

MANCELONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Board of Education
UNAPPROVED Minutes of Regular Meeting
April 15, 2008**

Present: Avery, Cook, Derrer, Harden, Moser, Musselman, Ross
Absent: none
Central Office Staff: Nurnberger, Moeke, Meeder
Administration: Naumcheff, Riemersma, Oppermann

President Ross called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Middle School Media Center

Approval of Agenda- there were no changes made to the agenda

Consent Agenda to approve consent agenda items: A) Minutes of the regular meeting held on March 4, 2008; B) Monthly Finance, approve accounts payable checks for the date and amounts of: GENERAL FUND- 3/18/07- \$151,708.21; 4/1/08- \$163,298.16; 4/10/08- \$60,125.98
SINKING FUND- 3/4/08- \$970.00; 3/4/08- \$600.00; 4/10/08- \$14.43
C) Amended District Sub List; D) Acknowledge letters of resignation with intent to retire from Ann Schwandt and Mary Stark

YES: 7
NO: 0
Motion carried.

Correspondence- letter from Department of Natural Resources

Communications or Expressions from the Public- none

High School Physics trip to Chicago- High school teacher Michelle Schuette distributed an itinerary for the May 6-8, 2008 trip. Ms. Schuette described how physics will be part of many aspects of the trip. The cost will \$310 per student (fund raising was not very successful).

Avery/Harden to approve high school physics class trip to Chicago in May, 2008

YES: 7
NO: 0
Motion carried.

Committee Reports- Superintendent Nurnberger reported on the Technology and School Improvement committees. Excited about the excellent turnout at the meeting held earlier in the school year Mr. Nurnberger said the meeting scheduled for April 30 will be for the combined committees. Regis McCord and Karen Szcodronski from the ISD, along with Fred Trimble, our technology consultant, will facilitate the meeting.

Superintendent Nurnberger reported the policy committee met recently with NEOLA representative Bob MacEachron to review proposed new/revised/replacement policies. The same materials will be sent soon for Board review.

Mr. Nurnberger addressed a recent issue wherein a parent was unable to accompany his child on a field trip. Currently the district conducts background checks of every volunteer that will be around the students. When a search reveals a past felony conviction the person is prohibited from participating at the school, regardless of the timeframe and the type of felony. Superintendent Nurnberger stated that sometimes there is not enough time to consult with board members. He added that perhaps the Board could revisit this practice and in the future allow the superintendent to make case-by-case decisions. Cathy Harden stated she felt if people made a mistake many years ago, have been good citizens since then, they

should not be punished for the rest of their lives. She feels the district needs to be flexible. Bill Avery agreed with Cathy and suggested the Board motion to adopt policy and revisit it when we obtain proper language. Superintendent Nurnberger said he did not see a problem with that but said it needs to be understood if the superintendent makes a decision and it proves to be not the right decision, would the Board stand behind it?

Avery/Harden instruct the Superintendent or his/her designee to use own best judgment to allow non-regular volunteers with felonies to go on field trips, at his/her sole discretion

Superintendent Nurnberger emphasized the issue is about time, when people ask to go on a trip the day before the trip. President Ross stated the Board is doing this because of the timeliness and in the meantime policy will be developed. Bill Avery added if a new policy is adopted, the Board will rewrite this motion. Amy Derrer said she would want to include clearance for the classrooms.

YES: 7
NO: 0
Motion carried.

Principals'/Superintendent's Report-

Elementary School Principal Trent Naumcheff handed out a sheet with the third and fourth grade MEAP scores and AYP targets. Kindergarten teacher, Linda Gilmore, distributed a brochure that will be available at the kindergarten roundup on April 16. Highlights will include a light lunch and a tour of the building. Each child will receive a book and pencil case (with supplies) to take home and use over the summer. Fingerprinting of the students will be offered by the sheriff's department. Also, according to the State, there will be funding for junior kindergarten for another year.

Art and music teacher, Chandra LaPointe, described a project the third grade students will be working on soon. Students will place designs on a quarry tile, seal it with a latex paint and place on the building's exterior. Each year's third grade class will do the same project, eventually circling the entire building. On Friday, April 18, 2008 six elementary students and five students from both the middle and high school will have their artwork exhibited at the Art Center in Traverse City. The show will open with a reception on the 18th, from 5-7 p.m. The art will remain on display through May 11. Another exciting art project is the district-wide art show and unveiling of the middle school mural during Kids Night on May 28, the opening night of the Bass Festival. Art work from all three buildings, including the mural, will be displayed from 5-7 p.m.

Physical education teacher, Mark Challis, announced that a third/fourth grade track meet is scheduled for May 19. High school track students will be running the events. Some other projects Mr. Challis is working on are after-school, summer school and during-school nutrition programs such as, Jump into Food and Fitness, Pyramid Between Pages and the Summer Recharge, along with Choose Success.

Middle School Principal Bob Riemersma distributed the minutes from the recent PLC meeting and the middle school's 2007 MEAP scores. In comparison, our actual scores exceed State actual scores in most areas, with some below but very close to the State's scores. After speaking with a person at the State, Mr. Riemersma is very encouraged and optimistic that middle school made AYP. However, he will not know for sure for about a week.

Staff will be looking into the special education portion of the tentative schedule for next year, particularly the co-teaching situation. Mr. Riemersma will discuss this with the ISD. Last week there was a very productive district-wide (5th-12th) meeting of ELA teachers to discuss curriculum. Bill Avery asked about the advantages of co-teaching and which teacher would be responsible for the class. Mr. Riemersma replied that those are the questions his staff is looking at. Niki Sandy, our Early Childhood Program teacher explained that she did team-teaching before she came to Mancelona and that all participants benefited. She added co-teaching had to be a team effort, requiring commitment and planning by both teachers. Mr. Avery stated he wasn't saying that co-teaching could not be done but that he recalled it didn't work out satisfactorily years back, that the regular education teachers complained the special education teachers took advantage of them. Mr. Riemersma stated those are the issues that will be looked at, with the assumption it is best to do co-teaching, now how do we do it?

Gerald Cook inquired about eighth grade students passing a test for algebra. High school principal, Mr. Oppermann, replied that based on State requirements, districts need to give credit to most eighth grade students that take algebra and also the high school exams.

High School Principal Jamie Oppermann announced that he recently attended a State School Improvement Conference at the Lansing Center. Six or seven schools received Special Recognition Awards from Michael Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Instruction, for coming off the list of High Priority Schools. Mr. Oppermann received the award on behalf of the high school. He also attended sessions regarding graduation and drop out rates.

Mr. Oppermann reported that fall MEAP scores for the freshman (social studies) dropped but students are on pace toward their goal. Testing for the ACT and MME has been completed. Mr. Oppermann thanked the Board for supporting the idea that all students must get a valid score on the tests. Every student did take the test, followed by a big celebration with food and prizes. He also thanked the MEF for their successful auction. The fundraiser, which saw a big turnout, was held in the gymnasium for the first time this year.

The ninth and tenth grade students will soon be taking part in NWEA testing. This year's prom will be held at the Castle in Charlevoix, on April 26. We will have to provide valet parking, per the Castle's policy. Bill Avery asked if our insurance will cover our drivers parking the cars. Mr. Oppermann replied that that was an issue for the Castle, that they cover whatever happens. The commencement speaker for graduation this year will be Chuck Short, Class of 1992.

Superintendent- Ron Nurnberger began by thanking the MEF and Frank Moser for the great auction, noting that it is an awesome task. On April 25 and 28 Board members may look at resumes for the superintendent position at Central Office. On April 16 the middle school and high school principal positions will be posted. Applications will be due May 16, 2008. Meanwhile a committee will be set up in anticipation that the new superintendent will assist in the selection process. Principal interviews will be done in June, allowing the new superintendent to be working with the new principals by July.

According to business manager, Shelly Meeder, at the end of February, the energy co-op (for electricity) at the high school building has saved the district \$7,900.00. She is still looking into having the same agreement in place in the elementary building. However, there is a bill in the House that will not allow any cooperatives for electricity. If the bill passes, the district will have no choice but to use DTE or Consumers, which will drive up the prices. Ms. Meeder reported that Keith Verellen, food service director, will be leaving his position to return to his former job. He enjoyed working at the district but had challenges with paperwork and computer demands. Ms. Meeder met with Krysti Kidder, a district director for Chartwells, on April 14. It is Ms. Kidder's desire to bring Eric Matusik up as director, on a trial basis through the remainder of the school year. Mr. Matusik is currently the head cook/kitchen manager at the Lamplight Inn, thus over-qualified for the position. Ms. Meeder announced she will bring budget amendments for the current year along with budgets for the next school year to the June meeting. The finance committee will meet early in June.

President Ross reminded members of the Regional Boards of Education Inservice on April 24 at the ISD. The event is unique with breakout sessions covering Alternative Education, Personal Curriculum and Career-Tech Center Academic Integration. Mr. Ross encouraged all Board members to attend.

Communications or Expressions from the Public- Linda Gilmore inquired about the dates for the new superintendent interviews. Mr. Ross replied they are scheduled for May 5, 7 and 8. Superintendent Nurnberger stated he recently compiled a profile for the middle school and high school principal jobs. Forms returned to Mr. Nurnberger will be for the search committee's perusal.

Action Items

After brief discussion it was decided to vote on Action Items 10A as one motion.

Moser/Derrer

Recommendation for the following teachers for School Year 2008/09

Continue first year: Grace Brown

Continue second year: Mary Jane Grunch, Candace Holik, Michelle Schuette

2nd Year: Ryan McClellan, Ricky Pina, Monica Malbouef, Shelly James, Kelly Holeman, Elizabeth Van Pate
Continue third year: Amanda Murray
3rd Year: Adam Hendry, Greg Sieszputowski
Continue fourth year: Steffanie Merrifield
4th Year: Karen Malloy, Joleen McCain, Renee Guerriero, Michael Southwell
Tenure: Jeffrey Brey, Jennifer Kortman, Chandra LaPointe

YES: 7
NO: 0
Motion carried.

Frank Moser pointed out May 8 is the OPIE dinner in Traverse City, at which his wife is one of the honorees. He said he is torn between attending the dinner for his wife and the special board meeting tentatively scheduled for May 8. Bill Avery stated he felt it was very important to work around Frank's schedule. President Ross asked if there were any other dates that need to be changed. Gerald Cook said May 21 is the high school band concert. Superintendent Nurnberger said three interviews could be done in an evening or it is not uncommon to have interviews on a Friday evening. After further discussion all members indicated they would go along with interviewing three candidates in an evening if May 8 is eliminated. President Ross asked if members would like to start the meeting on the 21st at an earlier hour.

Avery/Derrer

Board meeting dates:
Change regular meeting date for month of May to May 13 (from May 6)
Special meeting on April 29
Special meetings on May 5, 7, 14 and 21*
*The meeting on 4-21-08 will begin at 4:00 p.m.

YES: 7
NO: 0
Motion carried.

Item for Future Consideration- Frank Moser reported there was a lot to celebrate about the recent MEF dinner and auction. With the change of venue, moving the event to the high school gym, came problems with the audio system. The hero of the evening was Ed McCarty. He not only transported audio equipment from the middle school and got the sound system working, he remained on site and assisted with moving auction items. Frank also pointed out that Keith Verellen and Eric Matusik came early and stayed late, working as if it was "their" function! Frank concluded by thanking volunteers Judy Eschedor and Dan Robinson, and also Robin Bean, Mitch Meeder, Laurie Allison. Although the organization's goal was to match the \$15,500 they raised last year, they did raise \$14,200.00. Frank thanked Trent Naumcheff and Jamie Oppermann and said he was looking forward to next year. Bill Avery suggested that a thank you note for Ed, from the Board, be drafted and signed by members at the next meeting.

Frank Moser shared he was contacted by Jim Thomas, former welding teacher. Jim stated there is a barn full of welding equipment, rusting away. Just one piece could be worth fifteen grand. Bill Avery recommended contact be made with Mr. Thomas to see if he would go through the barn with school personnel. Bill said it would be a shame for monies realized from a sale of the equipment to go to General Fund. Before the Board agrees to sell the items, Bill would like the Board to agree where the funds would go. Kim Musselman suggested to the wood shop program or possibly another trades class. Bill said before anything is sold, estimates should be obtained and a decision made where the funds will go. He said the high school principal should be involved in the discussions.

Amy Derrer reminded everyone that the district has two retirees this year, Ann Schwandt and Mary Stark, both at the elementary school.

Avery/Mussleman to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.

YES: 7
NO: 0
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Moeke, Recording Secretary

Kim Musselman, Secretary