

# MANCELONA PUBLIC SCHOOL

## Board of Education Minutes of Regular Meeting January 15, 2008

Present: Derrer, Harden, Musselman, Ross  
Absent: Avery, Dewey, Moser  
Central Office Staff: Nurnberger, Moeke  
Administrators: Naumcheff, Riemersma, Oppermann

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

### Approval of Agenda

President Tom Ross added Recommendation to hire Dillon Hudson as middle school wrestling coach to Action Items as Item 10F.

### Consent Agenda

Musselman/Derrer to approve consent agenda items: A) Minutes of the regular meeting held on December 4, 2007; B) Monthly Finance, approve accounts payable checks for the dates and amounts of:  
GENERAL FUND- 12/4/07- \$48,352.96; 12/18/07- \$51,203.25; 1/3/08- \$197,299.17; 1/9/08- \$22,110.88  
SINKING FUND- 12/18/07- \$1,350.00; 1/3/08- \$7,789.50; 1/10/08- \$33,197.78  
C) District Sub List; D) Resignations from Chandra LaPointe, varsity softball coach; Donna Sylvester, bus driver; Ed Schmidt, middle school wrestling coach

YES: 4  
NO: 0  
Motion carried.

**Board Recognition-** Superintendent Ron Nurnberger announced that January is School Board Recognition Month in Michigan and thanked the Board members for their commitment to their commitment to public education and its affect on our children and community. He presented each member with a small token from the Michigan Association of School Boards.

### Steffanie Merrifield- student presentation

Ms. Merrifield presented students from her Read 180 class. They are creating a sketch with a Harry Potter theme. The goal for this activity is to help with reading comprehension and foster a love or reading. Students in the Read 180 program for the second year are showing great progress in their lexile scores.

**Communications or Expressions from the Public-** Mary Orman asked if there was an anti-bullying policy in place. She stated no one can answer that question for her. She said she would like a copy of the policy. Superintendent Nurnberger said he was aware of what Mrs. Orman was speaking to and asked her to meet with him and go over the details.

William Nothstine inquired about results from the trip school personnel took last spring to the Adlai Stevenson High School in Illinois. High school principal Jamie Oppermann stated that the trip was worthwhile to the staff, especially the PLCs at Adlai. We now have in place a program for students to earn freedoms for 73% or better in their classes. Those not reaching the 73% goal receive extra help from the teachers. Staff meets on Monday mornings to work on the program, spends extra time twice a year on PLC and meets with the ISD quarterly to share ideas. Mr. Nothstine asked if there was a policy/training in place for the faculty. Mr. Oppermann replied there is. He added that there has been discussion about sending some staff to Adlai Stevenson again. Mr. Nothstine asked why this is not at university level and trickle down. He asked if everyone else does this. Mr. Oppermann said many schools around the country travel to Illinois. He stated January is the fourth month into the program and staff is working on new ideas to

achieve success. Superintendent Nurnberger added that after-school programs, such as we have here, are top priority at the superintendents meetings at the ISD.

#### **Committee Reports-**

**FINANCE-** Superintendent Nurnberger stated that the committee was not able to get together. However, there have been no drastic changes. Business manager, Shelly Meeder, will explain proposed budget amendments at the next regular meeting. Mr. Nurnberger said a lot of work had been done recently on bathroom renovations and lighting the path between the middle and elementary buildings, all from Sinking Funds. As is the case with many schools, student safety is a concern. Since September Mr. Nurnberger had been receiving bids for security cameras inside and outside our buildings. More specific bids will be solicited in the spring. Currently the placement of cameras is being prioritized, with the outside of the elementary building given high priority status. Camera placement for the inside of our buildings is being reviewed.

**TECHNOLOGY-** District administrators and secretaries received training for Instant Alert on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Information will be sent to parents/guardians soon and also placed in the next *Mancelona MEMO*.

**COMMUNICATIONS-** Superintendent Nurnberger stated he and Jan Korr are working on a date for the next meeting. He asked Board members to email him if they are interested in attending.

#### **Principals/Superintendent Reports-**

Elementary principal Trent Naumcheff reported that the elementary winter concert was the best so far and Chandra LaPointe did a great job. She will concentrate on art during second semester. The district School Improvement Plan meeting in December was positive for all three buildings. Report cards will be going out February first. As will be noted in the next *Mancelona MEMO* the annual Penny War is the big excitement at the elementary building right now. Proceeds will benefit Special Olympics. Speakers from the ISD will attend the staff meeting on January 16 to talk about Proactive Behavior Intervention Training (P-Bit). This will be a professional development opportunity for the staff to develop awareness for students possibly heading to a crisis. It will get all on board, with the ability to follow definite patterns and have consistent procedures with behavior. Also covered were State/Federal Restraint/Seclusion Policy and the Verbal Escalation Continuum and Escalation Cycle. President Tom Ross asked if it is the hope to have most/all of the staff trained. Mr. Naumcheff replied that it is. Kim Musselman asked if it was only for the elementary. Mr. Naumcheff said that a few staff from both middle and high school have received the training as well. Teacher Niki Sandy added that the training will help with knowing what is best for all students in a classroom, including those with different labels. When staff becomes aware of a student's behavior cycle, the steps will be in place to work through it. Amy Derrer congratulated Mr. Naumcheff on the arrival of a baby son recently.

Middle school principal Bob Riemersma addressed the middle school Career System that, in past years, allowed seventh and eighth grade students to explore careers. Throughout second semester Shelly James, Dean of students/Counselor, will assist the students as they explore different careers and she will help the eighth grade students with their four-year high school plan. Mr. Riemersma also talked about the project Joleen McCain's four hour Enrichment class is working on. After viewing Channel One News the students discussed getting involved with the Jeans for Teens campaign. This will be a good community service project.

High school principal Jamie Oppermann began by saying that the middle/high school band concert was phenomenal. The *Dance Revolution* used in gym classes has been very successful. As required in the new attendance policy, the first 'Saturday School' was held on January 12. Forty-one students attended, along with three teachers. The three students that did not attend are in the process of making up the hours. The policy has been huge in opening up the line of communication with parents, Mr. Oppermann and the students. Many students remarked that they did not like giving up a Saturday and promised to do better. Vista staff is working on offering our seniors the opportunity to learn about job interviews, inviting members from the community to come in and practice with the students. Exams will begin next week. Mr. Oppermann announced that at the end of the first semester Debra Heuss will have met all the requirements to receive tenure.

Superintendent Nurnberger reported that we received a letter from the Village of Mancelona regarding a resolution for vacating the alley between school property and property owned by the Church of the

Nazarene and stated he will be contacting the church. Mr. Nurnberger read the letter of resignation from board member, Debra Dewey. Per Board Policy, notice has been placed in the local newspaper, asking those interested in filling the vacant seat to notify the school by February 1, 2008. Interviews will be conducted at the Board's February 5 meeting, with the Board appointing a person to fill the seat through June 30, 2008. On the ballot for the May election will be two seats with four year terms each and one seat with a term ending in 2010.

**Communications or Expressions from the Public-** President Ross noted receipt of a letter from a family concerned about a student situation. He said the letter will be available to board members.

### **Action Items**

Ross/Harden set January 22, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. for special meeting with Dr. Washburn to discuss superintendent selection process

President Ross stated that Dr. Washburn has worked with the Board on a variety of things in past years and has previously spoken with Dr. Washburn about the process to fill the superintendent position. There are other positions to fill and Dr. Washburn can help. The public is invited to attend.

YES: 4  
NO: 0  
Motion carried.

Harden/Derrer to reinstate Media to Schedule B

Superintendent Nurnberger stated that we are going in a new direction with technology and our web page, including a new domain for our web. With this, we will be asking a little more from our media specialist. In 2006 the Board eliminated the stipend for media on Schedule B for budget reasons. Since then the new duties have been added to the job description, therefore the request to reinstate it. Cathy Harden said the job is larger than an ordinary schedule allows for, requiring a lot of extra time. Thus, she feels the media specialist should be compensated. Amy Derrer added that we have been paying someone outside the school to maintain our website. Superintendent Nurnberger said some of the changes will start on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

YES: 4  
NO: 0  
Motion carried.

Derrer/Musselman approve request for extension of leave from Stacy Simmonds

At the request of President Ross, Trent Naumcheff explained the reason for the extension for Ms. Simmonds. The original leave of absence was for student teaching with fourth grade teacher, Mr. Elder. Upon completion of the student teaching another fourth grade teacher went on medical leave and Ms. Simmonds has been subbing for the teacher. The other fourth grade teacher will soon be going on leave and Mr. Naumcheff believes having Ms. Simmonds sub for that teacher will allow continuity for the students. The extension will allow this and assure the support contract will not be violated. Both the association president and vice-president approve of the extension.

YES: 4  
NO: 0  
Motion carried.

Musselman/Ross to contract with PCMI to employ athletic time keepers and score keepers

Superintendent Nurnberger stated that as the Board understands IRS rules, contracts will be necessary to protect the dedicated people who volunteer as score/time keepers at athletic events, thus the contract with PCMI. He added that we will visit the issue of coaches and other positions as the need arises.

YES: 4  
NO: 0  
Motion carried.

Derrer/Ross to grant tenure at the end of the first semester to high school teacher, Debra Heuss

YES: 4  
NO: 0  
Motion carried.

Musselman/Harden to hire Dillon Hudson as middle school wrestling coach

YES: 4  
NO: 0  
Motion carried.

**Items for Future Consideration-** President Ross stated that about a year ago the Board talked about members working toward certification from MASB, which the organization strongly recommends. He will bring a packet of information to look over to the next meeting.

Musselman/Harden to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

YES: 4  
NO: 0  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Moeke, Recording Secretary

Kim Musselman, Secretary