: A) Minutes of the regular meeting held on December 8, 2009; B) Monthly Finance- approve accounts payable checks for the dates and amounts of: GENERAL FUND: 1/19/10- \$281,346.00; 1/26/10- \$4,536.00; 2/2/10- \$81,804.77; SINKING FUND: 1/19/10- \$45.50; 2/2/10- \$344.64; C) Acknowledge letter of recommendation to hire Bruce Gillissie and Cody Sehl for MS Wrestling coach position

YES: 6
NO: 0
Motion carried.

Correspondence- Superintendent DiRosa received a letter from the MEA, with a demand to bargain Request For Proposals (RFP). He said in his reply, he listed the reasons he believes we do not have to bargain RFPs.

Committee Reports- Superintendent DiRosa said the finance committee will meet next week to update this year's budget and go over amendments to the budget. The committee will likely meet often to discuss the 2010-2011 budget.

Principals'/Reports-

Middle School Principal- Mr. Culver announced there is an Art Exhibition this evening, featuring art work from all three buildings. A team of teachers visited Kalkaska Schools today to gain knowledge about the new 5/6 grade reading program, *Imagine It*. On February 18 a group of teachers will attend a conference at the ISD to learn about a 7/8 grade reading program. District-wide PLC meetings will be held this evening. The second AIMSweb assessments were completed recently. Initial results show improvement. A third screening will be done in May.

Study Island, our new reading intervention program for fifth and sixth grade students, has begun and is going well. Twenty-four students are receiving additional help for a half-hour each day, while the other students are in enrichment classes. They meet with our Title I assistants in the 7/8 grade computer lab.

The Mentoring Recognition luncheon was a big success, with over eighty students and adults participating. Mr. Culver expressed his thanks to Amy Derrer for her support in making the event possible. The program is really growing. Students are asking to have a mentor and parents are calling to request a mentor for their child. Another program Amy is involved with, Alternatives to Violence (ATV), will address bullying behaviors. Gerrard Schwinn and Aubrey Wilson will meet with twelve seventh and eighth grade students for ten weeks during lunch on Mondays and SSR time to learn about alternatives to violence.

One hundred ninety students recently received Honor Roll Bumper Stickers for making the semester honor roll. Thirty students also received an Honor Roll Water Bottle for getting all As. The ELO program allows students that are behind

in their work time during lunch hour to catch up. Now MELO, or mega ELO, has been added. MELO will meet during Encore class time, allowing those with missing assignments to complete their work.

High School Principal- Mr. Clark reported a successful Financial Aid Night at the high school. Approximately fifty-seven parents attended the event. Counselor Laura Power was joined by Sally King from Northwestern Michigan College to assist students and parents fill out the necessary paperwork. Snow Coming/Spirit Week ended last week with an assembly, emceed by Jamie Oppermann. Approximately 250 students attended the Snow Coming Dance on Saturday. Following the dance, ninety-three took a school bus to see *Dear John* at the Bellaire Theatre. Choose Success provided financial support for the movie.

Heather McKaig, daughter of former high school teacher, Beth McKaig, will bring her theatre class from Novi to perform their play on the subject of bullying. Mr. Clark proudly announced that Senior Melissa Wright has advanced as a semi-finalist for the National Merit Scholarship to a finalist in the competition. He added that this is an incredible achievement. On that same note, Mr. Clark shared that this year's valedictorians and salutatorian have been selected. Melissa Wright and Amber Elder, each with a 4.0 GPA, will be co-valedictorians. Jonathan Smith, with a 3.96 GPA, has been selected as salutatorian.

Elementary School Principal- Mr. Naumcheff said some of the elementary teachers, along with Kim Musselman, were part of the Middle School group that visited Kalkaska today. He said it is his hope, through stimulus funding, that we will be able to purchase a new, comprehensive core-reading program, *Imaginative Program*. Materials are on display at the elementary.

Mr. Naumcheff distributed the same flyer that was sent home to all parents, regarding the new morning routine began on February 5. Students arriving before the first bell rings will now either go to Universal Breakfast (free), Choose Success (Monday-Thursday, breakfast included), receive tuition-based child care with transportation to the elementary building for breakfast or stay in the monitored lobby areas. Teachers are unanimous in saying that students are now entering their classrooms ready to learn.

The "Mancy PRIDE- Polite, Responsible Ironkids Do their best Each day" program has begun. The goal is to have polite, responsible students and acknowledge their behavior with a "ticket" and an explanation. Mr. Naumcheff is looking forward to each teacher passing out five to ten "tickets" a day.

Superintendent's Report- Mr. DiRosa reported he had good news regarding the recent Universal Service Fund Grant (USF), which enabled the district to buy new technology equipment. Mr. DiRosa thanked the Board for their quick approval of the purchase, which allowed Fred Trimble to secure a \$4,600 rebate from the supplier as well. Recent disbursements by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians included an award of \$9,800 to our district for projectors, carts, PCs to the TV/projector scan converters and headphones. This grant is the fourth grant Media Specialist, Elizabeth VanPate, has successfully written to enhance the district's technology department. With other future USF funds the district plans to add ceiling-mount capabilities for the projectors.

MEAP scores are now available. Mr. DiRosa will present our data to the Board at either the March or April meeting. Count Day is February 10. Our numbers have really gone down; twenty-five from last September, fifteen from just two weeks ago. With more families moving we will continue to see a decline in enrollment. The superintendent evaluation will be conducted during a Special Meeting held at 3:30 pm, prior to the regular meeting on March 9. Michael Washburn will facilitate the evaluation. Superintendent DiRosa announced there will be no school on Friday, February 12 and Monday, February 15.

Shelly Meeder- Using PowerPoint Shelly presented a financial picture of the projected general fund balance at the end of this school year, which is expected to be better than first anticipated. She also presented a scenario for the 2010-2011 budget, revealing an estimated \$816,268 hole (consisting of the increased costs of salary/insurance, loss of students and a \$300 cut in foundation monies). Superintendent DiRosa added that the biggest factor for next year's budget will be enrollment numbers. He also shared that the administrative staff has agreed to freeze salaries for 2010-11. Staff is currently working with insurance carriers for cost savings. Consensus is to mirror what the teachers do.

Mr. DiRosa said following the PowerPoint presentation to staff in each building, the union executive committees and the board finance committee, participants were asked to complete a *Zoomerang* survey. There have been around fifty responses so far, many with great cost-saving ideas. Burt Thompson asked what the current fund balance is. Mr. DiRosa replied it is around \$991,000 and that we will likely have to draw from it this year and next year, depending on negotiations. Mr. DiRosa said that subject should be talked about at the Board level, with the Board telling him how far to go. Kim Musselman asked how much money has to be in the fund balance to cover payroll. Superintendent DiRosa said our summer tax collection helps with that type of situation. Shelly Meeder offered she thought in the range of \$600,000 before we would have to borrow to meet cash flows. Mr. DiRosa said fund balances are recommended to be between ten and fifteen percent of

the annual budget. Two years ago our district was in last place within the ISD in respect to fund balances. Last year we were thirteenth. We are currently below the minimum recommended since we haven't been putting away any monies. Cathy Harden inquired if there has been word of any retirements. Mr. DiRosa said he has been hearing some rumors but nothing has been verified. Shelly Meeder said there would be some savings from retirements, but with some teachers on lay off, several teachers would need to retire to see savings.

Cathy Harden commended Shelly and Mr. DiRosa for the great job. Amy Derrer added to her knowledge staff has been receptive to the situation and are asking questions. Through the survey results Shelly finds things more promising. She said some of the ideas shared have been amazing, with many of them being ideas she hasn't thought about.

Citizens Comments on Action Items- no comments were made

Action Items

Cook/Musselman accept administrative recommendation that Amanda Murray has earned tenure

YES: 6
NO: 0
Motion carried.

Items for Future Consideration- Superintendent DiRosa announced there will be a special meeting on March 9, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. to work with Michael Washburn on the superintendent evaluation. He expressed his concern for a quorum that evening, after two members shared they will be unable to attend.

Derrer/Cook to adjourn at 5:19 p.m.

YES: 6
NO: 0
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Moeke, Recording Secretary

Kim Musselman, Secretary