BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT SAU #37

April 10, 2023 **6:30 p.m.**

1. Mayor Craig called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Mayor Craig calls for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Craig asked Committee Members Parr, Want and Tassey to introduce the students.

Weston Elementary School – Lizabeth MacDonald, Principal

Victoria Rodriguez – Grade 2
Adarra Bartlett – Grade 2
Heavenly Burton – Grade 2

3. A moment of silence was observed.

4. The Clerk calls the roll.

Present: Committee Members Parr, Soule, Want, Bonilla, Tassey, Argeropoulos, O'Connell, Potter, Perich (late 6:44), Dion, Leapley and Mayor Craig.

Absent: Committee Members Turner, Hamer and Gonzalez.

PUBLIC FORUM

5. The purpose of the public forum is to give the residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the board. All people wishing to speak will have up to three (3) minutes to do so, and any comments must be directed to the chair. Any resident wishing to speak will come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized and give their comments.

Sue Hannan, 13 Sundown Drive, Derry, stated:

She is the president of the Manchester Education Association. She wanted to publicly thank the board for the work that they have done looking at the DOE 306 rules. She stated that the MEA and the NEA New Hampshire find them sorely lacking in what we actually do in education and the final results will be a very watered down version of what education should be, could be and ought to be. She stated that they are hoping that bigger and stronger stands will take place not just to say you should do this or you should change that. A demand to make those changes is necessary because it

is going to be really important for all of us to make sure that we are continuing to hold ourselves to the highest standard possible when we are educating our students in Manchester and in New Hampshire. She stated that she would hope that a bigger and stronger stand can be made about the 306 rules. She stated that they are planning on that, as well as the MEA and NEA New Hampshire and any support we can give each other than happy to collaborate on those.

6. If there is no one else present wishing to speak, a motion is in order to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

*On motion of **Committee Member Soule,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Want,** it was moved to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented and to table the remaining minutes for public comment to the end of the meeting for those that have not already spoken. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

7. Response to Public Comment
(Note: Motions limited to sending items to Committees only.)

There was no response to public comment.

8. RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

There were no recognitions or presentations this evening.

9. ACTION AGENDA

a. Cooperative Girls Hockey Team for Manchester Central, Memorial and West High Schools – by Christine Telge, Director of Athletics

There were no comments or questions on this item.

*On motion of **Committee Member O'Connell,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Dion,** it was moved to approve the Cooperative Girls Hockey Team for Manchester Central, Memorial and West High Schools. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

10. CONSENT AGENDA (ITEMS 10 – 17)

11. Mayor Craig advises if you desire to remove any of the following items from the Consent Agenda, please so indicate. If none of the items are to be removed, only one motion will be taken at the conclusion of the presentation.

Committee Member Leapley removed item 14-c.

The balance of the consent agenda was as follows:

12. Approval of minutes from the Board of School Committee meetings on: March 27, 2023 regular and special meetings.

13. Report(s) of the Committee of Policy, if available.

14. Report(s) of the Committee of Teaching and Learning, if available.

a. Curriculum Management Plan
b. New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE) Youth Participant Surveys, 21st Century Program
c.

15. Report(s) of the Committee of Finance and Facilities, if available.

16. Report(s) of the Committee of Student Conduct, if available.

17. Report(s) of the Special Committee on Education Legislation, if available.

*On motion of **Committee Member Argeropoulos,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Soule,** it was moved to approve the balance of the consent agenda. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

14. Report(s) of the Committee of Teaching and Learning, if available.

c. St. Anselm College Fellowship Program

Dr. Leapley stated if she understands correctly there will be a $25,000 payment from the district to St. Anslem college, per fellow and the idea is that there will be three fellows.

Nicole Doherty said it is $25,000 per fellow and there could be 3-5 fellows.

Dr. Leapley stated these fellows will be placed in our schools and supervised and working with our staff and they are master students that are focused on special education.

Ms. Doherty stated that is correct.

Dr. Leapley asked if the $25,000 is a payment to St. Anslem for tuition or just a payment to the college?

Ms. Doherty stated it is a payment to the college that she believes will replace their tuition.

Dr. Leapley stated that it also looked like we were not guaranteed regular hours or a minimum standard of hours per fellow.

Ms. Doherty stated that they would be in the district for the teaching day and one day a week they would need to leave early to go to their class. These students are persons who already have their bachelors in elementary education.

Dr. Leapley stated that her understanding is that the contract doesn't require any verbiage to indicate what they will be doing in exchange for that $25,000, such as agreeing to serve in the district for a year. There is nothing in the contract regarding this. If our own employees wanted to participate in this, they would have to apply to St. A's and get into the program. From our employees perspective, would they be given priority if they wanted to get into this program?

Ms. Doherty stated that she does not have the answer to this question but she can go back to St. As and connect with them and see if this would be an option.

Other questions and comments included:

1. The contract doesn't say what the school district is getting for this $25,000 per fellow. What the district gets is the person, who is elementary education certified, fellowship that can be part of an interventionist team and work with our students during the day.
2. The contract needs to be more clear and needs to indicate what the services are that will be offered. Will they be in the classroom all day? If so, this should be in the contract. A commitment to a certain number of hours could be in the contract.

3. We can use these persons how we see fit.
4. This contract needs to be reviewed by legal.
5. Item three says "a provider shall provide a year-long residency in a classroom setting, appropriate to the licensure area of the fellow". It was asked what the understanding of this is? It was explained that they would be in the classroom setting with a teacher. They need to have a special education supervisor.
6. They are already credentialed as teachers; however, this fellowship is for their special education training.
7. We have a current agreement with SNHU, which indicates that those receiving money will come back and work in the district and we need something to that affect in this contract. It was stated that the difference between the SNHU program and this program is that these persons already are certified teachers.
8. Committee Member Argeropoulos stated that when he want to UNH, he came to the district as an intern and the district did not pay anything for him to be an intern, nor did he make any money interning, and he had to pay $20,000 to UNH.
9. What happens if we pay this $25,000 and we don't get the services we would have liked to see, will we be reimbursed? There is nothing in the contract about this.
10. On the bottom of page 40, it says that the district will pay the mentors.
11. Currently we are unable to provide some special education services and this would help us to be able to provide those services.
12. It needs to be reviewed if we can add to the contract that after they receive their certification they have to come back and work for the district for a period of time.
13. This is not only being offered to Manchester but also to other districts.
14. Item 3-c says that the provider understands that the graduate will need to attend graduate courses on 2-3 evenings per week and those courses could start at 4:00 p.m. and that it is the fellows primary responsibility.

*On motion of **Committee Member O'Connell,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Tassey,** it was moved to table item 14-c, St. Anselm College Fellowship program. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

COMMUNICATIONS

18. Superintendent's Communications.

a) Board Report Email Updates *(Note: This item is for informational purposes only and is in regard to the Board Report sent to the Committee by the Administration.)*

Committee Member Want stated that on page 46, at the bottom, it talks about the vestibule at Memorial High School and it was asked what the plans for that are. It was stated that we can discuss this further in non-public, if there are other questions; however, they are using the Safe Grants from the State and are attempting to get contractors lined up to do the work.

She stated that on page 51 there is a flyer about the facilities visioning sessions and it was asked how this was sent out to the public. It was stated that they gave out a ton of printed flyers, sent this out in emails and in text messages and have been reaching out to the families and PTO groups and community groups. It was stated that the district should reach out to the BIPOC community partners as well.

Mr. Toland stated that bilingual liaisons were at the sessions. They also had the community partners present as well. They are looking at how to get more engagement and this is being reviewed with community partners and SMMA.

Committee Member O'Connell stated that on page 41, it talks about the clear touch panels. He asked for a snap shot of where the panels are, if they are in half of our classrooms or where they are so that we can have that information. It was stated that they would provide this information in the next board update. They were given to those who initially stated that they wanted them but not everyone wanted them then and now others are asking for them.

b) Superintendent Updates

The updates were as follows:

1. April is child abuse prevention month. Dr. Gillis thanked the Manchester Health Department for providing blue pinwheels and yard signs that are going in the lawns at our

schools. They also provide activity booklets that will be handed out in the elementary schools. They will be having a press conference tomorrow with some city leaders at Highland Goffe's Falls, pushing the message of prevention for child abuse.

2. Covid Pool testing. Testing has been done over the past few years and participants in the pool are decreasing. Due to the low numbers they will no longer be doing the actual testing pool. They have had three positive pools in the last 2-3 weeks and they are also aware of one or two false positives that were reported. The US Department of Health has announced the expiration of the public health emergency as of May 11th. The prevalence of Covid infections remains low overall. Covid is now being treated more on the lines of the common cold and some are choosing not to report. They will discontinue this testing effective April 22nd, which is a Saturday prior to vacation week. The district will however continue to communicate that tests are available if families want them.
3. Kindergarten and new student registrations. The online registration portal is open for the 23/24 school year to register new students in grades K-12. They are also offering in person registrations for families that do not have a computer or need additional help in the registration process. These dates are May 11th from 5-6:30 at Beech Street Elementary School.
4. Spring Sports started on March 20th. 289 athletes registered at Memorial, 172 at Central and 40 at West. The district is offering 8 varsity teams at both Central and Memorial and three sub varsity teams. Six varsity teams are being offered at West and one sub varsity team. The only team that had cuts was Memorial baseball. Middle School track and field began on March 27th. All four of the middle schools have expanded their club team options and these sports are being played amongst our middle school teams. The wrestling program is being run by our high schools for our middle schools and this is an eight week program that will have championships on May 6. Currently there are 25 wrestlers signed up. All middle schools have boys and girls soccer, two to three flag football teams. Southside will field both baseball and softball and Hillside and Parkside will combine to field both baseball and softball. McLaughlin will have a softball team. All middle school sports are set to begin on April 3rd. The city grass fields were just released for play today. They are looking at the logistics and this is a huge undertaking and includes fields, officials, coaches, uniforms, equipment, transportation and scheduling. Parkside does not have any grass fields within safe walking distance and transportation is being reviewed for them. The turf field is already in high demands, as it is used by our high schools. A community sports night was

held on April 6th. There were 16 local youth organizations that attended and they are reaching out to all students. The sports night was intended to be used to provide information about sprots throughout the city but they also used this time to recognize the graduating seniors who are going on to play in college and they also gave information on the fall and winter sports.

5. This weekend the First Robotics teams from the four high schools will be competing in the New England First Regional Championship in Springfield Mass. 90 total teams will compete and they hope to have some of the teams come in for recognitions at an upcoming board meeting. West Power Knights were not chosen for an alliance, so they did not make it to the semi-finals. MSTs Team Fusion and Central's Team Chaos made it to the semi-finals and the Memorial Crusaders ultimately finished second overall, as district championships. Memorial and MST have qualified for the World's competition in Houston. They congratulated all teams on their achievements.

Questions and comments included:

1. Athletics is really important for the community and allows opportunities for students.
2. It was stated that the club sports are sports offered to our middle schools and are played between our four middle schools.
3. It was indicated that maybe we should reach out to surrounding middle schools and try to get games scheduled with them.
4. Bus availability continues to be an issue.
5. Athletics is a lot of work and the board appreciates the work by the district.
6. Middle School Soccer tri-counties will take place in the fall.
7. It was stated that the district has used the extra funds for athletics to create more middle school offerings and there is the need for an Administrative Assistant for the athletics program.

19. Board of School Committee Members' Communications.

a. Job Openings List

Questions and comments included:

1. We are back to having 86 paraprofessional positions open. This represents a gap in offerings for our students. We need to find a way to fill these openings. It was indicated that there is not a gap in offerings, as the needed services are being provided by contracted services. The district is paying more for these contracted services and it would be better to be able to hire and offer the services in house.
2. We are happy to have the new HR director so that work can be done on this.
3. Paraprofessionals do not just help the special education students but they help with the engagement of all students in the classroom.
4. Currently the district is working with the Paraprofessionals on their contract.
5. The hiring of paraprofessionals is not just a problem in our district, but it is a national problem. It was stated that we need to reach out to the other districts and try to find a solution.

b. BOSC Letter regarding proposed revisions to ED 306, Minimum Standards – by Committee Member Parr

Mayor Craig thanked Committee Member Parr for his proposed revisions to ED 306 and for pulling and collecting the board's feedback in a clear and concise way. A lot of work was put into this and the work is greatly appreciated.

Committee Member Parr stated this letter represents a collection and kind of consolidation of the feedback I received from the board, both at the committee level and at the full Board meeting after Mr. Bramante his presentation. And the letter also includes reference to the NHSA's list of suggestions as well, that they be included as the 306 proposal is revised further. I'm hopeful that we can support this letter there and then I will submit it to the state board of education for their consideration.

*On motion of **Committee Member O'Connell,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Perich,** it was moved to approve the BOSC Letter regarding the proposed revisions to ED 306 – Minimum Standards. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

20. Personnel Report.

Committee Member Bonilla removed item 1 on the original personnel report.

*On motion of **Committee Member O'Connell,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Argeropoulos,** it was moved to approve the balance of the personnel report and the supplemental personnel report. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

The approved personnel report was as follows:

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Building	Salary
Sarah Derian (Lambert)	Extended Learning Opportunities Coordinator	West	$54,335.98
Kathryn White	Teacher- Special Education	Wilson	$45,489.00
Cindy Harmon	Teacher- Special Education	Wilson	$48,879.00
Maureen Madden	Teacher- School Wide Student Support	Parker-Varney	$72,651.00

LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Building	Salary
Genia Douidi	Para-Educator II	Weston	$20.61

NOMINATIONS: CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Building	Salary
Sheilah Earnheart	Teacher- Special Education EBD Self-Contained	Webster	$68,085.00
Rachel Kronvold	Teacher- Special Education Pre-K Self-Contained	Highland	$68,085.00
Dr. Paul Koppenhaver	School Psychologist	Parkside / West	$82,939.00
Jacqueline Kipp	Teacher- Special Education	Hillside	$50,455.00
Sheilah Earnheart	Teacher- Special Education EBD Self-Contained	Webster	$71,297.00 (FY 22-23)
Rachel Kronvold	Teacher- Special Education Pre-K Self-Contained	Highland	$66,424.00 (FY 22-23)
Brittany Lavigne	Teacher- Behavior Specialist	District-Wide	$77,589.00

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: NON-CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Building	Salary
Maria E Larios Garcia	Food Service Worker I	Gossler	$15.00
Caroline Mahoney	Enrichment Instructor	Northwest	$15.00
Sandra L Marchwicz	Food Service Worker I	Smyth	$15.00
Kassandra Rogers	Para-Educator II	Central	$15.50
Rory Burke	Para-Educator BST	Highland	$16.42
Carole Demers	Para-Educator II	West	$20.61

Paula Greenspan	Sr. Information Applications Administrator	District-Office	$52.11
Kassandra Rogers	Para-Educator II	Central	$15.50

NOMINATIONS: NON-CERTIFIED STAFF

Name	Position	Building	Salary
Javier Reyes	Coach- Boys Soccer	Parkside	$1,500.00
Soren Johnson	Coach- Girls Soccer	Parkside	$1,500.00
Craig Barrett	Coach- JV Softball	Memorial	$2,420.00
Joseph Blodgett	Coach- JV Baseball	Memorial	$2,420.00
Jason Lauder	Assistant Coach- Girls Track and Field	West	$2,605.90
Justin Platt	Coach- Girls Track and Field	Memorial	$2,605.90
Amanda Shelley	Para-Educator I	Webster	$15.00
Celia Black	Para-Educator II	Webster	$15.50
Sabrina MacDonald	Administrative Services Manager I	Central	$21.81
Rebecca Sargent	Coach- Softball	Parkside	$1,000.00
Figueroa Estrada, Bricia	Food Service Worker I	Beech	$15.00
Hernandez, Mariela	Food Service Worker I	Central	$15.00

21. TABLED ITEMS

(A motion would be in order to remove any item from the table.)

There were no tabled items.

22. NEW BUSINESS

Items brought forward under new business included:

1. Committee Member Parr stated HB129 is coming up to the Senate education committee tomorrow. This bill is regarding menstrual hygiene products in the schools. This bill was originally something that we would have supported because it provided it originally in its original form, it provided funding for local schools to provide those products free in all in public schools there but as amended the language about the funding is it's gone. And in its place, it instead removes language that provides for the products to be provided in bathrooms in the schools, and instead leaves that where the products would be stored up to the local school districts, thereby allowing there to be somewhat of a stigma if a student wants to receive the products has to go to the nurse rather than just going to the bathroom to receive the product. There was a consensus of the Board to oppose the language in the bill that is coming forward.
2. Committee Member Want stated we received an email today from the Vice President of the MEA and he was asking again to have the Personal Finance class added as a stand alone class. The Administration stated that they have reached out to the Department of Education

for clarification and working on this item. Currently Personal Finance is offered in the high schools and is embedded in other classes.

3. Committee Member Perich stated the request has been to not have Personal Finance embedded in another course and this is being reviewed by the district. The district and the Teaching and Learning Committee are also working on increasing graduation credit requirements from the new 22.5 to 24. These are all things coming forward.
4. Committee Member O'Connell stated we spoke about the robotics teams and athletics. There are some great expenses for our teams and our clubs and we need to make sure that we are funding these things. There are also some expenses to get into the events and some families may not have the money to attend the events and we need to see if there is a way that we can help the families.
5. Mayor Craig stated we would like to welcome and acknowledge that Bethany Earls is present thigs evening and we looking forward to working with her.

23. A motion is in order to go into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II (a, b, and c, e, j and l) and RSA 91-A:2, I (b): for the dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the hiring of any person as a public employee; and, for matters, which if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person; consideration of negotiation of pending claims or litigation; consideration of confidential, commercial or financial information that is exempt from public disclosure under RSA 91-A:5, IV; consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally; and, Strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining.

*On motion of **Committee Member Argeropoulos,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Perich,** it was moved to go into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II (a, b, and c, e, j and l) and RSA 91-A:2, I (b): for the dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the hiring of any person as a public employee; and, for matters, which if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person; consideration of negotiation of pending claims or litigation; consideration of confidential, commercial or financial information that is exempt from public disclosure under RSA 91-A:5, IV; consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally; and, Strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining.*

Roll Call: Committee Members Parr, Soule, Want, Bonilla, Tassey, Argeropoulos, O'Connell, Potter, Perich, Dion, Leapley and Mayor Craig voted yes. Committee Members Turner, Gonzalez and Hamer were absent. Motion passed.

7:46 p.m.

24. A motion is in order to call the meeting back to order.

8:44 p.m.

*On motion of **Committee Member Dion,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Leapley,** it was moved to call the meeting back to order. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

*On motion of **Committee Member Soule,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Parr,** it was moved to seal the minutes. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

*On motion of **Committee Member O'Connell,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Argeropoulos,** it was moved to approve items #1 the personnel report, as discussed. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

ADJOURNMENT

25. If there is no further business, a motion is in order to adjourn.

*On motion of **Committee Member Perich,** duly seconded by **Committee Member Potter,** it was moved to adjourn. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.*

True Copy. Attest.
Respectfully Submitted,
Angela M Carey
Clerk of Committee